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# Assembly unanimously passes law to cut expatriate numbers

## Amir calls for national unity, reiterates faith in democracy



By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday unanimously approved a law that requires the government to take measures to reduce the number of expats not needed in the country, in a bid to rebalance the demographic structure where expats form an overwhelming 70 percent of the population. The law was passed in the second and final reading after introducing a number of key amendments, mainly abolishing the quota system for expat nationalities living in the country after the government objected to the system.

Moreover, the law gives more powers to the government to tackle the severe imbalance in the demographic structure after MPs attempted to issue a strong law mandating the government to take harsher measures. The law was passed in a special supplementary term which lasted for just a day. During the session, a number of laws and issues were discussed, but MPs blocked the discussion of a bill seeking to reform the election law.

HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah opened the shortened term by calling for national unity, which he said has proven to be the most powerful weapon to confront

challenges facing the nation. The Amir also reaffirmed faith in Kuwait's democratic system and urged voters to elect the best candidates ahead of parliamentary elections set for Dec 5. Addressing the session, Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem called for the need to resolve pressing issues like the budget deficit and the decades-old problem of stateless people or bedoons.

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, also addressing the supplementary legislative session, called for greater efforts to "diversify revenue sources and rationalize spending and consumption ... without detriment to citizens". He said the government was seeking more sustainable tools to finance the budget. The premier said Kuwait will continue mediation efforts to end a Gulf dispute that has seen Saudi Arabia and its allies boycott Qatar since mid-2017. He reiterated Kuwait's support for Palestinians' rights.

The population law stipulates that the government will issue "mechanisms" to deal with the imbalance in the population structure within one year of issuing the law. These mechanisms will put a ceiling on expatriate workers in the country.

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**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as he arrives with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (left) to attend the opening of the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat ( See Page 3)

## Kuwait urges Israel to end occupation

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has called for ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, urging the international community to coerce Israel into ceasing all settlement activities. Israel must halt all forms of settlement activities in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and lift the land and sea blockade on Gaza Strip enforced 13 years ago, said Bader Al-Munayyeh, Deputy Permanent Representative



Bader Al-Munayyeh

and Minister Plenipotentiary, addressing the fourth commission of the UN General Assembly.

Affirming vital role of the UN agency for refugees, UNRWA, Munayyeh said the agency secured online teaching for 540,000 Palestinian students and

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## Israel, UAE agree to visa-free travel as ties deepen

**TEL AVIV:** Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed yesterday to visa-free travel, an unprecedented arrangement between Israel and an Arab state, signed after the first ever official UAE delegation landed in Tel Aviv. The visit, hailed as a "glorious day for peace" by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, came after Israel and the Gulf state agreed to normalize ties in a deal inked at the White House last month.

With their economies hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, the UAE and Israel are hoping for rapid dividends from the normalization deal - which broke years of Arab consensus that there should be no relations with the Jewish state until it makes

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**TEL AVIV:** An Etihad Airways plane carrying a delegation from the UAE on a first official visit lands at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport yesterday. — AFP

## Bottle-fed babies ingest 'millions' of microplastics

**PARIS:** Bottle-fed babies may ingest more than a million pieces of microplastics each day, new research showed Monday highlighting the abundance of plastics in our food products. There is growing evidence that humans consume huge numbers of the tiny particles, formed when larger pieces of plastic break down, but very little is known about the knock-on health consequences. Researchers in Ireland looked at the rate of microplastic release in 10 types of baby bottles or accessories made from polypropylene, the most commonly used plastic for food containers.

They followed official guidelines from the World Health Organization on sterilization and formula preparation conditions. Over a 21-day test period, the

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## As US vote looms, Gulf powers count Trump blessings

**DUBAI:** Brandishing a sword and dancing to traditional music on his first visit to Saudi Arabia soon after taking office, Donald Trump launched a dramatic relationship revamp that freed the hands of the Gulf states. More than three years on, regional leaders are playing their diplomatic cards in support of an erratic but valuable partner in Washington as he seeks a second term - one that would likely lead to even deeper tensions with Iran and more opportunities for their one-time enemy, Israel.

The businessman-turned-president's warm ties with the Gulf Arab states contrast with those of his predecessor Barack Obama, whose deal-making with Iran appalled archrival Saudi Arabia and its neighbors. As Trump trails in the polls against Joe

Biden - Obama's vice president who would be expected to shift back to a more conventional stance on human rights and arms deals - the oil-rich region faces a delicate balancing act.

"The historic visit in May 2017 was the beginning of an exceptional relationship with a US president. It has opened many doors," a Gulf official close to political circles in the region told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Decision makers here would logically want those doors to stay open, but they aren't blind," the official added. "They are also getting ready for the other scenario."

On his first foreign trip as US president, Trump was given a hero's welcome in Riyadh. Far from accusations of collusion with Russia at home, he accepted a medal and addressed Muslim leaders - while vilifying Iran and muting rhetoric on human rights. His son-in-law Jared Kushner, a property developer and diplomatic neophyte, took the lead on the Middle East peace process.

"It pivoted the relationship between the US and the (Gulf) countries to be more about personalities, that of the president and his son-in-law, and less

about institutions," said Randa Slim, director of conflict resolution at the Washington-based Middle East Institute. In the years that followed, Trump's unconventional and impulsive strategy produced a head-spinning sequence of signature achievements, risky moves and failed initiatives that have redrawn the Middle East's political landscape.

The US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and assassinated its once-untouchable general Qasem Soleimani. It moved the US embassy to Jerusalem and wound back America's military presence in a region Trump believes has lost much of its strategic importance. The policies generally played well in the Gulf, despite a lack of action on major incidents like the unprecedented attacks last year against Saudi energy giant Aramco, blamed on Iran.

"Saudi Arabia and the UAE shared a perception that the Obama administration abandoned its traditional Gulf allies," said Elham Fakhro, senior analyst at the International Crisis Group. "Saudi Arabia has vastly improved relations with the Trump administration, owing in part to its decision to impose the

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## Local

# Kuwait raises COVID-19 alarm ahead of winter

## Public urged to 'realize seriousness of the situation'



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

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet, during its weekly meeting at Seif Palace on Monday, reiterated the call for the public to take seriously the epidemic situation of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country in the run-up to winter. Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Hmoud Al-Sabah briefed the meeting, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on the latest developments of the second wave of the pandemic. Sheikh Dr Basel noted that over 40 million people contracted the illness and 1.116 million others died of it around the globe, as of Monday. He also put the Cabinet members in the picture about the health situation in Kuwait, including the latest statistics of infections, deaths, hospitalizations and recoveries. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh told reporters following the meeting. The Cabinet members urged all citizens and expatriates in Kuwait to realize the seriousness of the situation as winter approaches and continue committing themselves to the public health precautions and preventive measures, notably social distancing, avoiding crowded

areas, and putting on facemasks.

The Cabinet approved the blueprint of a decree calling on eligible voters to cast their ballots in the 16th National Assembly elections, due on Saturday, December 5, 2020. The decree was referred to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for final endorsement. The meeting also discussed a suggestion from the public utility committee of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) regarding jurisdiction over the sewage system in the industrial areas, Minister Anas Al-Saleh revealed. The Cabinet members decided to set up a committee, under the chairmanship of Environment Public Authority (EPA), to study the ecological hazards of industrial waste, sewage and rain drainage system. The committee, also consisting of PAI, and the ministries of finance and public works, has to work out radical solutions that could prevent infringements on environment in the industrial areas in keeping with Article 34 of the Environment Protection Act 42 (2014). It has also to report the Cabinet on the progress of its work on a quarterly basis, Minister Anas Al-Saleh went on. — KUNA



### Ministers briefed on health situation

## Israeli settlements undermine efforts to reach peace: Kuwait

KUWAIT: The Cabinet reviewed a range of political issues during its weekly meeting Monday related to the situations in the Arab region and beyond. The Cabinet members condemned the recent declaration by the Israeli authorities of plans to build nearly 5,000 housing units in Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. They stressed that Israel's persistence in settlement expansions represents a stark contravention of international legitimacy, notably the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, and risks undermining the efforts to reach a comprehensive and permanent peaceful solution to the Palestine question. The Cabinet members called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility for forcing Israel into halting such malpractices.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet members welcomed the success of the first stage of prisoner swap deal between the legitimate government of Yemen and the Houthi militia under the Stockholm Agreement.

They appreciated the efforts made in this regard by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN envoy for Yemen. They voiced hope that all prisoners held by both sides would be released as soon as possible in order to help create suitable conditions for the resumption of inter-Yemeni peace talks and end the conflict in the Arab country in keeping with the three points of reference; namely the GCC initiative and its executive mechanisms, the outcomes of the Yemeni national dialogue and the UN Security Council Resolution 2216.

The Cabinet members also strongly denounced the recent terrorist attack in sisterly Iraq that claimed nine lives and ran counter to all religious, humanitarian and moral values. They renewed solidarity of the State of Kuwait with the Republic of Iraq in the fight against terrorism with a view to preserving the security and stability of Iraq. They offered condolences for the families of the victims. — KUNA

## Kuwait reports four deaths, 886 COVID-19 cases

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday reported four deaths and 886 infection cases due to COVID-19. The figures took the country's death toll up to 714 and the caseload to 117,718, health ministry data showed. According to ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad, the number of people hospitalized with the virus stands at 7,806; 133 of whom in intensive care units. Dr Sanad added that 7,935 swab tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, with a total of 842,102 so far. Meanwhile, some 592 people recovered from the virus in the last 24 hours to raise the total to 109,198, the ministry said. Urging the public to be mindful of health precautions, Dr Sanad said following social distancing measures is of the most important means to curb the spread of the virus. — KUNA



## Assembly unanimously...

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The Cabinet will issue executive decisions every year if necessary to implement the mechanisms and will provide the Assembly with annual reports on progress made.

MPs had sought to force the government to gradually cut the numbers of expats over the next five years in a bid to achieve some balance between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis. The mechanisms will take into account the number of expats

at the time of issuing the decisions and the national development plan and its requirement of expat workers, the law states. The plan will also issue guidelines governing the transfer of residence of expats, in addition to policies to replace expats with Kuwaiti employees.

The Assembly rejected in the second reading a law stipulating to provide financial support to small and medium enterprises impacted by the coronavirus lockdowns. The rejection came even after the government agreed to slash the amount from KD 3 billion to just KD 500 million and clearly specify that the aid will only go to small and medium investors and not others. The Assembly also rejected a motion to discuss a draft law calling to change the electoral system by allowing voters to elect two candidates instead of one in the current law.

## Bottle-fed babies ingest 'millions'...

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team found that the bottles released between 1.3 and 16.2 million plastic microparticles per liter. They then used this data to model the potential global infant exposure to microplastics from bottle-feeding, based on national average rates of breast-feeding.

They estimated that the average bottle-fed baby could be ingesting 1.6 million plastic microparticles every day during the first 12 months of their lives. The authors of the research, published in the Nature Food journal, said that sterilization and exposure to high water temperatures had the biggest effect on microplastic release, going from

0.6 million particles per litre on average at 25C to 55 million/litre at 95C.

The authors told AFP that the aim of the research was "not to worry parents" about the potential health risks of bottle microplastics. "We have communicated, as strongly as we can, that we do not know the potential health risks of infant ingestions of microplastics," said the team, from Trinity College Dublin. "This is an area of research we are now actively pursuing."

The authors noted that it was in developed nations that babies were likely ingesting the most plastic — 2.3 million particles daily in North America and 2.6 million in Europe. This was attributed to relatively low breast-feeding rates in richer countries. They said the levels could easily be lowered by taking a few additional steps, including rinsing bottles with cold sterilized water and preparing formula milk in a non-plastic container before filling the bottle. — AFP

## As US vote looms, Gulf powers count...

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"maximum pressure" campaign" against Iran, she said. As the 2020 presidential election has neared, Trump secured a major victory by sponsoring a deal between the UAE and Israel to normalize ties, giving the Jewish state an unprecedented foothold in the Gulf and forming a united front against their common foe, Iran. The small kingdom of Bahrain, politically and economically influenced by Saudi Arabia, also agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The timing of the deals, long con-

sidered taboo without the blessing of the Palestinians, was seen as an attempt to provide Trump with a foreign policy win ahead of the vote.

With Biden leading in the polls, now both the UAE and Saudi Arabia worry about a rollback on sanctions against Iran under a Democrat administration, said Fakhro. Trump was "also more willing to ensure that arms sales to these states moved ahead swiftly," and a Biden administration would be unlikely to be as accommodating, she added.

The White House has pushed back against anti-Saudi resolutions in Congress over its controversial Yemen war and the grisly assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Oct 2018. "A Biden administration will come with a foreign policy team that is ready to re-examine the underlying tenets of the US-Saudi relationship and will embrace a hard-line position on the Saudi leadership," said Slim from the Middle East Institute. — AFP

## Kuwait urges Israel to end...

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delivered essential supplies to one million refugees. UNRWA is targeted with a "politicized assault" intended to compromise its independence and tarnish its credibility, Munayyehk said, denouncing Israeli restrictions on UNRWA staff's

## Israel, UAE agree to visa-free travel...

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peace with the Palestinians. Waseel Abu Youssef, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said yesterday's UAE visit came amid Israeli settlement expansion and was "shameful", and "another stab in the back" of the Palestinian cause.

"The bilateral agreements that were announced today and the delegations that come and go, all of that offers the occupation a strength to escalate its aggression and its crimes against the Palestinian people and increases its intransigence and arrogance," he said in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In Gaza, Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the Islamist group Hamas, said: "Such a visit will only encourage the occupation to pursue the gradual annexation of West Bank lands."

The UAE became the third Arab state to establish ties with Israel, followed soon after by Bahrain. While Israel has peace deals with neighboring Egypt and Jordan, it requires citizens of both countries to obtain visas before entry. Shortly after greeting the UAE delegation at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, a mask-wearing Netanyahu vowed that visa-free travel will "offer a huge boost for business (and) tourism".

Israel and the UAE also signed accords on investment protection, science and technology, and a civil aviation deal authorizing 28 flights a week between the two countries. Israeli carrier Arkia later announced plans to run seven weekly flights from Tel Aviv to Dubai, beginning in January. "Today, we are making history in a way that will stand for generations," Netanyahu said at the opening of their one-day meeting.

During the talks, the UAE formally requested permission to establish an embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel's foreign ministry said in a statement. The UAE and Bahrain have faced criticism from within the Arab and Muslim world over their decision to forge ties with Israel. The head of the Emirati delegation at the Tel Aviv meeting, minister of state for financial affairs Obaid Al-Tajer said his country was committed to being a "regional leader in terms of

work and movement in the occupied territories.

Kuwait will maintain its unwavering support for the agency, he pledged, noting Kuwait's recent earmarking of \$1.5 million for UNRWA. He called anew upon the international community to protect the Palestinian people amid recurring grave humanitarian violations. Munayyehk also urged for ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories in full and affirmed the necessity that the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights including their right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. — KUNA

economic reform... international trade, political stability and peacemaking".

Tajer said the deals offered "great opportunities" to "achieve prosperity for both our economies, and our people". Citing discussions on taxation and financial relations, he said there had already been significant progress between the two governments and added: "We look forward to welcoming you to the UAE in the near future."

In return for formal ties with the UAE, Israel agreed to freeze plans to annex Palestinian territory in the occupied West Bank, although Netanyahu has said that annexation remains on the table. The rightwing premier has claimed that more Arab states want relations with Israel as regional priorities have shifted, with economic opportunities now valued above a resolution to the Palestinian conflict.

Israel's agreements with the UAE and Bahrain, known jointly as "The Abraham Accords", were brokered by US President Donald Trump's administration, seen by some experts as a move to secure a foreign policy achievement before the US presidential election on Nov 3. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who travelled to Tel Aviv with the UAE delegation, said Israel's deals with Gulf states "create a tremendous foundation for economic growth".

During yesterday's talks, Israel, the UAE and the US announced the launch of a \$3-billion "Abraham Fund", which aims to mobilize "private sector-led investment and development initiatives to promote regional economic cooperation", a US embassy statement said. Another US official in attendance, International Development Finance Corporation head Adam Boehler, said he envisaged funding to enable the modernization of Israeli-operated checkpoints for Palestinians.

Due to COVID-19, however, direct Israel-UAE flights, slated to begin in October, are to be postponed until January, Jerusalem's deputy mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum told AFP last week during a visit to Dubai. "When I speak to officials here and there, we're looking at the first of January," said Hassan-Nahoum, who is also co-founder of the UAE-Israel Business Council. The Israeli parliament ratified the UAE normalization deal last week. The Emirati and Bahraini governments ratified their agreements with Israel on Monday, state media reported. — Agencies

Local

# Kuwait's national unity most powerful weapon against challenges: Amir

## Sheikh Nawaf inaugurates parliament's complementary session



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speaks during the opening of the parliament's 5th regular complementary session of 15th legislative term, as His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah looks on. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A general view of the attendance at yesterday's National Assembly session.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reaffirmed yesterday commitment to national unity as the "most powerful weapon" to confront various challenges. His Highness the Amir made the remarks at the opening of the Parliament's 5th regular complementary session of 15th legislative term. His Highness the Amir called on citizens for "good selection" of their future parliament members. The government

had approved a bill Monday to hold parliamentary elections on December 5.

His Highness the Amir also thanked speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for their relentless efforts during the "exceptional circumstances" caused by the coronavirus pandemic. His Highness the Amir said loyalty of Kuwaitis should always be for their nation,

urging them to follow the performance of their representatives at parliament in their "serious supervision, constructive legislation and full commitment to constitution."

His Highness the Amir, who paid tribute to the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his service to his nation and people, said he would continue in the path of the late Amir. He called for abiding by national unity as the "most

powerful weapon" against all challenges, dangers and crises. "I would also like, God willing, to reaffirm our commitment to our democracy, respect of the constitution, state of law and institutions and improve our parliamentary practice," he affirmed. "We would not say today we are in a parliamentary experiment but a deep-rooted practice which has been ongoing for around 60 years," he said. — KUNA

## Kuwait premier pledges ongoing cooperation with parliament

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday pledged to maintain close cooperation with the National Assembly to pursue development and attain people's aspirations. Addressing the opening session of the National Assembly's 5th regular session of the 15th legislative term, the prime minister greeted His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and paid tribute to the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "whose life was full of giving."

"His life was full of action for serving Kuwait and its people... He was a sagacious guide for democracy and a shrewd leader," he said. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled noted how the world has recently witnessed smooth power transfer in Kuwait, affirming that "the precious Kuwait is a

State of constitution and institutions." He expressed good wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, who was recently proclaimed as the Amir of Kuwait succeeding the late Sheikh Sabah, hoping his era would witness realization of the people's aspirations towards a better future.

### Foreign policy

Kuwait is committed to an unwavering foreign policy, the foundations of which had been laid by the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, he said, noting the necessity for cooperation at the national level to "safeguard our interests." "Kuwait will continue to seek global peace," the prime minister pledged. At the regional level, he vowed to resolve "the issue among the brothers" in the GCC, alluding to some differences among the council member states and reiterating the pledge to preserve the GCC as a collective entity. At the Middle East level, he stated, "We support efforts for resolving pan-Arab rifts and resolving the Palestinian cause which will remain our central cause." "We affirm that we stand on side of the Palestinian people for sake of reaching a just solution to the Palestinian cause," he stressed, also noting the aspiration to attain legitimate aspirations for the whole Muslim nation. His Highness the Prime Minister vowed to continue cooperation with the United Nations in line with the approach toward global peace.

### Accomplishments

Turning to the local front, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed satisfaction at the accomplishments that had been done during the passing legislative term, noting that the MPs had successfully endorsed a chain of bills namely the one that addressed the divided zone issue with Saudi Arabia. "We look forward towards enacting more bills," he noted, alluding to the desire for legislative texts to boost the fight against human trade. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said there had been up to ten interpellations of members of his government. "Disagreements result in enrichment and the grilling is a good act when it serves national interests," he elaborated.

Noting that the globe suffered catastrophic consequences as a result of the novel coronavirus, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled lauded the national-level efforts in combating the pandemic, thanking all personnel and departments that contributed to curbing the spread of the disease. "The government has succeeded in coping with the pandemic locally," he affirmed. He also noted that studies continued online and number of granted scholarships to study abroad reached 2,848, higher by 1,000 compared to last year.

"Work has not stopped for vital enterprises," he added, underlining the government's scheme to tackle manpower and labor market defects. He underscored the high responsibility of coping with volatile



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaks during the session. —KUNA

oil prices, and highlighted the need to find new income resources, trim expenditure and maintain a good standard of living. He affirmed a desire to maintain high rating of Kuwait internationally, curbing the spread of COVID-19 and corruption, upgrading efficiency of the administrative personnel and improving Kuwait's ranking with respect of safe environment. His Highness the Prime Minister vowed to hold free and credible elections, amid necessary protective precautions against COVID-19. — KUNA

## Cooperation to address pressing issues: Speaker



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks during the session. — KUNA

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday he was looking forward to work with the government to address pressing issues, like budget deficit, low oil prices and 'bedoons' or stateless residents. Addressing the opening session of the National Assembly's 5th regular session of the 15th legislative term, Ghanem said the parliament and government should join hands to tackle decline in scientific research and national identity. Speaker Ghanem paid tribute to the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad "who was (the late Amir's) partner in success, would continue the process towards construction."

Talking about challenges facing the parliament and government, Ghanem said "it is our duty to direct our political speech" to addressing thorny issues in line with a specific timetable. Ghanem, who congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for assuming office, said all attempts to dissolve the parliament had failed and the National Assembly continued its term. Ghanem also thanked His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for his government's cooperation regarding a host of issues, including the coronavirus pandemic. Ghanem, meanwhile, called for diversifying sources of income to guarantee decent life for current and future generations. He also called for paying further attention to the housing care issue and development of education. —KUNA

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# Compliance with OPEC+ deal hit 102%: Kuwait's Oil Minister

KUWAIT/VIENNA: Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel said Monday the OPEC-non-OPEC partners committed themselves by 102 percent to the agreement on production cut last month. "This percentage, the highest since the agreement took force in last May, contributed to gradual reduction of the glut in oil inventory," he said in a press release after leading Kuwait delegation to the 23rd Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC). The meeting was held online under the Chairmanship of Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and the Co-Chair Alexander Novak, the Russian energy minister.

Dr Fadhel, also minister of electricity and water, noted that recent data showed "unprecedented commitment" by the majority of partners thanks to the relentless efforts of the JMMC. "The meeting reviewed the data and reports on oil inventories which signal that the stocks took a downward slant," he pointed out. "The State of Kuwait has played an important role as an active member of the JMMC in the activities of the committee since its inception in 2017," he stressed. Dr Fadhel called on the OPEC-non-OPEC producing countries to scale up efforts to reach even higher level of commitment to the deal on output cut which turned to be inevitable in the coming months due to the negative impacts of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on economic and trade activities worldwide. "Strict and continued commitment to the deal could help restore balance between supply and demand in the world oil market as early as possible," he added.

The participants in the JMMC meeting paid tribute to His Highness the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his support to the OPEC decisions since its foundation in September 1960. Prince Abdulaziz and OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo

expressed sincere condolences to the government and people of Kuwait over the passing of His Highness Sheikh Sabah, recalling their personal relations with His Highness the late Amir.

The late Amir was highly praised for his excellent leadership and astute diplomacy, both nationally and around the world, the JMMC said in a statement. He was hailed as a loyal defender of OPEC and was considered, among those who knew him, as a man of great dignity, generosity and kindness, the statement added. The Committee reviewed the monthly report prepared by its Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and developments in the global oil market since its last meeting on September 17, 2020. The Committee also considered market prospects for 2021.

The Committee emphasized the ongoing positive contributions of the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) in supporting a rebalancing of the global oil market in line with the historic decisions taken at the 10th (Extraordinary) OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting on April 12, 2020 to adjust downwards overall crude oil production, and the unanimous decisions taken at the 179th Meeting of the OPEC Conference and the 11th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting on June 6, 2020. The Committee reaffirmed the commitments of all participating countries to achieve full conformity and make up for any shortfalls under compensation plans presented to the Committee for an extended period through December 2020. In this manner, all participating countries were encouraged to increase their efforts to compensate for overproduced volumes in order to achieve the objective of market rebalancing and avoid undue delay in the process.

The Committee reviewed the crude oil production data for the month of September 2020 and welcomed the positive performance in the overall conformity level for participating OPEC and non-OPEC

Countries, at 102 percent, which is considered the highest since May 2020 (excluding the voluntary adjustments in June 2020 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE). Moreover, countries compensated in September 2020 a total of 249 tb/d to make up for previously overproduced volumes. The Committee applauded those DoC members who provided additional voluntary contributions in the month of September 2020, including compensation volumes. It has reiterated its call for those countries that are still underperforming to swiftly implement their commitments, including their compensation plan.

The JMMC underlined that underperformance is not only unfair to other performing countries, but it is also detrimental to oil market rebalancing. The Committee observed that the economic recovery has slowed due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in major economies, particularly in the Americas, Asia and Europe. The Committee reminded all participating countries of the necessity to be vigilant and proactive given the precarious market conditions and prospects. The Committee thanked the JTC and the OPEC Secretariat for their contributions to the meeting. The next meetings of the JTC and the JMMC are scheduled for November 16 and November 17, 2020, respectively. The OPEC+ includes 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and 10 non-OPEC countries. — KUNA



Kuwaiti Minister of Oil  
Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel

## News in brief

### 99.5 percent use smartphones

KUWAIT: A study prepared by the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) revealed that 97.7 percent of individuals in Kuwait use the Internet daily, adding that 99.5 percent of families have at least one smartphone. The study, published by Al-Rai Arabic daily yesterday, showed that 20 percent of children in Kuwait younger than 10 years old have a smartphone, while 95.1 percent access social media. It said 84 percent of families own a laptop. The study showed families spend less than KD 100 on IT and communication devices, while 12 percent spend more than that. It said that 88.1 percent of families communicate through the Internet using routers from local telecommunication companies, while 70.2 percent make online calls. Online shopping came fourth in Internet activities- at 58 percent. The study said 53 percent of families have landlines, while 53.8 percent have both landlines and mobile phones.

### Expired food

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition coordinated with interior ministry detectives to raid a Farwaniya warehouse containing expired foods, where the owner changed the expiry dates. The Municipality provided trucks and workers to move the food items for destruction. A case was filed and will be sent to the public prosecution. Meanwhile, an Environment Public Authority team carried out inspection campaigns in Hawally and checked the way oils are disposed and material used in garages are stored. Violations were cited in some garages.

### Oil price drops

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti oil prices dropped eight cents during Monday's transactions to close the day at \$41.46 per barrel (pb) compared with \$41.54 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Brent futures also lost 31 cents to \$42.62 pb and the West Texas Intermediate shed five cents to \$40.83 pb.

## Interior Minister meets Qatari Ambassador



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh reads a letter from Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled bin Khalifa Al Thani, while meeting with Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait Bander bin Mohammad Al-Attiya. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh discussed on Monday with Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait Bander bin Mohammad Al-Attiya issues of common concern. In a statement, the Interior ministry said the Qatari Ambassador

also delivered a hand written letter from Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled bin Khalifa Al Thani. The statement noted that the two sides also delved into other topics, bilateral relations, and issues to bolster relations. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait Md Ashikuzzaman visited Kuwait Times recently and discussed matters of mutual concern with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## CAN warns of obesity, calls for healthy diet

KUWAIT: Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) campaign stressed yesterday the necessity of following a healthy diet, as Kuwait among the top countries in obesity compared to the rest of the world. Nutrition specialist and observer of community nutrition promotion at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition Wajid Al-Othman, during a virtual seminar marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month, affirmed the family's responsibility to follow a healthy diet, CAN said in a statement.

International reports revealed that Kuwait had the highest rates of obesity among children and adults, as half of the girls between the ages of 5-

15 are obese, and that the level of obesity is higher among women 50 years old and above, she said. It is a dangerous wake-up call, she said, as the scientific studies by the American Society of Clinical Oncology have proven the link between obesity and the high incidence of breast cancer in women.

Othman warned of the danger of processed and cold meats, fatty food and high calories fried food, and pointing to the importance of eating vegetables, legumes, fruits, eating white meat and reducing red meat consumption in addition to practicing sport. She praised what CAN had done in adopting the anti-obesity program through free subscription for citizens and residents of Kuwait, and encouraged the public to join this free program in order to avoid obesity and its risks. She also praised the role of media in Kuwait, which greatly contributed to the success of awareness against cancer, as it had achieved an increase of more than 30 percent during the past five years of cured cancer cases in Kuwait. — KUNA

## Two applications to support e-learning

KUWAIT: Director-General of the Regional Center for the development of educational software Nader Marafie announced providing two applications to support e-learning for the Ministry of Education. In a statement yesterday, Marafie said that the goal is to develop the educational process in light of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the center has developed two new applications in cooperation with the department of educa-

tional curricula and research.

The first application contains recorded educational lessons for religious education schools, intellectual education schools and sign language, available on Android and iOS, he said. The second application is for the kindergarten level, and also contains videos and educational songs, letters and stories for the first and second levels, available for iOS and soon to be on the Android, Marafie added. Marafie praised the role of the public education department for their efforts to develop the education process in Kuwait and the completion of more than 2,000 video episodes to serve students and adopting e-learning in light of this pandemic. — KUNA

## Audit Bureau participates in GCC meeting

KUWAIT: President of State Audit Bureau (SAB) Faisal Al-Shaya underlined yesterday the importance of combating corruption with the utmost integrity and establishing an organization that would limit the spread of corruption. This came during the 17th meeting of accounting and auditing organization departments in GCC. Shaya pointed out that SAB is preparing to sign a coop-

eration protocol with Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) in order to reinforce the principle of integrity and to protect the public money. Corruption is considered the first source of wealth wasting, and the first obstacle of countries progressing, he added. Shaya expressed his gratitude to all GCC countries for their part taking in consolation of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He also congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on taking the helm of power. In addition, he congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on taking the oath of office. Shaya also congratulated Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, on the accession of his new post as Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council. — KUNA

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What virus?  
 India gets  
 back to work

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## 'Trump Heights' a symbol of US shift on Mideast policy



ABUJA: Nigerian police fire teargas at people during clashes between youths in Apo yesterday. —AFP

# Lagos at standstill as protests spiral

## Protesters paralyze Africa's biggest city

**LAGOS:** Nigerian protesters paralyzed Africa's biggest city Lagos yesterday, blocking the airport as widespread demonstrations sparked by police brutality spiraled. Footage seen by AFP showed hundreds of mainly young protesters waving flags and placards as they marched outside the international departures terminal in the economic hub. The wave of demonstrations began some 10 days ago when crowds took to the streets over abuses by the police's loathed Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

The outpouring of anger forced the government to scrap the unit a week ago and promise reforms - but protests have continued to swell as the young demonstrators demand more sweeping changes. Reports of violence have begun to rise following a lull in bloodshed as officials promised to rein in the security forces after an initial harsh response from police. Amnesty International said five people had died since Friday, taking the overall number of fatalities to 15

since demonstrations started.

The rights group's Nigeria spokesman Isa Sanusi told AFP that one person died in the northern city of Kano on Monday while four others died in Benin City, Abuja and Osogbo over the weekend. Amnesty on Wednesday reported 10 dead, including two policemen, and hundreds injured. The protests in Lagos were peaceful on Monday but demonstrators cut roads across the sprawling megacity of 20 million. An AFP journalist in the capital Abuja said security forces fired tear gas at protesters on Monday.

Around 50 youths in civilian clothes armed with machetes were seen chasing away demonstrators on a road leading to the presidential compound. Police in southern Benin City said one of their facilities was attacked on Monday by "persons posing as #EndSARS protesters", leading the local governor to impose a 24-hour curfew. "Reports indicate that the protesters carted away arms and

ammunition from the armoury and freed the suspects in custody before setting some of the facilities ablaze," the force said on Twitter. A resident in the city said that several hundred people were protesting there on Monday. "In my area a few hundred youth came out to protest," Kelvin Osagie, 29, told AFP. "They were not chanting 'EndSARS' but 'End (President Muhammadu) Buhari'."

### Officials urge end

The spread and scale of the demonstrations have rattled the government of President Buhari as they have snowballed into the largest show of people power in years. The #EndSARS rallying cry has trended on social media and drawn support from high-profile celebrities in Nigeria and abroad. Officials have urged an end to the demonstrations to give the authorities a chance to implement a promised overhaul of law enforcement.

"I am on the side of the young people out there. I understand your pain and I know your concerns are legitimate," Lagos governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Twitter. "I must reiterate that while we were able to immediately acquiesce to some of your demands, some will require time: we ask you to bear with us as we work on them."

The minister of youth and sports, Sunday Dare, said on Monday he had received fresh reassurances from Buhari. "The president promised that he will ensure that the reforms as promised are met, that the reforms are long lasting and that the reforms will deliver for our country a police force that we will be proud of," he told reporters in Abuja. Last week the head of Nigeria's police announced a new SWAT force would replace the disbanded SARS unit. The police said the unit was set to begin training Monday but it faces huge skepticism from the crowds on the street who doubt it will bring real change. —AFP

## Community oven serves up meals and dignity in blast-hit Beirut

**AMMAN:** When a huge blast tore through Beirut on Aug. 4, Rawda Mazloum decided to move the giant oven she was using to cook for refugees in the Bekaa Valley to assist residents of the devastated capital. Today, the stove that has helped feed thousands of refugees and rehabilitate former fighters as part of a community cooking project, sits in a relief centre in Beirut and provides hot meals to people left homeless and destitute by the explosion.

"When the blast happened, I decided to prepare quick meals

and pastries. We took boxes of water and masks and went to the site of the blast," said Mazloum, a refugee from Syria who has been in Lebanon since 2014. "Beirut has given me so much, I feel it's personal to me. It felt good to be able to offer them something," she said. Mazloum, 43, had been leading the preparation of meals for about 50 refugee and host community families through the Great Oven project, which encourages marginalised communities to cook together.

The elaborately painted two-tonne oven - which requires a crane to be transported - ended up under Mazloum's stewardship in the eastern Bekaa Valley in March, when the coronavirus dealt another blow to Lebanon's battered economy. Launched by Spanish-Irish chef James Gomez Thompson and Lebanese news producer Nour Matraji almost two years ago, the Great Oven initiative set out to help reintegrate former fighters and young militants in the northern city of Tripoli.

Sectarian violence still flares up in and around the city 30

years after the end of Lebanon's civil war, but the project has brought together old rivals, including former prisoners, to learn new skills and foster community ties. "We were trying to think of anything creative that they can also develop as a skill," Matraji said. "They need to self-sustain... so we came with the oven, we train, we teach. We also link them up with the food donors so we make sure they're getting a steady flow of free ingredients," she added.

The blast in Beirut port, which killed about 200 people and left 300,000 people homeless, exacerbated Lebanon's difficulties amid a financial crisis that has sharply devalued its currency and pushed half the population into poverty. Dozens of other grassroots initiatives have sprung up to help those affected by the explosion, offering aid to rebuild ruined homes and provide emergency shelter and food. As donor fatigue sets in globally during the COVID-19 pandemic, Thompson said the oven project embraced a more sustainable way of helping people in need. —Reuters



BEIRUT: A statue of a woman made out of glass and rubble that resulted from the Beirut port mega explosion on Aug 4 is placed opposite to the site of the blast yesterday. —AFP

## How fetal cells from 1970s power medical innovation today

**WASHINGTON:** It is no secret that thousands of laboratories around the world use cells derived from a fetus that was aborted decades ago to develop vital medicines. But it is a contentious topic in the US, where conservatives and anti-abortion activists have long deemed the practice unethical. The matter is once more under the spotlight after President Donald Trump was treated for Covid-19 using Regeneron's antibody treatment. The company used aborted fetal cells as part of its testing process.

"It's becoming annoying," Andrea Gambotto, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said of the controversy. Gambotto has used a cell line called HEK 293, the same used by Regeneron, as part of his research for 25 years. "It'd be a crime to ban the use of these cells," he added. "It never harmed anybody - it was a dead embryo so the cells back then (were used), instead of being discarded, they were used for research." The big advantage of these cells, which were developed in the early 1970s, is that they now represent a "gold standard" in the pharmaceutical industry. If Gambotto - who is leading a Covid-19 vaccine research project himself - one day succeeds, his vaccine can be produced anywhere in the world, thanks to HEK293. "You can go to India and make a vaccine for all the world," he said. To those who call for the development of alternatives, he says, "You don't need to go back 30 years and reinvent the wheel."

### Essential to research

The original cells were transformed and immortalized in January 1973 by a young Canadian postdoc by the name of Frank Graham, who was working at the time in Leiden, the Netherlands in the laboratory of Professor Alex van der Eb. Normally, a cell has a finite number of divisions, but Graham managed to modify these cells so that they divide ad infinitum. This was his 293rd experiment, hence the name of the line (HEK stands for "human embryonic kidney cells"). "Use of fetal tissue was not uncommon in that period," Graham, a professor emeritus at Canada's McMaster University who now lives in Italy, told AFP.

"Abortion was illegal in the Netherlands until 1984 except to save the life of the mother. Consequently I have always assumed that the HEK cells used by the Leiden lab must have derived from



ANAGNI, Italy: Capped vials are pictured during filling and packaging tests for the large-scale production and supply of the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, AZD1222, on a high-performance aseptic vial filling line on Sept 11, 2020. —AFP

a therapeutic abortion." Vaccine developers like HEK293 because the cells are malleable and transformable into virus mini-factories. To grow viruses, you always need a host cell. It can be a chicken egg, but human cells are preferable in human medicine. In the case of Covid-19 vaccines, several makers have used HEK293 to generate what are called "viral vectors."

These are weakened versions of common cold-causing adenoviruses that are loaded with the genetic instructions for human cells to manufacture a surface protein of the coronavirus. This elicits an immune response that the body remembers when it encounters the real coronavirus. Three vaccines that are in advanced trials use HEK293 lines - the Oxford vaccine co-developed with AstraZeneca, China's CanSino Biologics vaccine and Russia's Gamaleya Institute vaccine.

Johnson & Johnson uses the other major fetal cell line, PER.C6. Several other companies, such as Moderna and Pfizer, have used HEK293 to develop "pseudoviruses" to test their drugs. Vaccines against Ebola and tuberculosis, as well as gene therapies, have also been created with HEK293 cells, said Graham. "I take great satisfaction from the fact that the cells I created nearly 50 years ago have played a major role in numerous advances in biomedical research and in the production of vaccines and medicines," said the professor, who dislikes commenting on the controversy that periodically emerges over their origin. —AFP



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## International

# France closes Paris mosque in a clampdown over beheading

## Police launch a series of raids targeting Islamist networks

**PARIS:** French authorities said yesterday they would close a Paris mosque in a clampdown on radical Islam that has yielded over a dozen arrests following the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. The mosque in a densely-populated suburb northeast of Paris had published a video on its Facebook page days before Friday's gruesome murder, railing against teacher Samuel Paty's choice of material for a class discussion on freedom of expression, said a source close to the investigation.

The interior ministry said the mosque in Pantin, which has some 1,500 worshippers, would be shut today night for six months. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has vowed there would be "not a minute's respite for enemies of the Republic". The order came after police on Monday launched a series of raids targeting Islamist networks, mainly in the Paris region.

Paty, 47, was attacked on his way home from the junior high school where he taught in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, 40 kilometers northwest of the capital. A photo of the teacher and a message confessing to his murder was found on the mobile phone of his killer, 18-year-old Chechen Abdullah Anzorov, who also posted images of the decapitated body on Twitter. Anzorov was shot dead by police.



### Many arrested over beheading of teacher

**Online campaign**  
Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said yesterday that Paty would be posthumously bestowed France's highest order of merit, the Legion of Honor, for having been "martyred" because of his profession. The murder was preceded by a fierce online campaign against Paty and the school, led by the father of a schoolgirl who accused the teacher of disseminating "pornography" for showing a cartoon of the prophet naked. The school said Paty had

given Muslim pupils the choice to leave the classroom.

The father who posted the video shared by the Pantin mosque is among 15 people arrested after the killing, along with a known Islamist radical and four members of Anzorov's family. Darmanin accused the father and the radical of having issued a "fatwa" against the

teacher. Yesterday, the head of the Pantin mosque, M'hamed Henniche, said he had shared the video not to "validate" the complaint about the cartoons, but out of fear that Muslim children were singled out in class. Four pupils suspected of accepting payment for pointing Paty out to his killer were also taken into custody Monday.

### 'Carried out by thugs'

Junior interior minister Marlene Schiappa was to meet the French bosses of social media networks yesterday to discuss bolstering the "fight against cyber-Islamism". Paty's killing has drawn parallels with the 2015 massacre at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, where 12 people, including cartoonists, were gunned down for publishing cartoons of Mohammed.

Tens of thousands of people took part in rallies countrywide on Sunday to honor Paty and defend freedom of expression, while Muslim leaders gathered at his school Monday to offer condolences and distance their religion from the atrocity. French President Emmanuel Macron threatened that "fear is about to change sides" in the new anti-Islamist campaign. Paty's beheading was the second knife attack since a trial started last month over the Charlie Hebdo killings.

In the September attack, two people



**PANTIN, France:** Muslim men gather for midday prayers at the Grand Mosque de Pantin in the northeastern suburbs of Paris yesterday. — AFP

were wounded outside the publication's former offices. A silent march is planned for Conflans-Sainte-Honorine yesterday evening in homage to Paty, while parliament will observe a minute of silence in the afternoon. Macron will attend an official homage with Paty's family Wednesday at the Sorbonne university. Blanquer added that schools countrywide will observe a minute's silence for Paty when pupils return after the autumn break, and a special lesson on the recent events will be taught in all classes.

Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti

yesterday denied there had been any failure on the part of intelligence services. "This is an insidious war," he told France Inter. "There is organized terrorism that is monitored by our services, and then there is a young man of 18 who was not on the radar of the intelligence services and who committed this abominable act in the name of misguided religion." Meanwhile, Paris prosecutors said they had opened an investigation into a French neo-Nazi website hosted abroad that republished the photo of Paty's decapitated corpse posted to Twitter by the killer. — AFP

## 'Trump Heights' a symbol of US shift on Mideast policy

**GOLAN HEIGHTS:** On a dusty plain in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, a golden-lettered sign with Israeli and American flags stands before a rusty wire fence as the gateway to "Trump Heights". But this is no luxury hotel or golf course set up by the property developer turned president. Instead, it is an Israeli settlement, inaugurated in June 2019 by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a celebration to mark US President Donald Trump's recognition of the Golan as Israeli territory. For residents, it is the most visible legacy Trump has had here.

"There is indeed a big change," said Haim Rokach, head of the Golan regional council, his eyes sparkling at the mention of the US president's name. "Since Trump's declaration and the decision to build the place, we see a lot of interest from investors." The Golan Heights, a strategic military zone, was seized by Israel from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967. Trump's recognition of Golan was the latest in a string of steps away from global

consensus, including recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and giving Netanyahu the green light to build settlements deemed illegal under international law.

Along with Trump's backing for normalization deals between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain-lamented by Palestinians as a "stab in the back"—Trump has changed the dynamics of the dispute between the Jewish state and the Palestinians. As he battles to stay in the White House for a second term, Trump's strongly pro-Israel stance has further endeared him to evangelical Christians, a powerful voting bloc. The most ardent evangelical faithful believe the state of Israel was established in line with biblical prophecy and as a prerequisite for the second coming of Christ.

### Settlement expansion

While the Trump Heights sign is new, the settlement is not. It was founded in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union when hundreds of



**An eagle statue is seen placed on a menorah sculpture donated by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation (JASHP) dedicated to US President Donald Trump by the entrance to Trump Heights, an Israeli settlement in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Sept 21, 2020. — AFP**

thousands of Jewish people emigrated to Israel. One group of around 15 families carved out a Jewish settlement here, but the associated farming life is tough. Many struggled to make ends meet, and just five families of Israeli settlers remain, many of them elderly.

Naming the settlement after Trump has given Israeli authorities an opportunity to revive the community, and 20 Jewish families are due to move to the remote spot by the end of November. Diggers were recently leveling the land ready for their homes, with the

aim of 20 families arriving each year for the next decade, said Shai Toni Yeheskel, from the local Golan council. "For the first time in almost 30 years they have hope," Yeheskel said. "It's going to become one of the centers of the Golan." Living in run-down houses, the ageing residents have steered clear of outsiders who have visited the settlement since it was renamed. But a group of teenagers live in the community, where they are put through a six-month program ahead of national service. — AFP

## Hopeless in Baltimore, ground zero of US 'urban apartheid'

**BALTIMORE:** Demon Lane says his east Baltimore neighborhood will still be blighted by drug dealing, deadly gunfire, rat-infested vacant houses and hopelessness, no matter who wins America's presidential election in November. His area is overwhelmingly Black, deeply poor and devastated by decades of neglect, which stands in stark contrast to the pricey condos, new stores and safe streets a few miles away in overwhelmingly white and affluent areas.

Baltimore is nearly two-thirds Black, yet it's also been ranked one of the nation's most segregated cities, where experts say the poorest African Americans are expected to live about two decades less than people in the wealthiest white districts. "It didn't make a difference with the last three presidents. So it ain't going to make a difference with this next one," 27-year-old Lane told AFP from the stoop of the rowhouse he shares with his three young children and wife.

Across the street, trash was piled waist-high and most of the next block was covered in grass because its abandoned houses had been bulldozed, some of the thousands of empty buildings in a city that has been shrinking for years. Down the road, past another block of vacant homes, was a drug dealing spot Lane called "crack central." During the warmer months of the year, he estimated he hears gunfire three times a week. "I have no hope. The only thing I have hope in is my own self - what I can do for my family", he added.

### 'Ground zero for urban apartheid'

Baltimore's troubles have been a political tool for President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly attacked the city that has been Democrat-led for decades, most recently calling it the "WORST IN NATION." Frustration at racial inequality boiled over in 2015 following the death in police custody



**BALTIMORE:** Charles Owens rests in front of an abandoned row home in the Broadway East neighborhood block where he has lived since 1986, on Oct 14, 2020. — AFP

of a 25-year-old Black man, Freddie Gray, and this year's nationwide Black Lives Matter protests found a strong resonance in the city. Some areas, to the east and west of downtown Baltimore, were over 90 percent Black with median incomes as low as \$14,000 per year, according to 2016 city figures.

Some of Baltimore's wealthiest areas, with median incomes as high as \$110,000, were over 85 percent white, the same figures said. It's a division that experts said was born of an ugly past of racism in the city. "Baltimore actually is ground zero for urban apartheid in America," researcher and activist Lawrence Brown said in an interview posted to YouTube earlier this year. He noted that Baltimore's leaders passed the first residential racial zoning law in America's history in 1910, which said Black people could not move onto white-majority blocks and vice-versa. The US Supreme Court struck the law down seven years later, but other measures like "restrictive covenants" in property deeds that barred Black ownership or rental, remained enforceable for decades more. Brown coined the phrase "Black Butterfly" to describe how African Americans are concentrated in poor areas east and west of Baltimore's downtown, while a strip of affluent white areas run between. — AFP

## Espionage in Australia at higher levels than Cold War: Spy chief

**SYDNEY:** Espionage in Australia had eclipsed Cold War levels, the country's spymaster told parliament yesterday, in a speech warning that citizens were being monitored and harassed by foreign powers. Several politicians across the ideological spectrum have become embroiled in investigations into suspected overseas influence operations - most notably from China.

Australia's normally tight-lipped spy chiefs have become increasingly outspoken about the threat. "There are more foreign spies and their proxies operating against Australian interests than there were at the height of the Cold War," said Australian Security Intelligence Organization chief Michael Burgess. He warned that diaspora groups living in Australia were being monitored and harassed by foreign governments. An AFP investigation has shown ethnic Uighur exiles from China's Xinjiang region have been targeted while living in Australia and other democratic countries.

Students from Hong Kong enrolled in Australian universities have also reported intimidation and threats to family back home after last year's pro-democracy protests in the financial hub. Burgess did not refer to China by name in his speech to lawmakers in Canberra. But he said the foreign surveillance and intimidation of diaspora groups was "nothing less than an attack on Australia's sovereignty." "It is unacceptable that people in Australia are being intimidated, simply for advocating for democratic reforms or criticizing human rights abuses," he said.

In recent years, several Australian politicians have been embroiled in scandals after taking cash donations from Beijing-linked donors or being accused of participating in Chinese propaganda efforts. Burgess warned that the country's politicians were prominent targets in efforts "to steal our secrets and manipulate our decision making." "We see evidence of intelligence services deceptively cultivating politicians of all levels of government to advance the interests of the foreign countries," he added. — AFP

## Hunter Biden: What we know

**WASHINGTON:** Trailing Joe Biden in the polls two weeks ahead of the election, President Donald Trump appears to be trying to make up ground by flinging accusations without evidence that his Democratic opponent is a "criminal" and attacking his son, Hunter Biden. Asked by a reporter on Monday if this was his strategy in the final stretch of the campaign, Trump said: "Joe Biden is a criminal and he's been a criminal for a long time."

Trump also lashed out at the media "for not reporting it." He offered no evidence to back up his allegation other than to say "read his laptop," presumably a reference to a computer once allegedly owned by Hunter Biden that has been the subject of recent stories in the Rupert Murdoch-owned New York Post. Here's what we know about Hunter Biden, the 50-year-old son of the former senator from Delaware and Democratic presidential nominee:

### Ukraine

From 2014 to 2019, while his father was vice president, Hunter Biden, a lawyer and lobbyist, served on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company. Trump has accused Joe Biden, when he was president Barack Obama's deputy, of seeking the removal of Ukraine's top prosecutor to protect Burisma—and his son—from a corruption investigation. Joe Biden has acknowledged publicly that he did indeed push for the dismissal of the prosecutor but the European Union and IMF had also sought his removal—not because of a Burisma probe but because he was seen as not being aggressive enough in pursuing corruption. Hunter Biden, in an interview with ABC News, has said he may have displayed "poor judgment" in his past business dealings but had not engaged in any wrongdoing.

### Impeachment

Democrats in the House of Representatives opened an impeachment inquiry in September 2019 after a whistleblower revealed that Trump had sought to pressure the Ukrainian president into launching an investigation of the Bidens. The Democratic-majority House approved articles of impeachment against Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress but the Republican-controlled Senate acquitted him of both charges. A report released last month by Senate Republicans into Hunter Biden's Ukraine dealings did not find any evidence of any wrongdoing by Joe Biden.

### New York Post

The New York Post last week revived the Hunter Biden allegations with a story claiming it had obtained documents from a laptop owned by the former vice president's son which was brought in for repairs in April 2019 but never picked up. The Post claimed that emails found on the laptop showed that Hunter Biden introduced his father to a Burisma advisor, Vadym Pozharskyi, in 2015 and contradict Joe Biden's claims that he never spoke to his son about his overseas business dealings. The Post said the shop owner handed the laptop over to the FBI and also made a copy of the hard drive and gave it to former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, has a record of dispersing disinformation about the Bidens and Ukraine. — AFP

International

# ‘A moving current’: Thai protesters adopt Hong Kong tactics and style

## Activists mimic Hong Kong’s flashmob rallies and guerrilla style

**BANGKOK:** Umbrellas as shields, secure chat groups and hand signals as warnings of a pending police crackdown—Thailand’s pro-democracy protesters have taken inspiration and lessons from their counterparts in Hong Kong. Images from Bangkok over the weekend of activists in hard hats, goggles and gas masks facing off against the police were strongly reminiscent of the methods used last year by Hong Kong protesters.

And to counter a more forceful crackdown by the police, Thai activists have also mimicked Hong Kong’s flashmob rallies and guerrilla, “be water” tactics—a philosophy attributed to martial arts hero Bruce Lee. “Now we’re like a fast-moving current that’s ready to change direction at any minute,” said Panumas “James” Singprom, co-founder of Free Youth, one of the Thai movement’s main groups. “The state has pressured us to adapt fast.” Thai protesters have defied warnings and gathering bans to sustain their movement, which has drawn tens of thousands to the streets in recent months, demanding reforms to the government and the powerful monarchy.

And to avoid surveillance and arrests, like their Hong Kong counterparts, they have relied on encrypted messaging services such as Telegram to coordinate protests—only receiving the planned locations an hour before each rally. While the Thai movement has seen some prominent faces emerge, ongoing arrests have forced protesters to replicate another Hong Kong movement feature—organizing with no obvious leaders, and using hashtags to spread their message. The majority turning up for the daily protests are “self-organized”, said James.

**‘Milk Tea Alliance’**  
The camaraderie between Hong Kong and Thailand protesters was on display in Bangkok on Sunday, with demonstrators chanting “return independence to Hong Kong, while raising mobile flashlights to the night sky. And much like the sea of raised hands in Hong Kong—signifying the protesters’ five demands—Thai rallies have seen waves of three-finger salutes borrowed from the Hunger Games movies. Advice and support have poured in from young activists in Hong Kong and Taiwan—dubbed



**Protesters defy warnings and gathering bans**

the “Milk Tea Alliance” on social media because of the popularity of the drink in all three places.

As images of Thai police using water cannon on unarmed protesters went viral, Hong Kong activists shared tips on how to handle such a situation. One Hong Kong Twitter user named Crystaljel recommended using umbrellas as shields and carrying saline water, and added: “Make good use of your talent and courage.” The so-called “umbrella formation” ubiquitous during the Hong Kong protests



**BANGKOK:** Pro-democracy protesters give the three-finger salute outside the Siam Paragon shopping center yesterday. — AFP

was employed Friday night in Bangkok’s central shopping district.

Passing dozens of colorful umbrellas to those on the frontline, they attempted to create a human defense wall as riot police bore down on them. Protesters also formed human chains during the Sunday protest to pass messages and supplies—

including hard hats, goggles and water—to those lacking protection. This “telephone” system also enabled dense crowds to part quickly for ambulances trying to reach nearby hospitals. Hand signals borrowed from creative Hong Kongers were also on display as young Thais practiced crossing their arms to denote impending danger. — AFP

## Why China may want to keep Trump in the White House

**BEIJING:** Donald Trump has frustrated and enraged China during a tumultuous first term, but Beijing may welcome his re-election as it scans the horizon for the decline of its superpower rival. Relations are as icy as at any time since formal ties were established four decades ago, with China warning it does not want to be drawn into a new “Cold War” with the United States. Under his ‘America First’ banner, Trump has portrayed China as the greatest threat to the United States and global democracy.

He has launched a massive trade war that has cost China billions of dollars, harangued Chinese tech firms and lay all the blame for the pandemic with Beijing. But another Trump triumph in November may have its advantages for China as President Xi Jinping seeks to cement his nation’s rise as a global superpower. China’s leadership could be handed “the opportunity to boost its global standing as a champion for globalisation, multilateralism, and international cooperation,” said Zhu Zhiqun, professor of political and international relations, Bucknell University.

Trump has pulled America from a sprawling Asia-Pacific commercial deal and climate agree-

ments, imposed billions of dollars of tariffs on Chinese goods, and withdrawn the US from the World Health Organization at the height of a global pandemic. Where the US has retreated, Xi has stepped forward. He has presented his country as the champion of free trade and a leader in the fight against climate change, as well as vowed to share any potential Covid-19 vaccine with poorer nations. “A second Trump term could give China more time to rise as a great power on the world stage,” Zhu said.

Philippe Le Corre, a China expert at the Harvard Kennedy School in the United States, agreed an extension of Trump’s ‘America First’ policies would be of long-term benefit for Beijing. “(It) partially cuts Washington off from its traditional allies,” he added, and that gave China room to manoeuvre. China’s nationalists have openly cheered, or jeered, for Trump. “You can make America eccentric and thus hateful for the world,” Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a chest-beating nationalist paper, warned in a Tweet directed at the US president. “You help promote unity in China.” Trump is also lampooned on China’s heavily censored social media as ‘Jianguo’, meaning “help to build China”.

### Biden trouble

Trump has undoubtedly inflicted economic and political pain on China. “China has lost out enormously in its plan for trade and technology,” said Beijing-based political analyst Hua Po. In January the US and China signed a deal bringing a partial truce in their trade war that obliged Beijing to import an additional \$200 billion in American prod-



**BEIJING:** This file photo taken on Nov 9, 2017 shows US President Donald Trump and China’s President Xi Jinping shaking hands during a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People. — AFP

ucts over two years, ranging from cars to machinery and oil to farm products.

Washington has also turned its guns on Chinese tech firms it says poses security threats, throwing the future US operations of video-sharing app TikTok - owned by Chinese parent company ByteDance - into uncertainty. Mobile giant Huawei is also on Trump’s hitlist. The enmity also extends into defense and human rights, with Taiwan, Hong Kong and the treatment of China’s Muslim Uighur minority all making waves in US. But China may not win much relief in any of these areas if Trump loses to Democratic challenger Joe Biden. — AFP

## Scientists raise alarm over signs of vaccine ‘hesitancy’

**PARIS:** Scientists called for urgent action to improve public trust in immunization as research suggested sizeable minorities in some nations may be reluctant to be vaccinated against COVID-19. With few effective treatments and no cure for the coronavirus, companies and governments are racing to develop vaccines in a bid to arrest the pandemic.

But there is increasing concern that “vaccine hesitancy” is also on the rise, with misinformation and mistrust coloring people’s acceptance of scientific advances. In a new study published Tuesday in Nature Medicine, researchers in Spain, the United States and Britain surveyed 13,400 in 19 countries hit hard by Covid-19 and found that while 72 percent said they would be immunized, 14 percent would refuse and another 14 percent would hesitate. When extrapolated across whole populations this could amount to tens of millions of people who may avoid vaccination, the authors said.

“These findings should be a call to action for the international health community,” said co-author Heidi Larson, who runs the Vaccine Confidence Project at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. “If we do not start building vaccine literacy and restoring public trust in science today, we cannot hope to contain this pandemic.” Researchers found that people who had least faith in their governments were less likely to accept a vaccine—and even those who had been ill with the virus were not more likely to respond positively.

While in China 88 percent of respondents said they would take “a proven, safe and effective vaccine”, the highest of all the countries surveyed, the proportion dipped to 75 percent in the US and as low as 55 percent in Russia. “We found that the problem of vaccine hesitancy is strongly related with a lack of trust in government,” said study coordinator Jeffrey Lazarus, of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health. — AFP

## What virus? India gets back to work

**SINNAR:** India is on course to top the world in coronavirus cases, but from Maharashtra’s whirring factories to Kolkata’s thronging markets, people are back at work—and eager to forget the pandemic for festival season. After a strict lockdown in March that left millions on the brink of starvation, the government and people of the world’s second-most populous country decided life must go on.

Sonali Dange, for instance, has two young daughters and an elderly mother-in-law to look after. She was hospitalized this year in excruciating pain after catching the coronavirus. But after the lockdown exhausted the family’s savings, the 29-year-old had to return to work at a factory where she earns 25,000 rupees (\$340) a month. “Now that I have recovered, I am no longer so scared of the disease,” she told AFP amid the din of machinery at the Nobel Hygiene plant east of Mumbai.

### Worst since 1947

The pandemic’s confirmed fatality rate has been heaviest in richer nations with older populations—the US death toll is double that of India despite having only a quarter of the population. Poor countries have suffered far worse economic pain, with the World Bank predicting 150 million people could fall into extreme poverty worldwide.

Many children in the developing world are now working to help their parents make ends meet, activists say, while thousands of young girls have been forced into marriage. In Varanasi in northern India, 12-year-old Sanchit no longer attends school and instead collects cloth discarded from bodies before cremation on the city’s ghats. “On a good day, I earn around 50 rupees (70 US cents),” the boy told AFP. The IMF projects India’s GDP will contract by 10.3 percent this year, the biggest slump of any major emerging nation and its worst since independence in 1947.

### Lockdown catastrophe

When India went into lockdown, it was a human catastrophe, leaving millions in the informal economy jobless, penniless and destitute almost overnight. No



**SINNAR, India:** In this picture taken on Oct 1, 2020, staff members work on the production line of a diaper manufacturing plant in Maharashtra. — AFP

one wants to go back to that, said Gargi Mukherjee, 42, as she shopped in the New Market area of Kolkata, thronging with festival-season customers, many without face masks.

“For survival, people have to come out and do their jobs. If you don’t earn, you cannot feed your family,” she told AFP. Experts caution that the October-November season—when Hindus celebrate major festivals such as Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali—may trigger a sharp increase in infections, as consumers crowd markets to snap up big-ticket items on discount. “Of course corona is to be feared. But what can I do? I can’t miss the moments of Durga Puja,” said housewife Tiyas Bhattacharya Das, 25. “Durga Puja comes once in the year, so I cannot miss the enjoyment of the shopping.”

### Hunger or virus

Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist at the Mumbai-based India Ratings and Research agency, said Indians faced a stark choice. “People have to choose whether to die of hunger or risk getting a virus that may or may not kill you,” he told AFP. Indeed India’s relatively low mortality rate—about 1.5 percent of its more than seven million cases—has surprised many who warned coronavirus would lay waste to its crowded cities, beset by poor sanitation and crumbling public hospitals. Even accounting for some likely undercounting, it is evident that the nightmare scenario of dead bodies piled in the streets as seen during the 1918 flu pandemic has mercifully not materialised. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Turkey arrests ‘UAE spy’

**ANKARA:** Turkey has arrested a man accused of spying on behalf of regional rival the United Arab Emirates, Turkish state broadcaster TRT World reported yesterday. Ahmad Al-Astal, a 45-year-old Palestinian from Gaza, had Jordanian travel documents when he was taken into custody in Turkey. Astal’s family in Gaza issued a statement on social media on September 25 saying he had been “kidnapped” four days earlier in Turkey. His family said Astal was a journalist who had worked in the UAE for a decade before moving to Turkey where he worked at several media outlets, including state news agency Anadolu. In a second statement on Tuesday, his family accused Turkey of handling the matter in an “opaque” manner, adding that any confessions Astal made under duress should not be used. — AFP

#### Murders surge in Brazil

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** The number of murders and other violent deaths in Brazil increased 7.1 percent in the first half of the year, despite lockdown measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic, a report said Monday. “There were 25,712 violent deaths in the first half of 2020, equivalent to one person murdered every 10 minutes amid the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the stay-at-home measures implemented during this period,” said the report from the Brazilian Public Security Forum. “The figures broke a downward trend in violent crime that began in 2018,” it said in its annual report on public security in the South American country, which has long struggled with high levels of violence. — AFP

#### UN ‘dismayed’ at India

**GENEVA:** UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet voiced her dismay yesterday at the arrest of activists in India and restrictions to the work of non-governmental organizations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights appealed to New Delhi to safeguard the rights of human rights defenders and NGOs. Bachelet regretted what she called the application of vaguely worded laws that constrain NGOs’ activities and restrict foreign funding. “India has long had a strong civil society, which has been at the forefront of groundbreaking human rights advocacy,” the former Chilean president said. “But I am concerned that vaguely defined laws are increasingly being used to stifle these voices.” — AFP

#### ISS’s crew ‘in no danger’

**MOSCOW:** The International Space Station is now working normally with no danger to its occupants after the crew managed to resolve a series of technical issues overnight, Russia’s space agency said yesterday. The crew aboard the ISS had reported issues with the oxygen production system, a toilet and the oven for preparing food. “The problems that occurred on board the ISS during the night of 19-20 October have been fully resolved by the crew,” Russia’s space agency Roscosmos said in a statement. “All the systems of the station are working well and there is no danger to the crew or the ISS.” The crew had reported overnight that the toilet on the Russian segment of the ISS was out of order, that the water systems used to supply oxygen to the crew were empty and that there were problems with heating food. — AFP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

# Business

## Boursa Kuwait stresses commitment to driving growth in Kuwait financial sector

### IFN Kuwait OnAir Forum 2020 highlights Boursa's outstanding accomplishments

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait participated in the IFN Kuwait OnAir Forum 2020, highlighting the company's ongoing commitment to contribute to the growth and development of Kuwait's capital markets and its wider economy. Boursa Kuwait's Head of Markets Sector, Noura Al-Abdulkareem, was invited as a speaker on a panel, entitled "Funding, Infrastructure, Capital Markets and Responsible Finance Initiatives in Kuwait" yesterday, the second day of the two-day virtual forum.

The IFN Kuwait Forum, organized by REDMoney Group, provides market participants with an opportunity to come together and discuss how to advance and develop the financial services industry in Kuwait. The sessions enabled participants to share in-depth analysis, experiences, information and views and allowed market players and regulators to provide bi-lateral feedback and suggestions on how the industry can be taken forward as well as what steps should be taken by regulators and how market players can assist.

Speaking on the panel, Al-Abdulkareem shed light on major Boursa Kuwait initiatives that have given the company a key role as the engine of

growth and development in the Kuwaiti capital market and helped cement its reputation as a leading stock exchange in the Middle East.

"As a vital player in Kuwait's economy, Boursa Kuwait has made remarkable contributions toward driving growth and development in the domestic financial sector, successfully executing multi-phase market development plans over the years. Our efforts have yielded milestone achievements that include the privatization and listing of the company, the inclusion of Kuwait in the emerging market indices of leading index providers, an array of investment products and services, the rollout of wide-ranging regulatory reforms, as well as initiatives aimed at adding new asset classes, with an overarching objective of creating a robust capital markets ecosystem in the country," said Al-Abdulkareem.

"The IFN Kuwait OnAir Forum 2020 provided us an excellent platform to highlight Boursa Kuwait's outstanding accomplishments that enabled us to transform Kuwait into an attractive investment destination that offers promising opportunities for both individual and institutional

investors as well as all capital market stakeholders. The event also afforded us a valuable opportunity to gain deeper insights into emerging trends in the financial sector and customer needs," she added.

Andrew Tebbutt, Managing Director of REDmoney Group commented on the participation of Boursa Kuwait in the forum, saying: "We are delighted that Boursa Kuwait participated in our forum and thank Al-Abdulkareem for her great contribution towards making it a tremendously successful event with over 250 viewers over two days. Boursa Kuwait has been playing a role in the advancement of the finance sector in Kuwait and we felt that its experience over the past few years would be a great example to highlight to industry stakeholders."

Boursa Kuwait's participation in the conferences and forums of prominent international organizations comes within the framework of its goal to strengthen its position as a leader in the financial markets sector. The company is also committed to participating in these events and conferences to gain experience and knowledge and promote the Kuwaiti capital market to international

investment institutions.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has worked tirelessly to create a credible exchange built on efficiency and transparency, creating a liquid capital market, a progressive exchange platform and developing a comprehensive set of reforms and enhancements that has allowed it to compete on an international level. The company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives over the past three years as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MD) plans, and is currently working towards launching new products including margin trading, tradable rights issue, fixed income bonds and Sukuk, as well as exchange-traded funds (ETFs).



Noura Al-Abdulkareem

#### News in brief

##### Sweden bans Huawei, ZTE

**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden has banned Chinese telecoms groups Huawei and ZTE from its 5G network for security reasons, the Swedish telecoms regulator said yesterday. The ban is in line with new legislation that entered into force in January 2020, following an examination by the Swedish armed forces and security service "to ensure that the use of radio equipment in these bands does not cause harm to Sweden's security," the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority said in a statement. Huawei, the world number two in mobile phones and a market leader for next generation 5G equipment, and ZTE will also have to remove any existing installations by January 1, 2025. —AFP

##### UBS posts best Q3 results

**ZURICH:** Swiss banking giant UBS said yesterday it nearly doubled its net profit in its best third quarter in a decade, the latest in a string of global lenders to report better-than-expected results despite the coronavirus pandemic. The world's largest wealth manager saw net profit jump 99 percent year-on-year to \$2.5 billion, it said in a statement, handily beating analyst expectations for \$1.5 billion. The rise comes after net profit dropped by 11 percent in the second quarter to June as the firm stepped up provisions for bad loans with the global economy in a tailspin due to the pandemic. —AFP

##### IBM revenue slips again

**SAN FRANCISCO:** IBM reported Monday that revenue slipped for the third consecutive quarter this year, causing shares to cede a little ground in after-market trades. The US technology veteran said it took in \$17.6 billion during the three months that ended on Sept. 30, compared to \$18 billion in the same period a year earlier. Net income, however, was up slightly to \$1.7 billion as the company trimmed costs, according to the earnings report. IBM shares were down 2.6 percent in after-market trades. The New York-based company spotlighted growth in its cloud computing business, which saw overall revenue climb some 19 percent to \$6 billion. —AFP

## Walmart cranks up ad drive, with or without TikTok

**NEW YORK:** Walmart Inc is aggressively expanding its advertising business after years of stuttering progress, even as a proposed deal to buy a stake in video-sharing app TikTok remains stuck in limbo.

The world's largest retailer is making better use of its wealth of shopper data to link promotions on its website and app with ads inside its network of 4,700 US stores, according to Reuters interviews with six advertising agencies and Walmart ad tech partners, three major brands plus bankers and ex-employees. The refocused strategy was born early last year when Walmart cut ties with its external advertising partner and took the business in-house, calling it Walmart Media Group.

The company bet it could do a better job of bridging online and offline data for its advertisers and give itself a shot at developing an ad platform that could take on Amazon.com Inc., the sources said.

The shift has been paying off, according to one source briefed on the company's plans who said Walmart Media Group was on track to earn nearly \$1 billion of advertising sales this year, more than double the amount it brought in last year. Walmart declined to comment on the sales estimate, but it

## China's super rich got \$1.5tn richer during pandemic

**BEIJING:** China's super wealthy have earned a record \$1.5 trillion in 2020, more than the past five years combined, as e-commerce and gaming boomed during pandemic lockdowns, an annual rich list said yesterday. An extra 257 people also joined the billionaires club in the world's number-two economy by August, following two years of shrinking membership, according to the closely watched Hurun Report.

The country now has a total of 878 billionaires. The US had 626 people in the top bracket at the start of the year, according to Hurun in its February global list. The report found that there were around 2,000 individuals with a net worth of more than 2 billion yuan (\$300 million) in August, giving them a combined net worth of \$4 trillion.

Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce titan Alibaba, once again topped the list after his wealth surged a whopping 45 percent to \$58.8 billion as online shopping firms saw a surge in business owing to people being shut indoors for months during strict lockdowns to contain the virus.

## Facebook unveils AI-based translator for 100 languages

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook on Monday unveiled software based on machine learning which the company said was the first to be able to translate from any of 100 languages without relying on English. The open-source artificial intelligence software was created to help the massive social network deliver content better in 160 languages to its more than two billion users around the world.

"This milestone is a culmination of years of Facebook AI's foundational work in machine translation," research

assistant Angela Fan said in a blog post. Fan said the new model is more accurate than other systems because it does not rely on English as an intermediary translation step. "When translating, say, Chinese to French, most English-centric multilingual models train on Chinese to English and English to French, because English training data is the most widely available," Fan wrote.

"Our model directly trains on Chinese to French data to better preserve meaning. It outperforms English-centric systems by 10 points on the widely used BLEU metric for evaluating machine translations."

Facebook said it already handles an average of 20 billion translations every day on its news feed, and that it hopes the new system will deliver better results. "Breaking language barriers through machine translation is one of the most important ways to bring people together, provide authoritative information on COVID-19, and keep them safe from harmful content," Fan said. —AFP

China shut down major cities around the country in late January and February to contain the virus that first emerged in Wuhan, causing an unprecedented economic contraction in the first quarter.

He was followed by Pony Ma (\$57.4 billion), boss of gaming giant and WeChat owner Tencent who made an extra 50 percent despite concerns about his firm's US outlook after it was threatened with bans there over national security fears. First-time list member Zhong Shanshan, 66, best-known for his bottled water brand Nongfu, parachuted into third spot with \$53.7 billion after a Hong Kong IPO in September, the report found.

#### 'Never seen this much wealth'

"The world has never seen this much wealth created in just one year," Hurun Report chief researcher Rupert Hoogewerf said in a statement. This year's list shows China was "moving away from traditional sectors like manufacturing and real estate, towards the new economy," he added.

Wang Xing, founder of food delivery app Meituan, quadrupled his wealth and jumped 52 places to 13th in the list with \$25 billion, while Richard Liu, the founder of online shopping platform JD.com doubled his money pile to \$23.5 billion. Healthcare entrepreneurs also moved up the list on the back of the pandemic, with Jiang Rensheng, founder of vaccine-maker Zhifei, tripling his value to \$19.9 billion.

China shut down major cities around the country in late January and February to contain the virus that first emerged in Wuhan, causing an unprecedented economic contraction in the first quarter.

explained its approach to the ad business. "One thing we do at Walmart Media Group is make sure that the advertising we're placing is additive to the customer experience, that we're not just throwing ads on anything anywhere, that we're really strategic," Walmart spokeswoman Molly Blakeman said.

The big challenge now, according to the source, is figuring out how it can continue to expand the ad business into one that will matter to investors for a company that earned about \$524 billion in total revenue in fiscal year 2020. "It's going well, and they want it to go very, very well," the source said. "There have been very material gains but it doesn't yet put a dent in Amazon's lead or Walmart's top or bottom line."

A deal for TikTok, which reaches 100 million US users a month, was supposed to supercharge the strategy by helping Walmart's ad machine engage with younger audiences that may not shop regularly at Walmart. But the talks to invest in the Chinese-owned TikTok remain shrouded in political uncertainty. That, however, has not stopped Walmart from moving ahead with its strategy, the advertising agencies and brands said.

Yet it's early days in the drive for Walmart, which has historically struggled to create new lines of business and has never turned a profit from its e-commerce business. Some advertisers and ad agencies said the retailer still had a distance to go on the technology front, including tracking how ads translated into sales - a key selling point for brands. Walmart faces a huge task chasing Amazon, which is expected to generate about \$13 billion in ads this

year according to eMarketer, while it is also battling smaller rivals including Target and Kroger which are building their own ad platforms.

Another challenge it must overcome: Walmart disclosed this month that Stefanie Jay, leader of Walmart Media Group, will leave the company for a "new opportunity." Rich Lehrfeld, Walmart's interim chief marketing officer, will now also lead Walmart Media Group.

#### 'Always in, always on'

In meetings with brands and advertising technology partners, Walmart's executives have summed up its goals with a tagline - "Always In, Always On" - a reference to how its store network will help advertisers reach more customers, Walmart told Reuters. "Whether it's online or in the shopping aisle on a screen in the grocery section, they want that brand message through the whole ecosystem," said Nich Weinheimer, general manager of e-commerce at ad tech firm Kenshoo, which works with Walmart.

Walmart has used its data to improve targeting of ads and convinced some advertisers to sign long-term advertising contracts, brands and former employees say. The company told Reuters that its deals, which include store and digital ads, are typically worth low double-digit millions of dollars. Dan Cooke, head of e-commerce at jam-maker JM Smucker Co which places ads with Walmart, told Reuters that the retailer had gathered better data on consumers and their purchases this year.

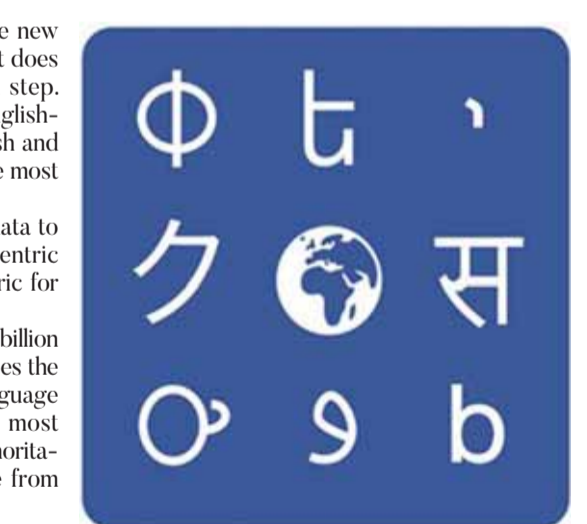
Walmart has uses the data to improve its online



Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce titan Alibaba, once again topped the list after his wealth surged a whopping 45 percent to \$58.8 billion.

With infections appearing to be under control, the country is on track to become the only major economy to expand this year, according to the International Monetary Fund. On Monday data showed the economy expanded 4.9 percent in the third quarter but away from the glittering figures many ordinary workers and fresh graduates are struggling to find jobs.

The urban jobless rate inched down to 5.4 percent in September, although analysts have warned of higher unemployment than officially reported this year. —AFP



display advertising, give clients a better idea of how their ads are performing and provide "critical" online tools that makes it easier for them to monitor and control campaigns themselves, he added. "There's a bit of an arms race that's going on - Amazon has certainly been a trailblazer," said Cooke, adding that Walmart was responding "very aggressively."

#### Knowing what sells

Walmart executives view the advertising drive as significant to the success of the retailer's e-commerce business as a whole, according to the source briefed on the company's plans.

Nearly 90 percent of Americans live within 10 miles of a Walmart, according to the retailer's website. This is a strength that Walmart needs to leverage more, according to the ad agencies and brands, as it has an insight into consumers' shopping habits. Walmart's stores and Walmart.com together count about 160 million visitors a week, data from investment bank Cowen shows.

Walmart's advertising strategy has nonetheless been somewhat hit or miss over the decades.

The retailer, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, dabbled with the advertising business in the late 1990s and early 2000s with an in-store TV network that aired commercials. It expanded the business about 15 years ago to include its website through Triad Retail Media. The retailer cut ties with Triad in February 2019 and brought all ad operations in-house under Walmart Media Group. —Reuters





## Business

# stc discusses importance of end-to-end digitization in Forbes Mideast webinar

## Forbes and GBM host roundtable on 'Vision 2035: Kuwait's Journey To Digitization'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, participated in Forbes Middle East's "Vision 2035: Kuwait's Journey To Digitization" webinar to discuss the various initiatives implemented within both the public and private sectors to transform operations through digitization. With end to end digitization serving as a key pillar in its strategy, stc took this opportunity to showcase its primary focus areas in the path towards enabling digital transformation in Kuwait.

In line with Kuwait's Vision 2035, the Forbes Middle East webinar held on October 13th invited industry experts to discuss, through a panel discussion, some of the key initiatives and topics that can assist the country in becoming the "Financial and Commercial Hub" in the Middle East. While the nation's vision encompasses a wide range of attributes, the webinar focused on the tech-based solutions that can accelerate the realization of the vision through digitization. Panelists participating in the online discussion included stc Chief Technology Officer, engineer Fahad Al-Ali, as well as other executive professionals that operate in different sectors within the local market.

During the panel discussion, Al-Ali highlighted the Company's key framework in supporting the progressive move to digital transformation, as well as the main areas of focus in stc's digital strategy. He expressed that as a world-class digital leader, stc embraces a digital culture that incorporates digitizing and automating internal systems and processes. The Company built an agile structure and operating model that supports its go-to-market strategy, primarily focusing on the added benefits that can enhance the customer experience. To maintain customer satisfaction, stc recruits and incubates high caliber digital professionals to ensure ongoing innovation and groundbreaking solutions. stc has also developed digital manpower programs through stc Academy that are customized with up-to-date content, offering courses on digitization, technology and other important fields that suit vari-

ous employee roles within the Company.

Commenting on stc's participation, engineer Fahad A-Ali said, "As digital pioneers, we believe at stc that achieving end-to-end digitization will progressively evolve the local market by streamlining and efficiently executing time-consuming tasks through automation and AI based applications. We went beyond mobile connectivity to enhance our offerings by acquiring Qualitynet to provide local and international connectivity. This allows our enterprise customers to connect with global clouds and applications."

Al-Ali added that stc provides a range of digital solutions to corporates that include data centers to infrastructures and applications. Additionally, stc offers an IoT strategy that allows companies to manage their resources more efficiently and extract the most out of their business models through digitization. The Company has also built a solid 5G infrastructure to complement these digital solutions with nationwide coverage, high internet speeds and low latencies. This will allow stc to cater to the growing demand for data, specially within the areas of AI, big data and IoT.

He added, "On behalf of stc, I would like to thank Forbes Middle East and GBM for organizing this webinar and providing Kuwait-based experts with a professional platform to discuss some of the local industry's developments in the journey to digitization. I hope that the panel discussion provided listeners with great insights and valuable knowledge on digital transformation in Kuwait, in addition to how corporations are enabling the path towards this journey. I would also like to thank the panelists and the moderator for their informative input and ensuring the successful outcome of this webinar."



Fahad Al-Ali



### Cadre

stc Group ranked 1st as top Telecom Company in the MENA Region

According to the recent publication by international Forbes magazine, Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), announced the parent company (stc Group) ranked 1st amongst the top telecom companies in the MENA region.

As a subsidiary of stc Group, stc - Kuwait is proud to be a part of such a powerful digital leader with a solid branding position and vast capabilities. stc Group boasts a wide range of products and services to enrich the lives of both individual and corporate customers, enabling digital transformation, even with the high demand witnessed during the current COVID-19 crisis. stc is keen on offering its customers, with the latest technologies and digital media services while capitalizing on the parent company's (stc Group) expertise and resources in this area, which in return widens the range of services proactively.

Forbes announced its annual "Global 2000" list, which includes 2000 international companies ranked according to the size of their assets, market value, net profits and revenues in equitable shares. In 2019, Forbes selected stc Group amongst the first

digital companies in the MENA region and among the best 44 digital companies in the world.

According to Forbes' list, stc Group is among the Middle East's top 100 companies in 2020, ranked 8th amongst the top Arab companies and 335th internationally. During 2019, the parent company (stc Group), located in KSA, improved its performance with a 4.46 percent increase in revenues. The Company also increased its net profits by 5.93 percent for the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

The 18th publication of the Forbes annual "Global 2000" ranking also discussed the recent challenges businesses are facing while giving a fair warning of the negative repercussions that would follow in the upcoming period.

While the majority of companies mentioned in the "Global 2000" have already witnessed a substantial decrease in their market value compared to the year before, due to the harsh impact of the total lockdown, the telecom industry in the MENA region proved to be among the least affected industries. stc Group managed to maintain its strong market position by increasing its revenue and profitability, especially with the launch of recent 5G products and services.

## ABK congratulates winners of salary Transfer draw

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the names of two winners for the month of October for the "Transfer your Salary and Find Reasons to Smile" monthly draw campaign, held on October 15th 2020, under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The lucky winners who will each receive the equivalent of their monthly salaries for October are:

Vishak Koshy Vaidyan  
and Rami Refaat Noun

The next draw will be on the 19th of November 2020, with the last draw taking place on the 10th December 2020. To be eligible to enter the draw, customers must have their salaries transferred to the bank at least one month prior to the draw date. The draw is open to both Kuwaiti and expatriate customers who hold Elite, Prestige or Al-



Raed Salary Transfer Accounts.

In addition to the draw, the salary campaign offers ABK salary account customers a range of exceptional rewards. Kuwaiti salary account holders will receive cash gifts up to KD 1,000 provided they transfer a salary equivalent to/or higher

than KD 500. Moreover, Kuwaiti customers are eligible for a 0 percent interest loan of up to KD 10,000 and expatriates up to KD 5,000. These loans are subject to ABK's terms and conditions, as well as the Central Bank of Kuwait's regulations and policies.

## Drought and hunger drive Nepal farmers to India, defying ban

**NARAINAPUR, Nepal:** As an exceptionally wet monsoon season caused floods and landslides across much of Nepal, Buddhi Prasad Chaudhary, a farmer in the west of the country, was harvesting his rice early, after drought left it suitable only for animal feed.

Chaudhary, 27, uses groundwater supplies to grow some of the crops on his half-acre (0.2-hectare) farm in the Narainapur rural municipality of Banke district. But for a thirsty crop like rice, he depends on rain.

"It is almost impossible to grow rice using groundwater irrigation only," said the farmer, who relies on rice farming to earn an income and feed his extended family of 10. "This year is the first time I have had to buy rice, as my harvest won't be sufficient for my family for the whole year," Chaudhary told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

An unusually dry monsoon season in Narainapur has ruined rice crops across the area, leaving thousands of farmers with so little food or income that some have broken a coronavirus travel ban, in place since late March, to seek work in India. Seasonal migration for economic reasons is common in the region - and when India imposed a strict lockdown to curb the pandemic, drying up casual jobs in cities, tens of thousands of Nepalese migrant workers returned home across the border.



An unusually dry monsoon season in Narainapur has ruined rice crops across the area, leaving thousands of farmers with so little food or income that some have broken a coronavirus travel ban, in place since late March, to seek work in India.

Travel between Nepal and India is likely to be prohibited due to COVID-19 restrictions until at least next month. But Laxmi Kant Mishra, Narainapur's crisis management chief, said many people were leaving illegally "as it is better to go to India and search for a job rather than die hungry here". Arjun Singh Thapa, Nepal program officer at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said drought had become more frequent and erratic in the South Asian nation in recent years.

Farmers who could previously rely on monsoon rains from June to September now struggle to plan their harvests, while recurring dry spells have hardened the ground, he said. That means any rain that does fall cannot penetrate deep enough to adequately recharge groundwater supplies, he added.

The increasingly widespread use of chemical fertilizers has also inhibited the soil's ability to retain rainwater, he noted. "In past years, crops would grow well even

if we didn't have sufficient rainfall for four or five months. But these days, 15 days of dry (weather) is enough to damage crops," said Thapa.

### Lack of irrigation

Agricultural experts say Nepal's farmers have been dealing with worsening drought in recent years, pointing to climate change as a major driver. Roshan Babu Ojha, soil scientist at the Nepal Agriculture Research Council, a state body, said average temperatures in the country were increasing, while precipitation was declining, and variations in microclimates were becoming more dramatic.

"Consequently, some areas of the same district may face high rainfall while the others remain dry," he added. Banke district sits within the major rice-growing Terai region and produces about 14 percent of the mid-west region's rice, according to the 2017 agricultural statistical yearbook. — Reuters

## Under the radar? Tesla turns away from media

**NEW YORK:** What's new at Tesla? Difficult to say, since the fast-growing electric carmaker appears to have taken the unusual step of disbanding its media relations department which responds to journalists. Calls and emails to Tesla's California headquarters from AFP and other media outlets were unanswered days ahead of the company's quarterly financial update.

The specialized news website Electrek reported earlier this month that Tesla had dissolved its media relations department, becoming the first automaker to cut off the press.

It is still communicating with investors and the public directly from its website, regulatory filings and the Twitter account of chief executive Elon Musk. But media outlets covering the company express frustration on dealing with Tesla. "I have not gotten a response out of Tesla in months," said Steve LeVine, a journalist at Medium who follows the electric car sector.

"I can't say how many months. But I do not recall a response recently."

Inquiries to Tesla's China and European offices were also unanswered. While many large firms are

tight-lipped with media, Tesla's move of cutting off the press entirely would be unprecedented for a company of its stature. In recent podcast interview with the New York Times, Musk expressed frustration over media coverage of Tesla's Battery Day in September, where the firm unveiled its latest technology.

"The press coverage of this event was sad," he said. "Most of the press coverage was a sad reflection of their understanding, really." Breaking with tradition is not new for Tesla, which is the only major automaker selling cars directly to customers, and avoiding independent dealers in the United States despite restrictions in some states.

Musk also landed in hot water in 2018, settling a fine with regulators after tweeting an unfounded claim that he had secured funding to take the company private. The flamboyant CEO has also negotiated a rare contract which could net him more than \$50 billion in compensation if Tesla's share price hits certain levels, but leave him dry if the company falters.

At least one analyst said Tesla's approach in communications is reasonable and reflects its ability to get its message across without news media. "Tesla does not need a PR department at all," said Global Equities Research analyst Trip Chowdhry. Chowdhry said Tesla's customers are "advocates" for the company and Musk communicates directly with 39 million Twitter followers. — AFP

## UK scoffs at EU trade talks offer in Brexit poker

**LONDON/BRUSSELS:** Britain stood firm yesterday in rebutting a European Union offer to discuss draft legal texts of a potential post-Brexit trade deal unless there were fundamental changes as their high-stakes diplomatic poker game risked a chaotic finale. Failure by the world's largest trading bloc and sixth richest economy to reach a deal by the end of the year to govern \$900 billion in annual trade would send shockwaves round Europe, just as the coronavirus also pummels jobs and businesses.

Angry at an EU demand for concessions, Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke off talks and said it was time to prepare for a no-deal Brexit: the nightmare scenario for business. Trying to get discussions back on track, EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier offered on Monday to intensify talks and open discussions on legal texts of a draft deal. But that met with short shrift.

"Until you make it very clear that

you are willing to negotiate with us as an equal, as a sovereign, then there's no point simply just paying lip service, saying you know 'we'll intensify negotiations'," junior British business minister Nadhim Zahawi told Sky News. EU diplomats cast Britain's moves as bluster and a frantic bid to secure concessions before a last-minute deal.

### 'Posturing'

"They got what they wanted - intensified talks, on legal texts, on multiple areas ... Now, they are just faffing around," said one EU diplomat. "All this posturing is only aimed at strengthening Johnson's hand. If they don't want to talk, that's their choice. There is no point at this stage to give them anything more."

There is concern in some European capitals that Johnson may judge that the domestic political benefits and potentially the long-term economic freedom of a noisy no-deal exit outweigh the benefits of a shallow trade deal. Britain formally left the EU at the end of January, but the two sides have been haggling over a deal that would govern trade in everything from car parts to medicines when informal membership known as the transition period ends on Dec. 31. — Reuters

# Classifieds

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

الطيران المدني  
**Civil Aviation**  
 State of Kuwait - دولة الكويت



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 66819 - 66817  
 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)

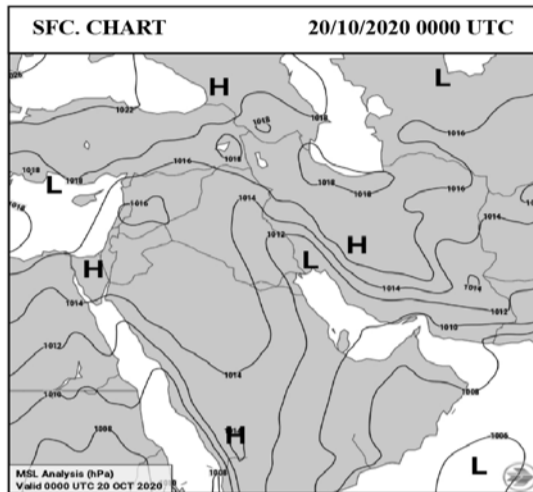
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot to rather hot with light to moderate freshening gradually north westerly wind with speed of 15 - 55km/h causing rising dust specially over open areas.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind with speed of 12 - 35 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING: No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	37 °C	26 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	37 °C	19 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	17 °C
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C
JAHRA	36 °C	22 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C
SALMIYAH	34 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	- °C	- °C
NUWASIB	36 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	36 °C	23 °C
SALMY	35 °C	16 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	10/21	Rather hot	36 °C	18 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	10/22	Rather hot	35 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 35 km/h
Friday	10/23	Rather hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	36 °C	16 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 32 km/h
Saturday	10/24	Rather hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	33 °C	16 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:33
Sunrise	05:53
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:47
Sunset	17:13
Isha	18:30

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	33 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	NW 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

### WANTED

#### Marine Superintendent

Qualified as a Marine Engineer with minimum 15 years' experience. Should be able to maintain a fleet of Tugs and other vessels. Knowledge of repair & maintenance of various marine engines & ship borne machinery & equipment . Transferable residence. Salary based on Experience.

Send CV to: [KWAMARINEJOB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KWAMARINEJOB@GMAIL.COM)

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Ashok Kumar Nayunipati** S/o Nayunipati Ramachandraiah holder of Indian Passport No. N8639837 & Civil ID No. 280112003117 has changed my name from Ashok Kumar Nayunipati to Ashok Kumar Nayanapati (Ashok Kumar - Given Name and Nayanapati - Surname) hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Ashok Kumar Nayanapati. (C5805) 16-10-2020

## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Turkish Airlines	1884918
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044

## Word Search

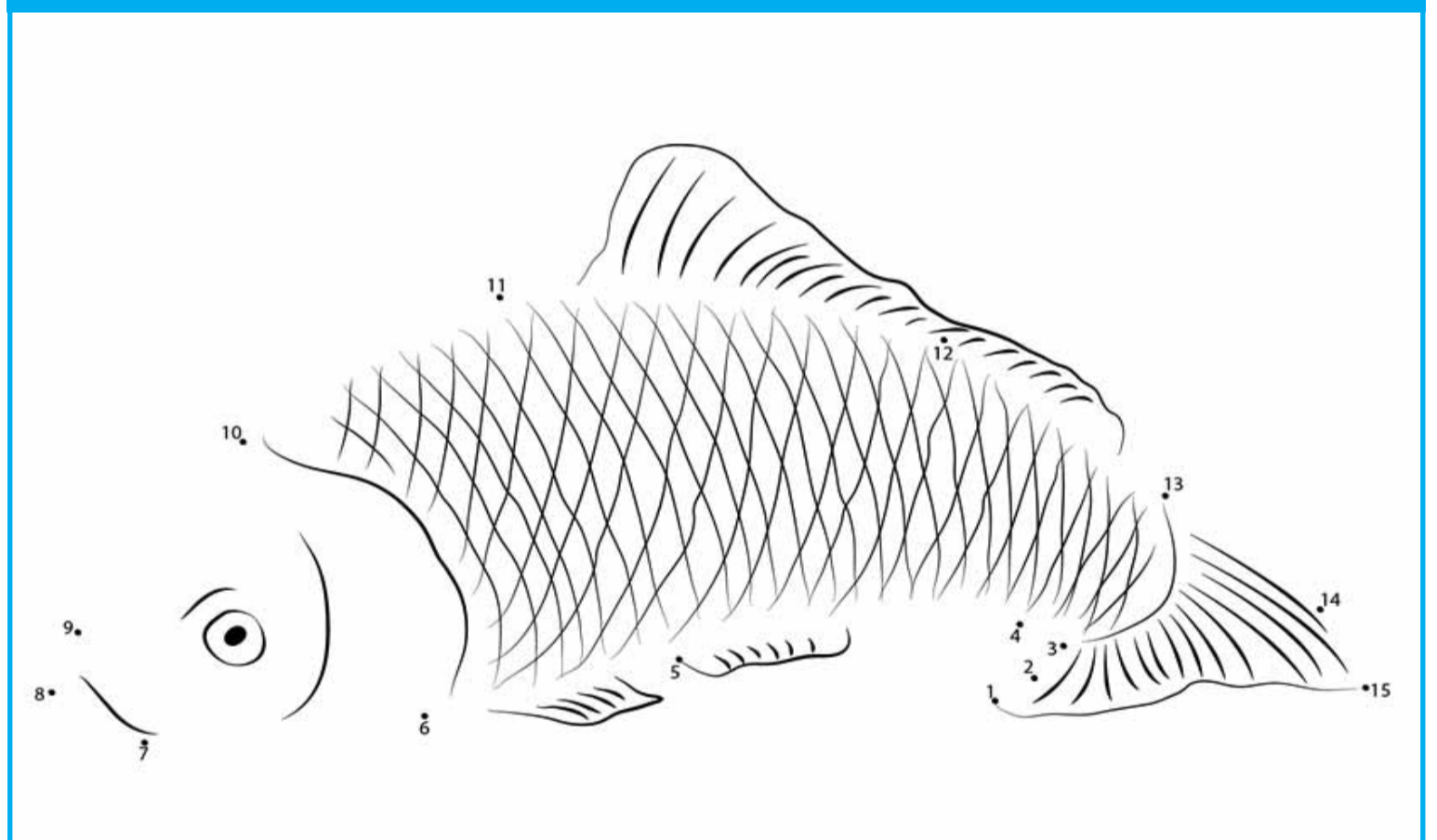
### A Trip To The Beach

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

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



## Join the Dots



## STAR TRACK

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**  
 Difficult challenges that have been lingering on the sidelines will probably become more prominent today, Aries. There is a strong possibility that things will come to a head. The problem was easy to overlook at first, but now that it has taken on a life of its own, you may have to consult someone who is more of an expert on these types of situations than you are.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
 A small spark in a dry field is apt to whip the hill into flames, Cancer. A raging wildfire may be underway by the end of the day. Know that you're one of the biggest perpetrators, but don't feel badly about it. Fire is destructive but also necessary. Clearing out brush and offering a fresh new place in which new growth can flourish is an important part of the cycle of nature.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**  
 This is a good time to put things in writing, Libra. Your gift with words is apt to shine today as you write a proposal, email, or love poem. You're able to communicate very well when you put your sensitive emotions aside and concentrate on what you think instead of what you feel. Expand your influence by focusing on those things that require a more cerebral approach.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**  
 This is a terrific day for you, Capricorn, and you will glow brightly from head to toe as you radiate your true inner self to the world. You will find profound joy in the simplest, most ordinary circumstances. If you run out of things to say, feel free to whistle a tune. This isn't likely to happen today, since you will overflow with things to talk about.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
 You could be the one everyone runs to for advice today, Taurus. You're the one with all the answers who can easily pull the rabbit out of a hat. Trust your judgment and intellectual know-how. Feel free to push yourself to the limit. If you go too far, you can always take a step back. If you never drive all the way to the boundaries, you will never know how far you can go.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**  
 Put on some lively music you can dance to and really kick up your heels, Leo. It's time to put away the sour mood and have fun. You will find that the more you engage in intellectual discussions with people today, the more you will get warmed up to the idea that life should be fun, not the pain and stress you sometimes make it out to be.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**  
 The day's energy is apt to be lively, making it much easier to get the things done that you need to do, Scorpio. You will find people are more than eager to help you. The trick is to integrate your leadership abilities with the knowledge available from other people. You will create a winning combination of power and strength to put to use in just about any realm of your life.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**  
 Tap into the boisterous, lighthearted mood of the day instead of getting bogged down with heavy emotions, Aquarius. This is a good time to engage your mind rather than let your heart take control. Be aware of the expansive nature of the day that allows you to think clearly without getting bothered by emotions. Take the cerebral route to figuring out what you need to do to smooth any bumps in the road.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**  
 You may get frustrated when you find that people aren't as sensitive to a situation as you want them to be, Gemini. While you're looking to make a strong connection with someone, almost wanting to take possession of his or her feelings, that person, in turn, is trying to pull back. People are apt to gravitate toward rational facts rather than intense, smothering emotions.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**  
 This is a tremendously expansive time for you, Virgo, and there is very little that will stop your momentum once you get going. Your eyes are alive with a spark that says that you're ready to take on the world. Believe this about yourself and others will believe in you. There is a great deal of luck on your side today, so take a gamble in a certain part of your life.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**  
 Obstacles that you have ignored are suddenly starting to expand beyond reasonable proportions, Sagittarius. Be careful of what you say as a result, because your words could spread like wildfire. This is no laughing matter. Difficulties in your world are likely to crop up, and you will find your ego threatened. Try to keep some sort of emotional barrier.

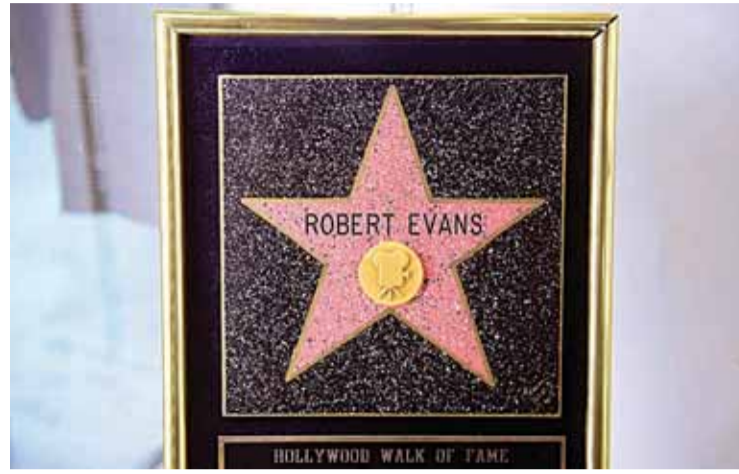
**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**  
 Your optimism will be inspiring today, Pisces. You will find that your lighthearted approach is perfectly suited to taking care of any issue that arises. Toss a few jokes into the mix and remind other people that it isn't necessary to take things so seriously. The sun is shining as you proudly parade down the street with your head held high.

## Lifestyle | Features

## Julien's Auctions announces property from the estate of Robert Evans



A color photograph of Robert Evans (right) and Jack Nicholson displayed during an auction preview of "Property from the Estate of Robert Evans" at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, California. —AFP photos



Robert Evans's Hollywood Walk of Fame Star which he received in May 2003 (est. \$3,000-\$5,000) is displayed during an auction preview of "Property from the Estate of Robert Evans".



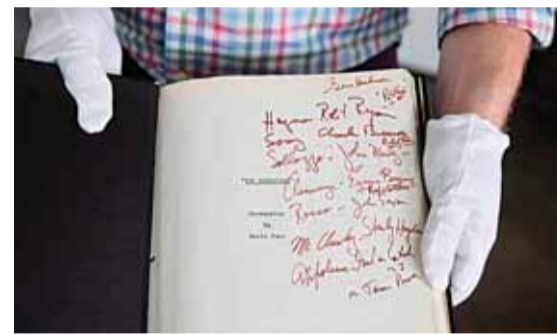
Robert Evans's 1974 Golden Globe Award from the movie "Chinatown" (est. \$3,000-\$5,000).

A spectacular auction of nearly 600 items from the dazzling life and singular career of the legendary American film producer and studio executive, Robert Evans, who produced some of American cinema's finest achievements and championed a new generation of commercial and artistic filmmaking from the likes of Francis Ford Coppola, Sidney Lumet, Roman Polanski, John Schlesinger and more in Hollywood. The Hollywood titan's fine/decorative art, classic car, household items, film scripts, memorabilia and awards from Evans' most iconic film productions, Chinatown, The Godfather, The Godfather II, Love Story, Rosemary's Baby, Serpico, True Grit, and more will be offered.

Highlights include: his Hollywood Walk of Fame Plaque; his 1974 Golden Globe for Chinatown which won for "Best Motion Picture/Drama;" Evans' early draft annotated script of The Godfather that includes some interesting notes on casting with changed and deleted scenes; Evans' third draft Chinatown script signed by the Academy Award winning film's screenplay writer Robert Towne; a telegram containing a heated exchange between Evans and director Francis Ford Coppola concerning The Godfather; Evans' brass "name" that hung on his Paramount Studios' office door; a group of never before seen black and white photographic contact sheets of behind-the-scenes images on the set of Chinatown depicting the cast including Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, John Huston and director Roman Polanski; Evan's three large Rolodexes from the 1980s-1990s containing dozens of the producer's Hollywood friends and busi-

ness contacts including Wes Anderson, Army Archerd, Warren Beatty, Candice Bergen, Jacqueline Bissett, Peter Bogdanovich, Faye Dunaway, Mia Farrow, Jack Nicholson, Mario Puzo, Rob Reiner, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Liz Smith, Aaron Spelling and Elizabeth Taylor to name just a few; Evans' signature wardrobe of cashmere sweaters, silk ties, vests, bolo ties and Oliver Peoples tinted eyeglasses; his fine art collection including works by Bernard Buffet, Helmut Newton and Pierre-Paul Prud'hon; as well as his 1995 Jaguar XJS 2+2 convertible, furniture and décor from his Beverly Hills Mansion and more.

Julien's Auctions is the world-record breaking auction house. Collaborating with the famous and the exclusive, Julien's Auctions produces high profile auctions in the film, music, sports and art markets. Julien's Auctions has received international recognition for its unique and innovative auction events, which attract thousands of collectors, investors, fans and enthusiasts from around the world. Julien's Auctions specializes in sales of iconic artifacts and notable collections including Marilyn Monroe, John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Lady Gaga, Banksy, Cher, Michael Jackson, U2, Barbra Streisand, Les Paul, Neil Young, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix, Hugh Hefner and many more. In 2016, Julien's Auctions received its second placement in the Guinness Book of World Records for the sale of the world's most expensive dress ever sold at auction, The Marilyn Monroe "Happy Birthday Mr. President" dress which sold for \$4.8 million. Julien's Auctions achieved placement in the Guinness Book of World



The cover sheet of Robert Evans's 1970 Early Draft annotated script from "The Godfather" (est. \$6,000-\$8,000).

Records in 2009 for the sale of Michael Jackson's white glove, which sold for \$480,000 MAKING IT the most expensive glove ever sold at auction. In 2020, Julien's Auctions received its third Guinness Book of World Record placement for the sale of Kurt Cobain's "MTV Unplugged" 1959 Martin D-18E acoustic-electric guitar, which sold for \$6 million MAKING IT the world's most expensive guitar ever sold at auction. Based in Los Angeles, Julien's Auctions has a global presence bringing their auctions and exhibitions to targeted destinations worldwide including London, New York, Las Vegas, Japan and China. Live auctions are presented for bidders on-site and online via live streaming video and mobile technology. —www.broadwayworld.com



Robert Evans's name for his Paramount Studios office door is displayed during an auction preview of "Property from the Estate of Robert Evans".



An unfriendly telegram exchange (est. \$400-\$600) between Robert Evans and Francis Ford Coppola regarding "The Godfather" is displayed.

## Dubai gets ready to go kosher after Israel peace deal



Rabbi Yaakov Eisenstein (center) supervises the preparation of food in Elli's Kosher Kitchen, in Dubai. —AFP photos



Rabbi Yaakov Eisenstein (right) supervises the preparation of food in Elli's Kosher Kitchen, in Dubai.



Fabien Fayolle (left), the chef at the Armani/Kaf, Dubai's first kosher restaurant, is pictured at his kitchen.

At the plush Armani hotel in the shadow of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, a rabbi switches on the stoves at what is billed as Dubai's first kosher restaurant. With the ink still fresh on the United Arab Emirates' landmark normalization accord with Israel, restaurants and caterers are rushing to prepare for what they hope will be a flood of Jewish visitors arriving on new direct flights.

The city-state welcomed more than 16 million visitors in 2019 and expected to reach a record 20 million this year, although that was before the coronavirus hit. It reopened its doors to tourists again in July after a painful four-month shutdown, but business is slow. Under the normalization deal, the Emirates and Israel will establish air links—likely to begin in January—and a visa regime that will allow residents to travel for business and pleasure. But before then, businesses hoping to cash in on the new market must overcome challenges including building kosher kitchens, training staff and sourcing appropriate foodstuffs.

"We have been training our staff for months," said Fabien Fayolle, the chef at the upscale 40-seat Armani/Kaf, one of a cluster of restaurants in the luxury hotel. "In this kitchen we teach them what they can use and what they can't do." "The idea for us to open this restaurant is to be able to provide a five-star experience to Jewish people or anyone who wants to try kosher food. It didn't make any sense to make 'home cooked' food. We wanted to give more of an experience," he told AFP. Until local suppliers begin servicing the new market in the UAE though,



Rabbi Yaakov Eisenstein (right) supervises the preparation of food in Elli's Kosher Kitchen, in Dubai.

"our main challenge will be obtaining the ingredients," he said of the lavishly priced international menu which includes items adapted to make them compatible with kosher rules.

## Hi-tech kosher

As well as requiring a Jewish person to switch on the cooking stoves and supervise a restaurant kitchen, the rules governing kosher food prohibit consumption of meat from certain animals and sea creatures, as well as the mixing of meat and dairy products. Much like halal rules for Muslims, animals must be slaughtered in a prescribed way. Rabbi Levi Duchman, who certified the Armani/Kaf, said he has received requests from "dozens of restaurants in the Emirates that want

to offer kosher dishes".

At the Dubai restaurant, the stoves can be turned on by a rabbi remotely using a mobile application, and the cooking monitored by cameras. Duchman said the halal tradition, which governs the Muslim diet and shares rules with the kosher approach, including a ban on eating pork, made it "easier to explain the rules of kosher in the Emirates".

## Long way to go

Elli Kriel is the pioneer of kosher cuisine in the Emirates, after moving to Dubai eight years ago from South Africa and realizing she needed to find kosher products for her home kitchen. She has been running Elli's Kosher Kitchen for the past two

years, born out of the need for Jewish travellers to remain observant while in the UAE. Her business got underway in November 2018 when she was asked to provide meals for rabbis attending an interfaith meeting in the capital Abu Dhabi. "From there, word spread and I started getting more and more requests," she said.

"The challenge of running a kosher kitchen in the UAE is that, there is high demand" following the normalization agreement. "But the industry is not really set up for that—it is really hard to get a lot of products, especially the meats and the cheeses," she said. However, import channels are now being established, Kriel added. "And in terms of actually opening a kitchen, you can open one but then you need to have a rabbi with you and there aren't many here, so we had to bring one in for this specific task," she said of the rabbi who supervises her kitchen full-time. While the speed of the rapprochement between the two countries caught everyone by surprise, entrepreneurs have been quick to start filling the space.

Just two days after the signing of the accord in Washington, Dubai-based Emirates Airlines unveiled plans to produce kosher meals in collaboration with a company owned by Ross Kriel-Elli's husband who is one of the leaders of the Jewish community in the UAE. The Middle East's largest airline previously used suppliers in Thailand for kosher meals on its international flights. From the new year it will produce them at a dedicated facility in the UAE, expected to be operating in time for the inauguration of direct flights. —AFP

## Canadian town of Asbestos breathes easy with new name

The Canadian town Asbestos has voted to rename itself "Val-des-Sources", the mayor announced Monday, in a hope to shed its association with the deadly mineral. Asbestos, a town 62 miles (100 kilometers) from Montreal with a population of 6,700, is historically entwined with the nearby Jeffrey asbestos mine, which was active until 2012 and was the backbone of the local economy. But the town decided to change its name mostly for economic reasons, after years of losing the PR war ever since asbestos-fibrous crystal mineral often used as building insulation—was declared cancer-causing by the WHO in the 1980s.

"The word 'asbestos' unfortunately does not have a good connotation, particularly in English-speaking circles. It is an obstacle to the city's willingness to develop outside economic relations," the town said in November 2019 following the decision to rename itself. The new name was unveiled at a special municipal council meeting that was streamed live on the town Facebook page. "Not only will our town change its name, but we did it in a unique way," said mayor Hugues Grimard. Last week, Asbestrians aged 14 and up were asked to vote by ranking names in order of preference among six choices: Val-des-Sources, Azur-des-Cantons, Jeffrey-sur-le-Lac, Larochelle, Phenix and Trois-Lacs. The possible names were proposed by the residents and had to meet several criteria, such as the name had to be in French and had to illustrate "the history of the city, but without the direct asbestos connotation." Asbestrians will officially become Valsourcians in December, once their choice has been ratified by the appropriate authorities, the mayor said. —AFP

## Lifestyle | Features

## Jean-Claude Van Damme saves life of puppy in fake passport row

Action movie star Jean-Claude Van Damme has come to the rescue of a three-month-old chihuahua, saving her from euthanasia on Monday after a legal tussle between Norway and Bulgaria. The dog named Raya was sold



Jean-Claude Van Damme

to new owners in Norway in September but officials there would not register her because she had travelled on a fake Bulgarian passport. Norway tried to repatriate the animal but Bulgaria refused to take her back because of

European Union rules about transport of live animals, leaving the dog facing euthanasia-until the Belgian film legend got involved.

Van Damme launched an emotive campaign on social media, posting selfies of him hugging his chihuahua, which eventually persuaded the Bulgarian Food Safety Authority to accept the dog back. "I beg, please, for my birthday, the Food Safety Authority, change your decision," Van Damme wrote over the weekend, launching a petition to save the dog. "They made a mistake, the people who didn't do the paper correctly... But they cannot kill that little chihuahua." The food safety authority says Raya will have medical checks when she gets back to Bulgaria and will be put up for adoption.

Yavor Gechev from the Four Paws animal rights organization told AFP on Monday that Bulgaria should be congratulated for showing flexibility but called for stricter control on illegal breeders and animal traffickers. "The export of pets from eastern to western and northern Europe is a lucrative business," he said. The dog's fake passport meant she would have been put down on October 20 under Norway's legislation, said Gechev. The misadventures of Raya resemble the story of Penka the cow, who also faced a death sentence after wandering over Bulgaria's border with Serbia in May 2018. Penka was saved thanks to an international campaign in her defense joined by former Beatle Paul McCartney. —AFP



Jeff Bridges

## Hollywood legend Jeff Bridges diagnosed with lymphoma

US film star Jeff Bridges announced Monday that he has been diagnosed with lymphoma, a form of cancer that starts in the body's infection-fighting cells called lymphocytes. Bridges, 70, who is best known for his role as a tipsy slacker in the Coen brothers' cult classic "The Big Lebowski," did not give much detail about his condition. "As the Dude would say... New S\*\*T has come to light. I have been diagnosed with Lymphoma. Although it is a serious disease, I feel fortunate that I have a great team of doctors and the prognosis is good. I'm starting treatment and will keep you posted on my recovery," he said on social media.

Bridges has been nominated seven times for an Oscar, including for one of his early roles in the black-and-white movie "The Last Picture Show," finally winning for his performance of an aging country singer in 2009's "Crazy Heart." He also starred in "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot" next to Clint Eastwood, and "The Fabulous Baker Boys," in which he played a jazz musician alongside his brother Beau. He played a cold-blooded killer opposite Glenn Close in "Jagged Edge." He appeared in Marvel's "Iron Man" series and starred in a remake of the John Wayne classic "True Grit." In a follow-up tweet, Bridges thanked well-wishers for their messages of support, adding, "And, while I have you, please remember to go vote. Because we are in this together." —AFP

## Civil rights struggle 'just as relevant today,' says Regina King

Regina King's "One Night in Miami" delves into the immense pressures on black icons Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Sam Cooke and Jim Brown at the height of the 1960s civil rights struggle-tensions that are just as rife today, its director said. The movie, dramatizing a real-life motel-room meeting between the four towering African-Americans, had a drive-in screening outside Los Angeles Monday as part of the American Film Institute's AFI Fest. Introducing the film via video in a year that has seen vast protests over black deaths from police violence, and just two weeks before the US election, "Watchmen" star King said she hoped her first feature film "will inspire your own conversations off-screen."

"Many of the things that are being discussed in this film are just as relevant today as they were 60 years ago," said King, tipped by some to become the first black woman nominated for best director at next year's Oscars. The movie pivots on a heated debate between rights leader Malcolm X and soul singer Cooke over the hostility toward, and obligations placed on, successful black men. "There is no more room for anyone... to be standing on the fence anymore," shouts Malcolm X. "Our people are literally dying in the streets every day. Black people are dying every day. And a line has got to be drawn in the sand."

Production on the movie was briefly halted due to the coronavirus pandemic—which also forced most of AFI Fest online—but its stars rushed to finish the final scenes in the wake of protests over the police killing of George Floyd. Adis Hodge, who plays NFL great Brown, said it was a perfect time for the movie to be released "given



Regina King

the year we've had." The film is set hours after Ali's first heavyweight boxing title win, over Sonny Liston in 1964. Less than a year later, both Malcolm X and Cooke would be dead. Leslie Odom Jr, an original cast member from Broadway smash hit "Hamilton" who plays Cooke, told the audience he never researched the singer's killing because he "wanted to present a guy that was full of life." "That's the heartbreak—he had so much to do still," he said. Kingsley Ben-Adir said he subsisted on a diet of sushi and cigarettes to slim down into a "vulnerable and broken" Malcolm X. The British "Peaky Blinders" actor is expected to contend in the lead actor awards categories for the film early next year. The film hits select movie theaters on Christmas Day before launching on Amazon Prime on January 15. —AFP

## Disney adds new racism disclaimers to older streaming titles

Disney has added extended disclaimers to classics including "Peter Pan" and "Aristocats" on its streaming platform to warn viewers that the films contain derogatory stereotypes about minorities. Disney+ subscribers will be shown a text disclaimer before watching Peter Pan don a "redskin" headdress in the 1953 cartoon fantasy, or listening to a slant-eyed

and buck-toothed "East Asian" cat singing in the 1970 animated feline movie. While previous disclaimers on the streaming platform already acknowledged "outdated cultural depictions," the new warning says certain Disney film stereotypes "were wrong then and are wrong now." "This program includes negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures," reads the message, which cannot be skipped.

It adds: "Rather than remove this content, we want to acknowledge its harmful impact, learn from it and spark conversation to create a more inclusive future together." "Swiss Family Robinson" and "Dumbo"—which contains a "Jim Crow" homage to racist minstrel tropes—are also among the films that will carry the new disclaimers, created after consulting with groups including the African American Film Critics

Association. It is Disney's latest measure to address bigoted tropes after growing criticism over the continued availability of some of its more controversial decades-old products. In June, the company said "Splash Mountain" rides at its theme parks will be rebranded with a film featuring the company's first black princess.

The popular attractions at Disneyland and Disney World are based on the controversial 1946 film "Song of the South"—a movie long accused of peddling racist tropes about the post-Civil War South. They will soon instead tell the story of 2009's "The Princess and the Frog," which starred an African-American Princess Tiana. The film "Song of the South" was entirely excluded from Disney+. The theme park attraction had been the subject of anti-racism online petitions. —AFP



## 'Like the speed of the wind': Kenya's lakes rise to destructive highs



An aerial view shows settlements in the Salabani village where the rising water levels of Lake Baringo have now flooded displacing entire villages near Marigat, Baringo county on the Kenyan Rift Valley.



Classroom blocks stand at the Salabani primary school inundated compound by the rising waters of Lake Baringo.



A bed stands in flood water in the middle of an inundated compound at the Salabani village.

—AFP photos

Peering into the lake, the village elder struggled to pinpoint where beneath the hyacinth and mesquite weeds lay the farm he lived in his entire life until the water rose like never before and swallowed everything. A clump of sodden straw marked the spot: the tip of his thatch hut jutting from the murky depths, all that remained of his homestead after Kenya's Lake Baringo swelled to record highs this year, submerging villages, schools, health clinics and holiday resorts. "In my 60 years, I have never seen or experienced anything like this," said Richard Lichan Lekuterer, his gaze level with the tops of once-towering acacia trees poking above the water, the landscape altered beyond recognition.

Baringo and the other great lakes of Kenya's Rift Valley have risen to levels not seen in at least half a century, some by several meters or more this year alone, following months of extreme rainfall scientists have linked to a changing climate. These tremendous bodies of water have ebbed and flowed through the ages, supporting life along the banks, but records show this latest surge is unlike any witnessed in recent memory. "It was like the speed of the wind," said Lekuterer, who relocated deep inland when the water shot up in March and is preparing to move again as the tide inches nearer.

The phenomenon is causing immense flooding along a chain of fresh and saltwater lakes stretching 500 kilometers (310 miles) along an ancient fault from the deserts of Turkana in Kenya's north, to the fertile shores of Naivasha to the south. Tens of thousands of people have been driven to higher ground and homes, grazing land and businesses abandoned as the lakes have unrelentingly pushed outward.

## Phenomenal

The crisis shows no sign of easing, with seasonal rains forecast this month threatening further inundation. "It has never been this bad before," said Murray Roberts, who has lived on Baringo nearly 70 years, where he restores degraded land with his partner Dr Elizabeth Meyerhoff through their Rehabilitation of Arid Environments Trust. Baringo has swollen about 70



Rothschild subspecies of Giraffe browse on ol-Kokwe Island on Lake Baringo.

square kilometers (27 square miles) since 2011 but rose sharply earlier this year, flooding their offices and a nearby dispensary.

Roberts' childhood home, and a family holiday business, disappeared beneath the surface. Like Baringo, the surge at Lake Naivasha, some 200 kilometers south, began slowly about a decade ago, evoking little concern as the basin refilled after a long dry spell. But it kept rising and in April suddenly accelerated, soon eclipsing the last historic high measured in the 1960s. The lake is now tracking closer to an extreme peak recorded in the early 20th century. A monitoring station run by the Water Resources Authority (WRA), a government agency, indicates the lake rose 2.7 meters (8.9 feet) between April and June, pushing water half a kilometer inland. "It's been phenomenal," said Guy Erskine, as hippos wallowed in his submerged hotel at Sanctuary Farm, a conservancy on Lake Naivasha his family has owned since 1978.

## Things have changed

Government scientists are exploring possible causes for the drastic upwelling, including whether silt flushing downstream from deforestation in the highland catchments could be reducing the lakes' storage

capacity. Research into other theories, such as the influence of seismic activity and increased seepage from underground aquifers, is less conclusive. It follows one of the wettest periods in East Africa in recent times. Above-average temperatures in the Indian Ocean have spurred consecutive years of extreme and erratic rainfall, delivering frequent unseasonal downpours over the escarpments and rivers that feed the lakes. "Things have changed... The effect is more pronounced than 50 years ago," says Mohamed Shurie, a geologist and CEO of the WRA.

## Twin tragedies

The massive inflow is also upsetting a delicate ecological balance in a biodiverse region famous for attracting masses of pink flamingos. The government is particularly concerned about the repercussions should saltwater from an ever-expanding Lake Bogoria, a flamingo refuge and wetland of international importance, merge with the freshwaters from Baringo 20 kilometers to the north. Two other critical habitats frequented by the migratory birds, Lake Elementaita and Lake Nakuru, are also brimming, the latter at a 50-year high. The imposing entrance gate to Lake Nakuru



A family at the Salabani village that was forced from their homestead by the rising water levels in Lake Baringo are photographed at their refuge.

National Park, one of Kenya's premier safari destinations, barely pokes above the water, which has pushed one kilometer beyond the perimeter fence, flooding nearby villages. On an island in Baringo, a number of Rothschild's giraffe await relocation to the mainland, their habitat having shrunk from about 100 acres to less than 10. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Northern Rangelands Trust have already rescued warthogs, impala and ostrich.

KWS Baringo warden, Jackson Komen, said conflict between humans and animals was rising, with hippos marching into vegetable patches and several ostriches turning up dead. "Our fear is, when there's not enough food in the homestead, people might turn to the vulnerable animals," Komen said. In Naivasha, a tourist hotspot popular with weekenders from Nairobi, the timing is especially cruel. Staff at hotels and restaurants laid off during the coronavirus pandemic now find themselves without workplaces to return to as travel restrictions ease—and with their own homes knee-deep in water. "Naivasha residents have experienced two tragedies," said Enock Kiminta from the Lake Naivasha Water Resources Users Association. —AFP

## Sports

## Photo of the day



Canoeist, Vavrinec Hradilek seen in Wanaka, New Zealand. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

## News in brief

## Berkane reach CAF Cup final

**JOHANNESBURG:** Captain Mohamed Aziz converted two spot-kicks to give Renaissance Berkane a 2-1 victory over Hassania Agadir Monday after an all-Moroccan CAF Confederation Cup semi-final in Rabat. Berkane, who are based in the citrus-producing northeast of the kingdom, also reached the final last year before losing on penalties to Zamalek of Egypt. Midfielder Aziz put the 'Orange Boys' ahead on 20 minutes and defender Imad Kimaoui leveled for the 'Gazelles' 10 minutes later. The match-winning goal came on 61 minutes as Aziz once again beat goalkeeper Abderrahmane el Houassli from the penalty spot. Berkane will play Pyramids of Egypt or Horoya of Guinea, who meet Tuesday in Casablanca, in the final this Sunday. Pyramids have been playing an average of two matches a week since August when the Egyptian Premier League resumed after a lengthy coronavirus-induced shutdown. —AFP

## Hero World Challenge cancelled

**ALBANY:** This year's Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas has been cancelled due to travel restrictions amid the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers said on Monday. The event, hosted by Tiger Woods, was scheduled to take place at Albany, Bahamas from Dec 3-6 and slated to bring together 18 of the top golfers in the world. Prize money won by the players is not included in money rankings on any of the global professional tours but the event offers world ranking points. "This decision was made with the health and well-being of all tournament constituents and the Albany community in mind," the organizers said. "We look forward to hosting 18 of the top players in the world and welcoming tournament guests to Albany, Bahamas next year." —Reuters

## MLS' initiatives to fight racism

**NEW YORK:** A series of initiatives to fight racism, advocate social justice and increase Black representation in soccer in the United States and Canada was launched by Major League Soccer (MLS) on Monday. The new programs include the creation of a diversity committee consisting of MLS club owners, head coaches, former players and Black employees from the league office who will work towards diversity, inclusion and opportunity. It also includes a civic engagement initiative aimed at addressing social issues among marginalized communities, a soccer upward mobility initiative to boost participation of under-represented groups and a grassroots community plan. "Major League Soccer is committed to utilizing our wide-ranging platforms to create meaningful programs to address racism and social injustice in society and in the sport of soccer," said MLS Commissioner Don Garber in a statement. —Reuters

## COVID: Gaviria out of Giro

**UDINE:** Colombian sprinter Fernando Gaviria has tested positive for Covid-19 at the Giro d'Italia and has withdrawn from the race, his UAE Emirates team announced yesterday. "Gaviria went straight into isolation after the test result. He feels fine and is completely asymptomatic," reported his team. Gaviria was tested for coronavirus along with the rest of the peloton on Monday's second rest day. UAE Emirates were keen to stress that his was the only positive case amongst the team. "All the other riders and staff members returned negative tests and will have other tests today." Gaviria has tested positive before, in February's UAE Tour. Cycling's governing body the UCI revealed another positive test from Monday's batch of 492, an AG2R La Mondiale employee. Gaviria pulled out before yesterday's 16th stage placed 126th out of 138 in the general classification, almost three and a half hours behind leader Joao Almeida. —AFP

## How will it work?

With only three teams now in contention, the number of matches has been slashed from 12 to six, played on consecutive Saturdays between October 31-December 5, with each side facing the other twice. One game will be in Brisbane, three in Sydney and two in Newcastle, a coastal town two hours' drive north of Sydney. Otherwise, the rules are unchanged, with four points for a win and two for a draw. A bonus point can be earned if a team scores three tries or more than their opponent or if a team loses by seven points or less.

## Bledisloe Cup

The Rugby Championship might not start until October 5, but the Wallabies and All Blacks have already seen action contesting the annual Bledisloe Cup, played since 1931 and considered one of the greatest rivalries in sport. Named after former New Zealand governor-general Lord Bledisloe, who donated the huge silver trophy, the series can be anything between two to four matches, depending on whether it falls in a World Cup year or not. They are playing four games this year and two are already over - a tense 16-16 draw in Wellington this month followed by a 27-7 win for the All Blacks in Auckland. The final two Bledisloe Cup Tests, on October 31 and November 7, will also count towards the Rugby Championship.

## Underdogs Argentina

With South Africa on the sidelines, the door is wide open for New Zealand or Australia to claim another title, with the Argentinians considered long-shot underdogs. Both are battle-hardened after bruising Bledisloe Cup games which followed high quality domestic Super Rugby seasons. In contrast, the Pumas haven't played a Test since the World Cup in Japan last year.

Coach Mario Ledesma has admitted Argentina will be rusty, but they have a roster of quality players and some have been honing their skills in Europe, including winger Juan Imhoff who scored a try for Racing 92 in their Champions Cup final defeat to Exeter last weekend. The core of the squad has been undergoing 14 days of quarantine in Australia after a camp in Uruguay, but have at least been able to train together. And they have been boosted by Ledesma recruiting ex-Wallabies coach Michael Cheika as a consultant. —AFP

# Virtual swords drawn as eSports worlds in China defy coronavirus

## Organizers anticipate over 100 million unique viewers online

**SHANGHAI:** ESports has bucked a grim trend to stage a world championship in Shanghai, even as numerous international sports tournaments across the globe are wiped out by the coronavirus. And while events that are taking place often do so behind closed doors, the October 31 finals of the League of Legends worlds will be in front of more than 6,300 spectators. League of Legends is a massively popular multiplayer online battle arena game and the world title is one of the biggest prizes in professional gaming.

There were 3.2 million applications for tickets for the championship decider at the end of this month at the new Pudong Football Stadium - the arena's maiden event. It can hold more than 30,000 but the attendance is limited to ensure social distancing. Organizers anticipate that more than 100 million unique viewers online will watch the finals, which come after many sports competitions have been cancelled or postponed in virus-hit 2020, including the Tokyo Olympics. The tournament has a minimum prize pool of \$2.225 million but the final figure is likely to be far higher. In 2018 it eventually totaled nearly \$7 million.

## Toughest situation

The staging of the championship is partly a reflection of how China, where coronavirus emerged late last year, has successfully got to grips with the deadly disease. "Firstly (the coronavirus) situation in China is contained and safe," said Wensen Zeng, China eSports development lead at Riot Games, the developer of League of Legends. "Secondly, you have to get the teams' support. All the participants were willing to come," he added, asked how they put a world championship on in the middle of a pandemic. It is now at the semi-final stage, but the tournament started out last month with 22 teams from all over the world.

Getting 400-500 people into China was a huge logistical challenge. There were visas to be arranged and coronavirus tests to be taken before arrival, while international air travel remains badly disrupted. Two



This file photo taken shows Team Europe and Chinese team FPX (left) competing in the 'League of Legends' videogame world championship final at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris. ESports has bucked a grim trend to stage a world championship in Shanghai, even as numerous international sports tournaments across the globe are wiped out by the COVID-19 coronavirus. —AFP

teams, both from Vietnam, failed to make it. "It is indeed the toughest situation we've ever encountered," said Zeng, crediting Chinese authorities for helping to get the tournament on in the most trying of circumstances. The championship takes place despite China saying in July that it would not hold most international sports events for the rest of the year, with Formula One and major tennis and golf tournaments all cancelled in Shanghai.

## Regular testing

Original plans for a more expansive worlds in China this year were torn up late on because of the

virus, said Toby Zhang of Shanghai-based TJ Sports, which is helping to run the tournament. "At the beginning we wanted to really establish a big-scale worlds event in China, so we would play a multiple-city roadshow and have different stages taking place in different cities," said Zhang. "But we made a decision to pivot and host everything in Shanghai only in June or July." After arriving in Shanghai, which aspires to be a global eSports capital, players and staff had to quarantine for two weeks, in line with all people landing in China from overseas. Organizers laid on equipment so players could spend the time practicing, said Zhang. —AFP

well over 310 yards off the tee - not quite in the Bryson DeChambeau class but up there with many of the PGA Tour's best - which has many thinking he could become the oldest ever major champion at Augusta.

Meanwhile the busy "Lefty" announced his latest charity challenge will see him team up with NBA legend Charles Barkley in made-for-TV match against two-time NBA MVP and accomplished golfer Steph Curry and five-time NFL MVP-winning quarterback Peyton Manning. "The Match: Champions for Change" will take place on Friday, November 27.

Proceeds from the event will help promote diversity and inclusion, through donations to historically Black colleges and universities. Mickelson said he was looking forward to pairing with Barkley, despite his notoriously poor golf swing. "While we may need a handicap for Chuck," said Mickelson. "I'm looking forward to playing with Peyton and Stephen and to help raise money for another important cause."

## Ryder and Solheim come together

Fans are in for a feast of match play golf between the best of the US and the cream of Europe after it was announced Monday that the Solheim Cup and Ryder Cup will be played back-to-back for the first time in 2023. Spain will host the women's Solheim Cup US v Europe match for the first time at Finca Cortesin on Spain's Costa del Sol from September 22-24, 2023, and the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club is the venue for Italy's debut as a Ryder Cup host a week later.

Normally the women's and men's showdowns take place in alternate years. But when the 2020 Ryder Cup was postponed until 2021 by the coronavirus pandemic, the knock-off effect was that Italy would host in 2023 giving officials the chance to coordinate dates to generate heightened interest. "The fact it is also a first for both hosting nations simply adds to the anticipation," said Keith Pelley, European Tour chief executive. "And if we can recreate the excitement generated at Le Golf National in 2018 and at Gleneagles in 2019, the whole world of golf will be in for a truly fabulous fortnight." The next Solheim Cup is scheduled for September 4-6, 2021, at the Inverness Club in Ohio. The delayed Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits will be held September 25-27, 2021. —AFP

## Woods returns, Mickelson marches on, back-to-back Cups: Golf talking points

**HONG KONG:** The build-up to next month's US Masters is in full swing, while men and women are teaming up for a match play feast. Here are AFP Sport's golf talking points this week:

## Tiger eyes 83

The PGA Tour's displaced Asian swing pitches up in California this week with the Zozo Championship at Sherwood Country Club where Tiger Woods will defend his title memorably secured a year ago, when he equaled the all-time record of 82 PGA Tour wins. The 15-time major champion triumphed at the first PGA Tour event to be held in Japan to tie Sam Snead's mark, and Woods is on a happy hunting ground as he goes for the outright record.

Woods hosted his World Challenge tournament at the Sherwood layout, Thousand Oaks, from 2000 to 2013, winning five times. The 44-year-old American hasn't won this year and has looked out of sorts since golf resumed post-lockdown. But a year ago he arrived in Japan having not played since August following arthroscopic knee surgery and blew away the elite 78-player field, leading from gun to tape in a marathon event that saw a Monday finish because of weather delays. Claiming the record of 83 wins at Sherwood could tee up Woods nicely for his rescheduled US Masters defense in November, where he will be going for a sixth green jacket and a 16th major.

## Phil's untouchable

Phil Mickelson heads to California to start his own Masters build-up at the Zozo Championship having completed a second dominant win in two starts on the seniors tour. Mickelson is a rookie on the PGA Tour Champions circuit this year but is now two-for-two after beating another left-hander and former major champion, Mike Weir, by three strokes to win the Dominion Energy Charity Classic on Sunday. He may be 50 now, but Mickelson is averaging

## Three teams standing: Rugby Championship like no other

**SYDNEY:** The coronavirus-hit Rugby Championship starts in Sydney on October 31, but without world champions and current title holders South Africa. Here is what's been going on and how the tournament is shaping up:

## What is it?

The Rugby Championship is the southern hemisphere's premier tournament, ordinarily contested annually by Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Owned and managed by SANZAAR - a joint venture between the four participating unions - it used to be known as the Tri-Nations until Argentina were admitted in 2012. New Zealand's All Blacks won the inaugural event in 1996 and have dominated since, claiming another 15 titles. Australia and South Africa have four apiece while Argentina have yet to get off the mark.

## Pandemic problems

It was supposed to start in August, with Tests in each nation, until the pandemic forced a postponement. Given travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, SANZAAR decided to hold it in one country for the first time. New Zealand were the early favorites to be hosts, but arch-rival Australia ultimately got the nod after agreeing that teams could train together in large groups while in mandatory 14-day isolation.

Initially 12 matches over six double-header weekends were scheduled until the All Blacks complained they wouldn't be able to complete quarantine requirements and be home for Christmas. SANZAAR relented and shifted one of their games to an earlier slot, stretching the tournament to seven weeks. Then the Springboks, who have been under harsher Covid-19 restrictions, dropped a bombshell last week by pulling out, citing a lack of preparation and match practice.

Sports

# Clock ticking on Guardiola's dreams as Manchester City chase elusive crown

## Shadows of past failures cast doubt on his ability

LONDON: Pep Guardiola starts his latest bid to lead Manchester City to Champions League glory with the shadows of past failures casting doubt on his ability to secure that elusive title. City host Porto in their opening Champions League group match today with Guardiola's failing in the tournament weighing heavily on both the Spanish boss and his club. Despite all their domestic success in recent years, City have never gone beyond the semi-finals of the Champions League and Guardiola has found the competition equally vexing for much of the last decade.

Since he won the Champions League as Barcelona boss for the second time in 2011, Guardiola has failed to return to the final of Europe's elite club competition. That nine-year drought includes four years of frustration since he took charge at City in 2016. In that time, Guardiola has seen City beaten by Monaco in the last 16 and Liverpool, Tottenham and Lyon in the quarter-finals. He also lost in three semi-finals during his time as Bayern Munich manager before moving to City.

Last season's shock 3-1 defeat against Lyon in Lisbon was especially galling as City were heavy favorites against the French side. Guardiola

deserved a large portion of the blame for that let-down after his tactical tinkering appeared to unsettle his players and did nothing to tilt the tie in City's favor. Interpreted by Guardiola's critics as further proof that his Champions League success at Barcelona was due to the presence of the great Lionel Messi's presence, the only bright side of the Lyon loss was that it was not their farewell to Europe for a while.

### Long-term plans

For several months last season, it appeared City would not even be competing in the Champions League this term after UEFA gave them a two-year ban from European competitions for Financial Fairplay breaches. City's legal dream team won that battle and the suspension was eventually thrown out on appeal.

Whether Guardiola can be as successful in Europe as City's Abu Dhabi-based owners were in the court room remains far from certain. Adding to the unease around City ahead of their European campaign is the unresolved issue of Guardiola's future. Guardiola is out of contract at the end of the season and has yet to agree a new deal amid speculation that he may decide to

leave the Etihad Stadium in 2021. For now, Guardiola will focus on Porto's visit to Manchester rather than entertaining questions about his long-term plans.

The 49-year-old insists he has to earn a prolonged stay at City by improving on last season's disappointment, which saw them surrender the Premier League to Liverpool and win only the League Cup. There have been some worrying signs already as Leicester thrashed City 5-2, while Saturday's 1-0 win against Arsenal was far from convincing. Significantly, Guardiola was able to welcome back Sergio Aguero last weekend as City's record goalscorer made his first appearance for four months after knee surgery.

City have lacked a cutting edge in Aguero's absence and Guardiola's hopes of a serious Champions League challenge hinge on the Argentine striker staying fit. "The important thing is that Sergio comes back in good physical condition, starts to get his rhythm, doesn't get more injuries and plays good," Guardiola said. "We know what he means for us, we know how we appreciate him, but now he has to show like every one of us, me first, that we deserve to continue here and playing good and winning games." — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola gestures during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on October 17, 2020. — AFP

## Genoa hold Verona 0-0 despite being depleted by COVID

ROME: Genoa held on for a 0-0 draw away to Verona in Serie A on Monday despite having their squad decimated following a COVID-19 outbreak at the club. Goalkeeper Mattia Perin, who was the first player to become infected and has since recovered, gave an excellent performance as he kept the hosts at bay, capped by a save from Davide Faraoni's header late in the game.

Genoa were hit by the outbreak three weeks ago and, at one stage, 17 players and five members of staff had tested positive. Their previous match at home to Torino was postponed. On Monday, they still had 13 players missing, including some

who were still positive and others who had recovered but were not fit to play.

"There is one word for it; teamwork" said Perin after the game. "We've really had a difficult time with players who trained very little, including myself. But we decided not to look for excuses, to be compact and try not to repeat last year's season. "We're aware that our goal is to stay up, but we must also hope to surprise our fans, for the people who are suffering and cheering us on." Genoa, who narrowly avoided the drop last season, have four points from three games and Verona seven from four. — Reuters

### Italian Serie A standings

Italian Serie A table after Monday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

AC Milan	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
Sassuolo	4	3	1	0	13	6	10
Atalanta	4	3	0	1	14	9	9
Napoli	4	3	0	1	12	4	8
Juventus	4	2	2	0	9	3	8
Inter Milan	4	2	1	1	11	8	7
Hellas Verona	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
Roma	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Sampdoria	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Benevento	4	2	0	2	8	12	6
Genoa	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
Fiorentina	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Cagliari	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
Spezia	4	1	1	2	5	9	4
Lazio	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Bologna	4	1	0	3	7	8	3
Udinese	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
Parma	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Crotone	4	0	1	3	3	11	1
Torino	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

Note: Napoli handed 3-0 defeat and deducted one-point for no-show against Juventus on October 4

showed no signs of reversing his decision. Last month, Mueller became the most successful German footballer of all time - surpassing Schweinsteiger's record of 26 titles - when Bayern won the German Super Cup as he lifted a trophy for the 27th time in his career. After an early season plagued by tired legs and defensive wobbles, Bayern will need Mueller's creativity against an Atletico side who have conceded just one goal in four games so far this season. Bayern, who won their first ever European Cup against Atletico back in 1974, will begin their Champions League defense behind closed doors.

### Kimmich return

The Bavarians have a perfect record at home against Diego Simeone's side, having twice beaten them in Munich in 2016. Yet Atletico knocked Bayern out of the semi-finals in 2015/16 and the German side remain wary of their Spanish opponents. Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer warned that Atletico are a "strong team" who were "uncomfortable" to play against. "The good thing is that the game is on Wednesday, so we have an extra day to prepare," said the Bayern captain. After having less than a month between last season's Champions League final and the first Bundesliga weekend, Bayern's relentless schedule has continued apace.

Wednesday's game will be their third in six days, while further Champions League fixtures against Salzburg and Lokomotiv Moscow mean Bayern have midweek and weekend games in each of the next three weeks. The physical strain and the need to rotate has led to a few early-season hiccups. Bayern suffered a shock 4-1 defeat to Hoffenheim last month, and needed a late Robert Lewandowski penalty to seal a 4-3 win over Hertha Berlin before the international break. — AFP

## Mueller's Bayern form fuels calls for Germany recall

BERLIN: Thomas Mueller can further fuel appeals for him to be recalled by Germany when Bayern Munich launch their Champions League defence at home to Atletico Madrid today behind closed doors. Having managed a record 21 assists in the Bundesliga last season, Mueller has continued his sparkling form by scoring five goals and creating four more so far in 2020/21.

The 31-year-old netted twice in a 4-1 win at Arminia Bielefeld last Saturday when Robert Lewandowski also grabbed two goals for Bayern. His latest eye-catching club performance has prompted fresh hopes of a Germany recall for Mueller, who was dropped by Joachim Loew from the national set-up in 2019 alongside Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels. Now Bastian Schweinsteiger has joined fellow former Bayern and Germany players Didi Hamann and Lothar Matthaus in calling for Mueller to be reinstated.

"If I was national coach, Mueller as well as Boateng would be in the national side," Schweinsteiger, 36, told Monday's edition of German magazine Kicker. Schweinsteiger helped win the 2014 World Cup in Brazil alongside Mueller, who knows he still has plenty to offer Germany after 100 internationals and 38 goals for 'die Mannschaft'. "Everyone can see that I am in good form. Let's just see what happens," Mueller told broadcaster ZDF on Saturday, yet Loew has so far



Bayern Munich's German forward Thomas Mueller

## Ajax - What remains of team that become Champions by storm?

AMSTERDAM: Ajax host Liverpool in the Champions League today, 18 months after being denied the chance to play the Anfield club in the final by a stunning Tottenham Hotspur comeback in the semi-final in Amsterdam. The Dutch side wowed Europe on that run to the last four, before many of their best players were unsurprisingly picked off by wealthier clubs elsewhere. AFP Sport looks at what remains of that Ajax team:

### Moved on

The two big names to leave in the summer of 2019 were the Dutch international duo of Matthijs de Ligt and Frenkie de Jong. Centre-back De Ligt, who captained Ajax in that campaign aged 19, scored the winner against Juventus in the quarter-finals and also scored against Tottenham in the semi-final. He moved to Juve for 75 million euros (\$84.2 million) plus 10.5 million euros of add-ons, a world-record fee for a defender.

Meanwhile midfielder De Jong, now 23, was sold to Barcelona in a deal worth a total of 86 million euros that was agreed midway through the 2018-19 season. Kasper Dolberg was really only a bit-part player in that Champions League campaign, but Ajax still cashed in on the Danish striker, selling him to French club Nice for 20.5 million euros. Another Dane, veteran midfielder Lasse Schone, left for Genoa in Italy.

After failing to progress beyond the group stage of last season's competition, Ajax allowed another mainstay of their side to go, with supremely gifted Moroccan international attacking midfielder Hakim Ziyech joining Chelsea for 40 million euros. And Donny van de Beek was the most recent to move on, the 23-year-old midfielder who scored the only goal away to Spurs in the first leg of the semi-final being sold to Manchester United in September for 39 million euros. In total the four-time European champions have raised nearly 300 million euros in transfer fees from selling members of that squad that won the domestic double in 2019 as well as going so far in Europe.

### Stayed put

Most of the exciting young talents in that side have moved on, but others remain. Erik ten Hag is still the coach, while Serbian international Dusan Tadic is still one of Ajax's main goal-scoring threats. The former Southampton man netted six times in that European run and scored 16 more last season in all competitions in a campaign that was eventually cut short because of the coronavirus pandemic, with no champion crowned. Tadic also scored twice in the 5-1 weekend defeat of Heerenveen. Goalkeeper Andre Onana, centre-back Daley Blind, Argentine left-back Nicolas Tagliafico and the Moroccan right-back Noussair Mazraoui all remain key elements too. Further forward, Brazil winger David Neres - who was on target in the 2019 quarter-final against Juventus - is also still part of Ten Hag's squad.

### The new faces

Ajax have reinvested some of the money brought in from sales over the last 18 months, shelling out fees of more than 15 million euros to sign Dutch international forward Quincy Promes from Sevilla, Mexico midfielder Edson Alvarez and the young Brazilian attacker Antony. The latter came off the bench to score at the weekend. Also on target in that game was Mohammed Kudus, a 20-year-old Ghana international recruited from Nordsjaelland in Denmark. Ajax continue to put faith in youth, but they have brought in experience too. Midfielder Davy Klaassen was signed from Werder Bremen in a 14 million-euro deal and returns to the club he left in 2017 for a failed stint on the blue side of Merseyside at Everton. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Red Bull Salzburg v Lokomotiv	19:55
beIN Sports	
Real Madrid CF v Shakhtar Donetsk	19:55
beIN Sports	
Bayern Munich v Atletico de Madrid	22:00
beIN Sports HD 3	
Inter Milan v Borussia Monchengladbach	22:00
beIN Sports	
Manchester City v FC Porto	22:00
beIN Sports	
Olympiacos Piraeus v Marseille	22:00
beIN Sports	
Ajax v Liverpool	22:00
beIN Sports HD 1	
Midtjylland v Atalanta	22:00
beIN Sports	

**14** Virtual swords drawn as eSports worlds in China defy coronavirus



**15** Genoa hold Verona despite being depleted by COVID-19



**15** Clock ticking on Guardiola's dreams as City chase crown



## Wolves sink Leeds, climb to 6th

West Brom and Burnley in stalemate



**LEEDS:** Leeds United's English striker Patrick Bamford (left) vies with Wolverhampton Wanderers' English defender Max Kilman (center) during the English Premier League football match between Leeds United and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Elland Road in Leeds, northern England on October 19, 2020. — AFP

**LONDON:** Wolves climbed to sixth place in the Premier League on Monday as Raul Jimenez sealed a 1-0 win at Leeds on a night West Bromwich Albion and Burnley played out the first goalless draw in the English top-flight this season. Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves clinched their third league win of the campaign when Jimenez's second half strike deflected in off Leeds midfielder Calvin Phillips.

The Mexico striker's third goal of the season made it back to back wins for Wolves after they beat Fulham before the international break. "It was a good performance with some aspects to improve. We were better in the second half, but at the start it was very difficult for us," Nuno said. "Leeds were so dynamic. We had to adjust and be more clinical in front. The goal was fortunate but we had chances."

Leeds have now gone two games without a win as they were beaten for the first time in the league since their narrow opening weekend defeat at champions Liverpool. "In the first half we should have established a difference, in the second half it was more even," Leeds boss Marcelo Bielsa said. "We created enough opportunities to establish a lead. I don't think they were better than us but they

neutralized our game better." Bielsa's team dominated the first period, pinning Wolves in their own half, but had nothing to show for their dominance as the visitors' defense held firm.

Leeds striker Patrick Bamford's early header was ruled out for offside and the hosts had a penalty appeal turned down after Helder Costa went down under Joao Moutinho's challenge. Wolves almost snatched the lead against the run of play when Daniel Podence's close-range shot was saved by Illan Meslier. Romain Saiss thought he had given Wolves a 54th-minute lead with a superb finish from the edge of the area, but VAR ruled Podence was in an offside position. Jimenez settled a hard-fought clash in the 70th minute when he cut in from the right flank and darted across the edge of the area before hitting a shot that smacked off Phillips' head and flashed past the wrong-footed Meslier.

### Goal glut ends

After a glut of goals across the first 46 Premier League matches since the new season started in September, the entertainment dried up at the Hawthorns. Between them West Brom and Burnley had conceded a combined 21 goals in their opening

ing a career-worst four.

Murray played at AT&T Stadium for the first time as a pro and improved to 7-0 in the facility, counting his high school and college careers. He won three state titles in the building while playing for Allen High, located about 25 miles north of Dallas. The game was played in front of 25,174, a count limited by COVID-19 protocols. Arizona held a 438-344 edge in total offense while beating Dallas for the fifth time in the past six meetings. After a scoreless first quarter, the Cardinals scored 21 points in the second to take control.

The first touchdown occurred shortly after Elliott's first lost fumble. Kirk came across in motion and received a forward flip from Murray and raced toward the right side of the end zone for a 6-yard score with 12:58 left in the half. Elliott lost another fumble to give the Cardinals a short field, and Drake scored from the 1 to cap a five-play, 27-yard drive to make it 14-0 with 10:31 left. Arizona forced a punt later in the stanza, and Murray and Kirk teamed up on the 80-yard touchdown on the first play. Kirk stretched out his arms to make a fingertip grab at the Dallas 35-yard line and raced for the score with 4:43 left in the half.

Greg Zuerlein kicked a 34-yard field goal with 10 seconds left to leave Dallas trailing 21-3. Kirkpatrick intercepted Dalton—the two were teammates in

### English Premier League standings

English Premier League table after Monday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Everton	5	4	1	0	14	7	13	Man City	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Aston Villa	4	4	0	0	12	2	12	Southampton	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Liverpool	5	3	1	1	13	13	10	Newcastle	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Leicester	5	3	0	2	12	8	9	Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	8	6	9	Man United	4	2	0	2	9	12	6
Wolves	5	3	0	2	5	7	9	Brighton	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
Tottenham	5	2	2	1	15	8	8	West Brom	5	0	2	3	5	13	2
Chelsea	5	2	2	1	13	9	8	Burnley	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
West Ham	5	2	1	2	11	7	7	Sheffield Utd	5	0	1	4	2	7	1
Leeds	5	2	1	2	9	9	7	Fulham	5	0	1	4	4	12	1

seven games. But the 47th match of the Premier League campaign ended without an entry in the scoresheet. West Brom's Karlan Grant was denied a debut goal by a tight offside call, while Chris Wood hit the bar for the visitors.

The pair remain winless in the league this season, with Burnley claiming their first point after three defeats to lift them off the bottom of the table. But a

draw did little to kick-start either side's season as Albion continue to wait for their first victory since promotion. Grant showed his threat when Grady Diangana picked him out to head in, only for his celebrations to be cut short by an offside flag. Ashley Westwood's cross found Wood unmarked at the far post in the closing stages, but the Burnley striker headed against the bar. — AFP

## Murray, Cardinals rout mistake-prone Cowboys

**TEXAS:** Kyler Murray passed for two touchdowns and ran for another to help the Arizona Cardinals record a 38-10 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Monday night at Arlington, Texas. Christian Kirk caught two touchdown passes—including an 80-yarder—and Kenyan Drake rushed for 164 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries for the Cardinals (4-2). Murray completed 9 of 24 passes for 188 yards and also rushed for 74 yards on 10 carries. Arizona's Budda Baker and Dre Kirkpatrick intercepted passes.

The Cowboys played their first game without star quarterback Dak Prescott, who is out for the season after sustaining a severe ankle injury. Andy Dalton completed 34 of 54 passes for 266 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions for Dallas (2-4), which committed four turnovers. Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 49 yards on 12 carries and lost two fumbles—one as a runner, one as a receiver. He has fumbled five times this season, los-



**ARLINGTON:** Andy Dalton #14 of the Dallas Cowboys looks to pass against the Arizona Cardinals during the fourth quarter at AT&T Stadium on October 19, 2020, in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

Cincinnati for the past eight seasons—early in the third quarter. The Cardinals cashed in with Murray's 1-yard run with 7:53 left in the period. Zane Gonzalez booted a 26-yard field goal to give the

Cardinals a 31-3 lead with 8:54 left before Dalton threw a 1-yard scoring pass to Amari Cooper with 2:48 remaining. Drake tacked on a 69-yard touchdown run with 1:49 left. — Reuters