



4 Volvo and Kuwait Hospital hold talk on breast cancer



7 Pakistani PM asks Facebook to ban Islamophobic content



8 Pandemic plunges Lagarde into 'intense' year at ECB



16 Brady eclipses Brees to become all-time touchdown pass leader



93 candidates, including 8 women, file nominations

Jabri resigns from Cabinet to run in Assembly elections



KUWAIT: Former MPs Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi (right) and Bader Al-Dahoum (left) arrive at the elections department on the first day of candidate registration yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Ninety-three candidates including eight women yesterday filed their nomination papers on the first day of registration to contest the Dec 5 parliamentary elections. As many as nine members of the outgoing National Assembly and six members of past assemblies registered as candidates.

Prominent among the candidates are sitting MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain, who was the first to file his nomination papers. They also include former and sitting MPs Hamad Al-Harashani, Khalil Al-Saleh, Saadoun Hammad, Bader Al-Dahoum and Mohammad Hayef. Others include Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei, Faisal Al-Kandari, Majed Al-Muwaiti and Nasser Al-Dossari.

Other figures include two prominent ex-MPs - Faisal Al-Duwaisan and Yousef Al-Zalzalah - from the first constituency. Osama Al-Munawer, an opposition member of the Feb 2012 Assembly, former justice minister and lawmaker Yacoub Al-Sane and former veteran MP Mubarak Al-Khraij were

among the leading figures who filed their papers.

The fourth constituency led the rest in the largest number of candidates with 24 hopefuls, followed by the first constituency with 21 and the third with 20 candidates. Eighteen candidates filed their papers in the fifth constituency and eight in the second. Khadijah Al-Qallaf was the first woman to sign up as a candidate.

Government spokesman Tareq Al-Mazrem said that the Cabinet accepted the resignation of Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri, a sitting MP, who plans to run in the election. Hamad Al-Ansari, a liberal candidate in the third constituency, called for comprehensive political reforms by changing the election law. Mohsen Al-Khulaifi, an independent candidate from the first district, called for key reforms in health, housing and employment.

Fahd Al-Masaud filed from the third constituency and called for concerted efforts to fight corruption. Duwaim Al-Muwaizri, a lawyer contesting in the fourth constituency, said he will focus on laws to ensure more freedoms.

Oxford COVID vaccine prompts immune response

LONDON: One of the world's leading COVID-19 experimental vaccines produces an immune response in both old and young adults, raising hopes of a path out of the gloom and economic destruction wrought by the novel coronavirus. The vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford, also triggers lower adverse responses among the elderly, British drug maker AstraZeneca Plc, which is helping manufacture the vaccine, said yesterday.

A vaccine that works is seen as a game-changer in the battle against the novel coronavirus, which has killed more than 1.15 million people, shuttered swathes of the global economy and turned normal life upside down for billions of people. "It is encouraging to see immunogenicity responses were similar between older and younger adults and that reactogenicity was lower in older adults, where the COVID-19 disease severity is higher," an AstraZeneca spokesman said.

"The results further build the body of evidence for the safety and immunogenicity of AZD1222," the spokesman said, referring to the technical name of the vaccine. AstraZeneca did not provide detail of the data behind the statement or say when it would publish eagerly awaited late-stage phase III trial data, which would show whether the vaccine works well enough in large scale trials for it to be approved.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be one of the first from big pharma to secure regulatory approval, along with Pfizer and BioNTech's candidate. The news that older people get an immune response from the vaccine is positive because the immune system weakens with age and older people are those most at risk of dying from the virus. If it works, a vaccine would allow the world to return to some measure of normality after the tumult of the pandemic.

British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said a vaccine was not yet ready but he was preparing logistics for a possible roll out mostly in the first half of 2021. Asked if some people could receive a vaccine this year he told the BBC: "I don't rule that out but that is not my central expectation."

Continued on Page 2

France urges end to boycott as anger rises

PARIS/ANKARA: France urged Arab countries to stop calls for boycotts of French products, while President Emmanuel Macron vowed the country would never give in to Islamist radicals. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday joined calls for the boycott, ramping up a standoff between France and Muslim countries over Islam and freedom of speech. Erdogan has led the charge against Macron over his robust defense of the right to mock religion following the murder of Samuel Paty, a French

schoolteacher who had shown his class cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

France's foreign affairs ministry said there had been calls to boycott French products, notably food products, in several Middle Eastern countries as well as calls for demonstrations against France over the cartoons. "These calls for boycott are baseless and should stop immediately, as well as all attacks against our country, which are being pushed by a radical minority," the ministry said. The ministry also called on authorities to speak out against such boycott actions in order to help French companies and ensure the safety of French citizens.

Yesterday, the Turkish leader added his voice to calls in the Arab world for citizens to spurn French goods.

Continued on Page 2

Arabs favor Biden over Trump: Poll

RIYADH: Democratic nominee Joe Biden substantially leads his Republican opponent Donald Trump as the Arab world's preferred candidate in next month's US presidential election, an opinion poll indicated Sunday. Out of 3,097 people polled across 18 Middle East and North African countries, around 39 percent favored Biden while only 12 percent opted for Trump, according to the survey carried out by British pollster YouGov and commissioned by Saudi daily Arab News.

"When asked which candidate would be better for the Arab World if elected president, most believe

that neither candidate (49 percent) would fulfill such a description, yet Biden is still considered a better option to Trump," the survey said. The Nov 3 election, in which incumbent Trump is fighting to secure a second term in office, is being closely watched across the Arab world, where the United States plays a key role.

Trump is widely seen as the preferred candidate among a slew of Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for an array of reasons including his tough stance against their regional rival Iran. In contrast to his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump staunchly backed Arab rulers.

But the poll reflects a different public opinion. "If the Arab world were choosing the next president, Biden would win by a landslide," YouGov's chief Stephan Shakespeare told AFP. — AFP

Pak opens first metro line after years of delays

LAHORE: Pakistan's first metro line began operations yesterday in the eastern city of Lahore following years of delays, in a country severely lacking public transport or modern infrastructure. Stretching 27 km and dotted with more than two dozen stations, the Chinese-backed "Orange Line" will

cut travel time across the perennially congested city in Punjab province from two-and-a-half hours by bus to 45 minutes on the metro.

"This project will provide world-class facilities to the public in Lahore," Punjab's chief minister Usman Buzdar said during an inauguration ceremony Sunday. The line's opening follows years of delays, political controversies, and growing questions about the massive amount of debt Pakistan has taken on in recent years through Chinese-financed infrastructure projects. The metro cost approximately 300 billion rupees (\$1.8 billion). — AFP



GAZA CITY: A Palestinian man holds up a cutout of a hashtag calling for the boycott of French goods during a demonstration outside the French Cultural Center yesterday. — AFP



This combination of pictures shows US President Donald Trump (right) and Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden. — AFP



LAHORE: A newly-built Orange Line metro train runs after its official opening yesterday. — AFP

Local

New Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council takes oath before Amir

Sheikh Nawaf gives full support to new judiciary officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Justice Minister Fahad Al-Afasi, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court Ahmad Al-Ajeel, and SJC officials. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Justice Minister Fahad Al-Afasi, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court Ahmad Al-Ajeel, and SJC officials.



Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Cassation Court Ahmad Al-Ajeel takes oath before His Highness the Amir.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Justice Minister Fahad Al-Afasi, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court Ahmad Al-Ajeel, and SJC officials.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Cassation Court Ahmad Musaad Al-Ajeel, and several other SJC officials, who took oath on the occasion of assuming their new posts. His Highness the Amir expressed full trust in the new senior judiciary officials, wishing them further success in solidifying the Kuwaiti judiciary's march towards continued justice and integrity. Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr

Fahad Al-Afasi attended the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received the SJC chief and members at Seif Palace. His Highness congratulated them and wished them further progress during their journey. Furthermore, His Highness expressed his trust in the Kuwaiti judiciary to achieve justice and integrity, and advised them to follow the law and enforce it on everyone, regardless of their position or status with no exceptions. The top judiciary officials later met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who congratulated them and wished them further success and progress. His Highness also praised the efforts of the Kuwaiti judiciary in establishing the principles of law and order and achieving justice.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace, while His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, as well as Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Ibrahim Al-Sabah. — KUNA

“Follow the law without exceptions”

Oxford COVID vaccine prompts...

Continued from Page 1

Work began on the Oxford vaccine in January. Called AZD1222 or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, the viral vector vaccine is made from a weakened version of a common cold virus that causes infections in chimpanzees. Immunogenicity blood tests carried out on a subset of older participants echo data released in July which showed the vaccine generated “robust immune responses” in a group of healthy adults aged between 18 and 55, the Financial Times reported earlier.

“We need to see the data before concluding that the responses were ‘similar.’” Stephen Evans, a professor of pharmacoepidemiology at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said. He said that reactogenicity, which refers to common side-effects of vaccines like soreness and redness of the arm, was “often, but not always” associated with a vaccine’s immunogenicity. “Studies carried out in the first stage of development of a vaccine will result in choosing a dose that does not cause too much reactogenicity,” he said.

AstraZeneca has signed several supply and manufacturing deals with companies and governments around the world as it gets closer to reporting early results of a late-stage clinical trial. It resumed the US trial of the experimental vaccine after approval by US regulators, the company said on Friday. Staff at a London hospital trust have been told to be ready to receive the first batches of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, The Sun newspaper reported yesterday. — Reuters

France urges end to boycott...

Continued from Page 1

“As it has been said in France, ‘don’t buy Turkish-labeled goods’, I call on my people here. Never give credit to French-labeled goods, don’t buy them,” Erdogan said during a televised speech in Ankara. French goods have already been pulled from supermarket shelves in Kuwait and Qatar, among other Gulf states, whereas in Syria people have burned pictures of Macron and French flags have been torched in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

In Kuwait, the non-governmental Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies, which groups more than 70 establishments, issued the boycott directive in an Oct 23 circular. Several co-ops visited by Reuters on Sunday had cleared the shelves of items such as hair and beauty products made by French companies. Union head Fahd Al-Kishti told Reuters the products had been removed in response to

“repeated insults” against the Prophet (PBUH).

The co-ops, some the size of hypermarkets, carry government-subsidized staples and account for a big part of retail in Kuwait. Kuwait’s imports from France stood at KD 255 million (\$834.70 million) in 2019, according to Kuwait’s Central Statistics bureau. In Saudi Arabia, the Arab world’s largest economy, a hashtag calling for the boycott of French supermarket retailer Carrefour was the second most trending on Sunday. After a Danish paper first published the cartoons in 2005, protests and boycotts on Danish goods swept the Islamic world.

Yesterday, the head of MEDEF - France’s largest employers’ federation - said the boycott, which he described as “foolishness”, was clearly bad news for companies already hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic. “But there is no question of giving in to blackmail,” Geoffrey Roux de Bezieux told broadcaster RMC. “It is a question of sticking to our republican values. “There is a time to put principles above business.” He said MEDEF supported the government’s stance and urged companies “to resist this blackmail and, unfortunately, to endure this boycott”, which he said remained “fairly local-

ized” for now.

Erdogan yesterday compared the treatment of Muslims in Europe to that of Jews before World War II, saying they were the object of a “lynching campaign”. “You are in a real sense fascists, you are in a real sense the links in the chain of Nazism,” he said, calling on Europe to end its “Macron-led hate campaign” against Muslims.

On Sunday, Macron said in a tweet: “We will not give in, ever” to Islamist radicals. “We do not accept hate speech and defend reasonable debate,” the French leader added. Macron added that France “cherished” freedom, “guaranteed” equality, and experienced fraternity “intensely” in a reference to the nation’s credo. “Our history is one of fighting tyranny and fanaticism. We will continue,” he said.

Earlier this month, Macron unveiled a plan to defend France’s secular values against a trend of “Islamist separatism,” and described Islam as a religion “in crisis”. His stance has fuelled tensions with Turkey particularly. On Saturday, Paris announced it was recalling its envoy to Ankara after Erdogan, who has styled himself a defender of Muslims worldwide, questioned Macron’s sanity. — Agencies

Local

Candidates begin 10-day registration process for parliamentary elections

School in Shuwaikh set up to receive nominations



KUWAIT: A health official checks the body temperature of candidates for the upcoming Kuwaiti parliamentary elections as they arrive to register on the first day of candidate registration yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA



Candidate Khadija Al-Qalaf talks to reporters after submitting her registration papers.

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's electoral commission began yesterday receiving people wishing to run for the December 5 parliamentary elections, a process that would continue for 10 consecutive days. Ninety three candidates submitted their applications on the first day, including 85 men and eight women. The first constituency's total number reached 21 candidates, while 10 has registered in the second constituency. In the third constituency, 20 candidates were registered, whereas 24 and 18 were signed in the fourth and fifth constituencies, respectively.

This year's candidacy application process is different due to the coronavirus pandemic. The MoI set up the Khawla School in Shuwaikh, rather than its own headquarters, to receive candidates in

order to ensure social distancing as well as providing necessary health material, such as gloves and masks. The doors of the



Open from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm

electoral commission is open daily from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, and candidates should submit original nationality certificate, civil ID and two photos. The applicant should

fill in the application form and pay KD 50 (around \$165) through K-NET and get a receipt. The applicant will then head to a designated police station in their constituency to confirm their candidacy.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, during a visit to the electoral commission on Sunday, called on citizens registering nomination for upcoming elections to abide by precautions against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). His Highness emphasized the importance of enforcing all necessary health measures during registration, affirming that the government doubled efforts to ensure safety of the employees and citizens registering their names as candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary polls. — KUNA



Candidate Noura Al-Mulaifi arrives to submit her registration papers.



A candidate talks on the phone outside the school that was set up to receive candidates.



Candidates, wearing facemasks and gloves, register for the upcoming parliamentary elections.



A candidate uses hand sanitizer as he arrives to register.

Kuwait confirms 682 COVID cases, 3 new deaths

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MoH) registered yesterday 682 additional COVID-19 cases over the past 24 hours, increasing the total number of infections to 122,317, while three new deaths were added to a death toll of 749. Additionally, active cases amounted to 8,177, with 122 of them in intensive care units, MoH's Spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said. Health authorities conducted 5,431 swab tests in 24 hours with a total of 881,681, he revealed. Earlier, the ministry confirmed 620 fresh recovery cases, raising the total to 113,391 cured people thus far. Dr Sanad urged everyone in Kuwait to adhere to precautionary measures against the virus. — KUNA

Fatal crash on Seventh Ring Road

KUWAIT: A woman died in an accident reported on Seventh Ring Road yesterday. The victim had lost control over her vehicle before it hit a light post, according to preliminary investigations. Mubarak Al-Kabeer firemen responded and removed the victim's body from the vehicle. Further investigations are ongoing.



Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.

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Kuwait Ambassador presents credentials to Thai King

KUWAIT: The King of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn received Kuwait's Ambassador to Bangkok Mohammad Al-Failakawi who presented his credentials as Kuwait's envoy to Thailand. Failakawi conveyed greetings of 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 to the King, Kuwait's Embassy in Bangkok said in a statement yesterday. The reception took place on Sunday. Failakawi wished Thailand more progress and prosperity. — KUNA



Kuwait's Ambassador Mohammad Al-Failakawi delivers his credentials to Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Jordan keen on further expanding ties with Kuwait

AMMAN: Jordanian Prime Minister Bishr Al-Khasawneh reiterated yesterday deep-rooted relations and cooperation with the State of Kuwait, and said Amman was keen on further expanding these ties to new heights. This came during Khasawneh's meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani to discuss means of boosting relations and cooperation. Daihani said after the meeting that the two sides reaffirmed the excellent ties and cooperation in many domains. He quoted Khasawneh as commending Kuwait's support to the common Arab action. Daihani said he conveyed greetings of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Al-Khasawneh on his new post. — KUNA

Volvo Cars Kuwait by BNK, Kuwait Hospital hold talk on misconceptions of breast cancer

As part of a series of initiatives in partnership with CAN

KUWAIT: Volvo Cars Kuwait by BNK Automotive partnered with Kuwait Hospital and Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) in a closed talk that brought together doctors, professionals and breast cancer survivors that aimed to raise awareness about breast cancer and the misconceptions around it.

Speakers were hosted at Volvo Studio and included Dr Dalal Al-Arabi - General Surgery Consultant and Head of the Breast Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, Dr Nadia Al-Mahmoud - Family Medicine Consultant, member of CAN, in charge of the awareness clinic at CAN and former head of awareness at the Ministry of Health, actress Zahra Al-Kharji, writer and author Dalaa Al-Mufti, Dr Wajid Al-Othman - Nutritionist specialized in Nutrition Education, and Besma Al-Qassar - founder of the 'Women Support Forum' and expert in human resources, women mentoring and leadership.

The talk comes as part of a series of initiatives by Volvo Cars Kuwait, Kuwait Hospital and Sultan Center in partnership with CAN. These initiatives aimed to encourage the companies' female customers to get checked regularly and comprised lectures and workshops to educate women about breast cancer and self-check as well as a financial support program to women battling breast cancer.

Commenting on these initiatives, General Manager of Volvo Cars Kuwait by BNK Automotive, Sherif Al-Sayed, said: "Volvo is a brand about people, and safety of the people is at the core of the brand's DNA. From that belief, we are encouraging our female customers to get checked and inviting them to this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of early detection to increase their survival rates. This is linked to our brand value, safety DNA and caring about people through these values. We are pleased to be partnering with CAN and Kuwait Hospital to raise more awareness in our community."

From Kuwait Hospital, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Hisham Siddiq, said: "As a private hospital, it is our responsibility today to educate our community about breast cancer and that it is not the end for them. It is a battle that can be overcome thanks to the advancement in the medical field. What matters the most is early detection, consistent follow-up, getting the support they need and caring for oneself. It is our role as med-



KUWAIT: (From left) Dr Wajid Al-Othman, Besma Al-Qassar, Dalaa Al-Mufti, Zahra Al-Kharji, Dr Nadia Al-Mahmoud and Dr Dalal Al-Arabi attend the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ical staff to care for our community, as well as those who cannot afford it financially. This is why we are partnering with institutions that share the same values and place people at the heart of their values such as Volvo Agency Kuwait BNK, Sultan Center and CAN."

The talk focused on the challenges that face every woman in her battle against breast cancer, speakers highlighted the importance of providing her with a fully integrated support system that encompasses medical, psychological, nutrition and corporate support. At the core of the discussions was the importance of early detection to win the battle against breast cancer. Dr Arabi and Dr Mahmoud called on women to avoid believing in misconceptions and get checked regularly to increase chances of early recovery. Dr Othman highlighted the importance of a healthy lifestyle which has positive impact in reducing risks as well as during the treatment phase. She added that following up with a nutritionist during treatment is important because every woman reacts to the cancer differently. On the

other hand, Qassar spoke of the responsibility of companies in providing a healthy and positive work environment to their employees to increase their performance and wellbeing. The most prominent talk came from Kharji and Mufti who are survivors. They both spoke of the importance of being positive mentally and self-care during the battle.

Volvo Studio located in Sharq will continue to showcase artworks gifted by Wejha Arts. Proceeds from the sale of these artworks will be donated to women who need financial support during their breast cancer treatment. Breast cancer in Kuwait today affects more than 66 women out of every 100,000. It is also the most common type of can-



Most common type of cancer in Kuwait



Nadine Quaddoumi paints live during the talk. Painting proceeds to be donated to women being treated.

cer in Kuwait, representing 23 percent of all cancers among men and women, and 41 percent of all cancers among women according to CAN.

Kuwait Digest

The journey of Kuwaiti charitable giving

By Samir Abu Rumman

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Perhaps one of the most prominent features of the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, which spanned 14 years, was that appreciation, support and interest in Kuwaiti charitable work, considering it a partner in development and a manifestation of the country's foreign policy and building relationships with other countries. This greatly contributed to the institutional and organizational advancement of Kuwaiti charitable work, its global spread, and its acquisition of international recognition, which culminated in 2014 by the United Nations' naming the late Amir as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a global center for humanitarian work.

The late Amir's support for Kuwaiti charitable work was evident in several aspects. With his directives, the Kuwaiti government facilitated the work of Kuwaiti charitable societies and gave them the freedom to collect and direct donations at home and abroad, within a system of controlling legislation aimed at organizing Kuwaiti charitable work and protecting it from terrorism.

On the domestic level, the late Amir's reign witnessed the Kuwaiti charitable societies' active involvement in achieving development, and ensuring and caring for the less fortunate in the Kuwaiti society. Their contributions reached an estimated \$182 million annually. Furthermore, they launched a strong partnership with official authorities to face the emergency crises Kuwait faces, which was recently embodied in the role of Kuwaiti charities in facing the coronavirus pandemic.

With regard to Kuwaiti charitable work directed abroad, the late Amir instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kuwaiti embassies in the countries of the world to provide support and facilities for the work of Kuwaiti charitable societies, and to grant them the maximum possible freedom in choosing projects and their destinations. Kuwaiti official bodies did not interfere in the work of charitable societies except within the limits of non-binding directives. This was reflected in the great role of Kuwaiti charitable societies in various parts of the world in alleviating the suffering of millions of people affected by wars and disasters. The volume of Kuwaiti foreign charitable work jumped, according to some estimates, to \$1 billion annually.

The late Amir also took the initiative, sponsoring four international conferences for donors for the reconstruction of Iraq and relief for Syria, as well as sponsoring global initiatives undertaken by some Kuwaiti charities, such as the 'One Humanity Against Hunger' initiative that was launched by the International Islamic Charity Organization two years ago.

The late Amir has repeatedly described Kuwaiti charitable work as a 'crown on the heads.' In his memory and recognition of what he offered to support Kuwaiti charitable work and its gaining of a prestigious international status, all parties, official bodies and charitable foundations, are required to work on further development and advancement of Kuwaiti charitable work, in a way that preserves Kuwait's position as a global center for humanitarian work.

Education Ministry teams with Microsoft to provide e-learning

KUWAIT: In a move to further enrich the smart learning ecosystem securely in Kuwait, the Ministry of Education of Kuwait joined forces with Microsoft to empower over 400,000 educators and students with Office 365 and Teams across Kuwait. This allows them to start their semesters online, with education institutions using Microsoft Teams and Office 365 to better connect, engage and learn in a secure digital environment.

"The Kuwaiti government has placed high importance upon prioritizing education continuity through e-learning. With public health placed front and center, the country has adopted smart solutions and tools to encourage a continuing commitment to learn and to grow," said Alaeddine Karim, Country Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. "We are driving forward the country's core education objectives as we enable educators and students with advanced tools and innovation. This approach features enterprise-level security and compliance that offers a secure method of remotely delivering comprehensive curriculums."

A virtual classroom, Microsoft Teams brings conversations, content, assignments, and apps together under one easily-accessible umbrella, empowering educators to create vibrant learning environments backed up by security and privacy. The educator and student experience is assured by providing capabilities such as identity management, multi-factor authentication, mobile device management, mobile application management, conditional access, information protection with data loss prevention for files and chats, and retention policies.

With the power to build collaborative classrooms, Microsoft Teams connects with learning communities to elevate beyond a video conferencing app to a productivity app - backed by the full capabilities of Office 365 and empowering students to achieve more. The highest of standards is assured in accordance with 17 global benchmarks including HIPAA compliance, providing a high level of endorsement for the complexity of the modern environment.



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Third attempt at Karabakh ceasefire quickly collapses

Pakistan PM asks Facebook to ban Islamophobic content

Page 7

Page 6



DAEJEON: South Korean Jehovah's Witnesses who are conscientious objectors to mandatory military service await an induction session at a correctional facility where they will begin training as administrators yesterday. — AFP

S Korea offers alternative to conscription

'Clean conscience': South Korean Jehovah's Witnesses begin prison work terms

SEOUL: As a devout Jehovah's Witness Jang Kyung-jin was ready to be jailed rather than serve in South Korea's military. After a landmark court ruling he will be heading for prison - but as a civilian administrator, not a convict. The South remains technically at war with the North and maintains a compulsory conscription system to defend itself against Pyongyang's 1.2 million-strong army.

All able-bodied South Korean men are obliged to serve for 18 months before they turn 30, in a rite of passage that - while sometimes resented - can form lifelong bonds with fellow soldiers. Avoiding the duty in a conformist society faced with the world's last remaining Cold War conflict can bring with it employment consequences and lifelong social stigma, akin to the "white feather" campaign in First World War-era Britain.

Russian strikes kill 78 Turkey backed rebels

BEIRUT: Air strikes by Damascus regime ally Russia killed 78 Turkey-backed rebels in northwestern Syria yesterday, a monitor said, in the bloodiest surge in violence since a truce almost eight months ago. More than 90 others were wounded when Russian warplanes targeted a training camp of the Faylaq al-Sham faction in the Jabal Duwaylit area in Idlib province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. In early March, a truce brokered between Moscow and Ankara stemmed a deadly months-long Russia-backed regime military offensive on the country's last major rebel stronghold in Idlib.

That onslaught from December had displaced almost a million people from their homes in one of the worst humanitarian crises of the nine-year civil war. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman described yesterday's strikes as the "deadliest since the ceasefire came into force". The National Liberation Front, an umbrella group of Ankara-backed rebels based in Idlib that includes Faylaq Al-Sham, told AFP that yesterday's Russian strikes hit one of its positions and caused casualties. It did not give an exact death toll.

NLF spokesman Sayf Raad denounced the "Russian aircraft and regime forces continuously violating the Turkish-Russian deal in targeting military positions, villages and towns". Of the almost one million people displaced in the last Idlib offensive, more than 200,000 have returned home to their towns and villages, most since the ceasefire went into force. The March truce has largely held, despite some intermittent bombardment in the area from both sides. Russian

air strikes have from time to time targeted military positions, including those of Turkey-backed groups, Abdel Rahman said.

UN envoy visit

The US army on Thursday said it carried a drone strike against Al-Qaeda leaders in northwestern Syria, with the Observatory reporting 17 jihadists killed at a dinner gathering. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, and allied rebels dominate the region of some three million people, around half living in camps after being displaced by fighting in other parts of the country. Last week, Turkey withdrew from one of its largest outposts in northwestern Syria

which had been encircled for the past year by Syrian regime forces. The outpost in Morek had been Turkey's largest in Hama province, most of which is now under Syrian government control.

After a string of military victories backed by Russia, the Syrian government has regained control of around 70 percent of the country, the Observatory says. Syria's war, which broke out after the brutal suppression of anti-government protests in 2011, has killed more than 380,000 people and displaced millions inside the country and abroad. Endless rounds of UN-backed peace talks have failed to stem the bloodshed and in recent years have been largely overtaken by a parallel negotiations track led by Russia and Turkey.—AFP

“ All who take the sword will perish by the sword ”

But over the decades tens of thousands of conscientious objectors, many of them Jehovah's Witnesses, have been willing to pay that price - and a prison sentence of 18 months or more - to adhere to their religious or moral beliefs. "As a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, I believe it is my duty to interpret the Bible as it is written and follow the teachings of Jesus," Jang, a father of three said. A soft-spoken practitioner of traditional medicine, he cited Matthew 26:52, where Jesus tells his disciples not to use force to defend him as "All who take the sword will perish by the sword".

"It would have been the highest form of honourable act to defend the son of God but Jesus told his disciples not to... I have come to a conclusion that violence could never be justified under any circumstances." For years the idea of a civilian alternative to military service for conscientious objectors was highly controversial. But current President Moon Jae-in - who served in the special forces when he was a conscript in the 1970s - promised to create one during his 2017 election campaign.

The following year the South's Supreme Court ruled that moral and religious objections were valid reasons for refusing military service. The alternative service scheme went into effect yesterday, when Jang and 62 other conscientious objectors will report to a training centre in Daejeon, south of Seoul, for three years of duties as correctional facility administrators. They will be entitled to the same pay as regular conscripts and the justice ministry described the scheme as a "first step towards the balance of conscience and military duty".

36,000 years

Aside from Olympic medalists and Asian Games champions, along with the winners of some international classical musical competitions, the military obligation applies to all healthy men, and can mean career interruptions and delays. It currently looms over the seven members of the global K-pop sensation BTS, who are estimated to bring in billions of dollars to the world's 12th-largest economy. Steve Yoo, a hugely popular chart-topping singer in the 1990s, took US citizenship shortly before he was due to be called up, automatically forfeiting his Korean nationality and with it the obligation to serve. The move prompted widespread public fury and authorities swiftly banned him from entering the country, a measure that remains in place to this day.

Around the world, the Jehovah's Witnesses are perhaps best known for enthusiastic members preaching on street corners and knocking on doors in efforts to procure converts, and a refusal to receive blood transfusions. But in the South it is their refusal to serve in uniform or pledge allegiance to a national flag that most marks them out. No fewer than 19,353 church members have been punished for refusing to serve since 1950, spending a combined total of more than 36,000 years behind bars, according to the church.

Among the former inmates is Jang's fellow congregation member Lee Bit-nam, who was jailed in 2015 but, like all other conscientious objectors, has had his conviction record expunged as a result of the court ruling. A 30-year-old car mechanic, he said he was repeatedly ridiculed by guards and fellow prisoners for refusing to serve, but never doubted his decision.—AFP

Black Alabaman campaigns for justice

MONTGOMERY: Anthony Ray Hinton, an innocent man, spent 30 years on death row in Alabama because, he says, he was "black and poor." His name finally cleared, he now campaigns for justice - which he says can only be achieved by beating Donald Trump at the ballot box. The 64-year-old African-American, his hair and beard graying, has mixed memories of the fateful day of April 3, 2015. After three decades behind bars - and under constant threat of execution - he regained his freedom on that day to start the second phase of his life.



MONTGOMERY, Alabama: Anthony Ray Hinton speaks during an interview with AFP at the office of Equal Justice Initiative on Oct 14, 2020. — AFP

"It was like I was walking on clouds" as he fell into the arms of welcoming relatives, he recalled. But his sense of joy was tempered. "It was good that I was finally free. It was bad that my mother was no longer here on this Earth to see her baby boy walk out of prison." That

day - which he had dreamed of so often before waking up, innocent, in a claustrophobic "five by seven" foot cell - finally ended his judicial nightmare.

Arrested in July 1985, Hinton was sentenced to death the following year, at the age of 29, for allegedly murdering two employees of fast-food restaurants, killed in separate armed hold-ups in Birmingham, the largest city in the southern state of Alabama. His court-appointed lawyer, Hinton later told talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, had rejected his protestations of innocence, telling him "All of y'all (Blacks) is always doing something, and then saying you didn't do it."

There was no fingerprint evidence against Hinton and the testimony of a ballistics expert hired by his attorney was torn apart when it emerged the man was half-blind. Nor did an alibi from Hinton's employer help. He was convicted largely because bullets recovered at the scene appeared to come from a gun owned by Hinton's mother, with whom he lived. "The state of Alabama, in one word, kidnapped me," he said firmly, speaking in his deep, sonorous voice. "Because we have a system that, if you are born Black and poor in America, the system can pretty much do with you as it pleases."

It was not until 1999, when lawyer Bryan Stevenson-founder of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) - took up Hinton's case that the truth began to emerge. Very, very slowly. Hinton was to spend another 16 years on death row, saved only by a new ballistics test, an intervention by the US Supreme Court and a second trial.

For years in prison he obsessed over the thought of gaining revenge for his wrongful conviction. "I would wake up and all I could think about was revenge," he said. But he came to realize that "that's not who I am." —AFP



IDLIB: Syrians take part in the funeral of 10 fighters with the Turkey-backed Faylaq al-Sham rebel faction in this northwestern city yesterday following their death in a Russian air strike. — AFP



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International

Joe Biden no lover of Britain's 'Trump clone' Boris Johnson

UK leader described as 'physical and emotional clone' of Trump

LONDON: The political bromance between Boris Johnson and Donald Trump leaves Britain and its transatlantic "special relationship" exposed if Joe Biden wins next week, just as the country needs all the friends it can get. The UK is divorcing the European Union and looking to revitalise partnerships elsewhere, but has managed to antagonise President Trump's Democratic opponent over its Brexit plans for Northern Ireland.

French President Emmanuel Macron has at times also strived to keep Trump close. But the British prime minister is more closely associated with his fellow convention-shredding populist in Washington. "There is a lot of frantic repositioning going on at the moment here in London by this administration in Britain," former Conservative finance minister George Osborne told CNN on Sunday. "But I don't think Joe Biden will feel particularly warmly toward this British government, and they're going to have to work very hard to change that," he said.

Last December, as Johnson closed in on a general election victory, Biden showed his disdain in describing the Conservative politician as a "physical and emotional clone" of Trump. The president has himself praised Johnson as "Britain's Trump", and the prime minister's own long trail of provocative comments has come back to haunt him. Biden was vice president to Barack Obama when Johnson, in 2016, wrote that Obama was anti-UK owing to his "part-Kenyan" heritage and "ancestral dislike of the British Empire".

Trump with better hair?

That remark was highlighted recently on Twitter



Johnson seen as Trump 'with better hair'

by Obama's deputy national security advisor, Ben Rhodes, who sees Johnson as Trump "with better hair" and a higher IQ. Many veterans of the Obama administration are likely to populate a Biden White House. If elected, it will be up to Biden and his team to decide whether "to litigate and punish the past or focus on the future", according to Heather Conley, director of the Europe program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"I am comforted that populists are chameleons: they take on the hue of the political moment. I trust should vice president Biden win, Mr Johnson's hue will change dramatically," she told AFP. Trump's relationship with previous British prime minister Theresa May was awful.

But he was effusive about the New York-born Johnson when the "tough" and "smart" former foreign secretary replaced her last year.

Johnson in turn has lauded Trump's "many, many good qualities", in marked contrast to the arm's-length mistrust displayed by others such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Yet Britain, next year's president of the G7, remains far more aligned with France and Germany—as well as Biden—on climate change, Iran, Russia and collective defense under the NATO umbrella. A post-Brexit US-UK trade deal is still a work in progress under Trump, who characteristically is said to be driving a hard bargain after slapping tariffs on Scottish whisky amid a wider spat with the EU.

Voting for Reagan

Conley said that Biden, as a "dedicated transatlanticist", was likely to resolve Trump's trade row with the EU and Britain, as part of a

could only confirm that 19,888 driver's licenses—mainly from China and Hong Kong—were confiscated. Lizette Escobedo, director of civic engagement at the NALEO Educational Fund, a non-profit that promotes political participation of Latinos, said that mistrust in the electoral system is common among Florida Hispanics in both parties. The problem, she explained, is that "many Latinos don't actually trust the electoral process. They're afraid that their votes are not going to count."

The organization seeks to counter this perception at the national level with voter education campaigns. "Florida is our largest digital ad buy budget that we have for this election," Escobedo said. She said that Latinos are particularly vulnerable to disinformation because they define their positions in the American political system "based on the political systems that they have in their home country." Latin America has a long history of authoritarian regimes from both the left and right, often sustained by elections flagged as fraudulent.

Racism and anti-Semitism

Last month, US representatives Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Joaquin Castro asked the FBI to investigate the spike in disinformation directed at Latinos in South Florida and to "consider efforts of foreign actors to spread disinformation" in this regard. Many of these conspiracy theories favor

fire with artillery fire on combat positions in various parts of the frontline.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been locked in a bitter conflict over Karabakh since Armenian separatists backed by Yerevan seized control of the mountainous province in a 1990s war that left 30,000 people dead. Karabakh's self-declared independence has not been recognized internationally, even by Armenia, and it remains a part of Azerbaijan under international law. The current fighting broke out on September 27. Armenia and Azerbaijan accuse each other of having targeted civilians and of breaking the previous truces. Repeated calls for calm do seem to have had any effect.

After coming under heavy shelling at the start of the fighting, Nagorno-Karabakh's main city Stepanakert has been quieter in recent days. AFP journalists in the city yesterday said the night had been calm. Ten minutes before the ceasefire took effect an explosion was heard and a plume of smoke seen on a nearby hill. There were fewer sounds of fighting coming from the frontline yesterday morning than in previous days, though rounds of shelling could be heard in the distance.

More than 1,000 people have been reported

with three Energy heavyweights, Noble Energy, Shell and Delek. The deals, which last 25 years, allow operations at the Aphrodite gas field, discovered in block 12 south of the island in 2011. Aphrodite's reserves are estimated at 127.4 billion cubic meters (m3) of gas.

In return, Nicosia is expected to earn revenues estimated at \$9.3 billion over 18 years, according to calculations by its energy ministry. Italian firm ENI and France's Total are also mounting exploration activities further west, particularly in block 6 at a site called Calypso, which could contain between 170 and 225 billion m3 of gas. Meanwhile further south in block 10, US giant ExxonMobil and Qatar Petroleum announced the discovery in 2019 of the Glaucus-1 field, which could house 130 billion m3 of gas.

Other fields

The East Mediterranean has been "an explorer's paradise in the past decade with giant low-cost gas discoveries", explained Aditya Saraswat and Pranav Joshi, analysts at Rystad Energy. In Israeli waters, local company Delek



READING: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson reacts as he sits with hospital workers during his visit to Royal Berkshire NHS Hospital to mark the publication of a new review into hospital food. —AFP

wider fence-mending policy if elected. "But certainly issues related to Brexit are going to be addressed much differently in a Biden administration than the Brexit enthusiasm of the Trump administration—and even that hasn't been easy going," the expert added.

The US-UK trade negotiation has been attracting close attention from Democrats, since Johnson in September introduced legislation that unilaterally strips Brussels of a role in regulating future trade between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. Biden, who speaks passionately of his Irish roots, warned that the trade deal would be dead on arrival if Britain, via its Brexit

policy, undermines Northern Ireland's Good Friday peace agreement.

In public, the British government refuses to take sides in the November 3 US election. But some Conservatives are showing no such reserve. In 1992, Johnson's former finance minister Sajid Javid moved to New York to work as a banker. Writing in the Daily Telegraph last week, he reflected on hearing Ronald Reagan's final speech to the Republican convention that summer. The former president appealed to "your best hopes, not your worst fears", Javid said. "Only one of the candidates can credibly say the same. Britain is better off with Biden." —AFP

False info, conspiracy theories target Florida Hispanic voters

MIAMI: Less than two weeks before the US presidential election, conspiracy theories, racist posts and disinformation are targeting Hispanic voters in Florida, a key constituency in the battleground state. A purported election fraud concocted by Democrats, an alleged plot among Jewish, Black and LGBTQ people to interfere in the election; these are some of the stories that have spread among voters in the United States, and among Florida Latinos in particular.

Take influencer Liliana Rodriguez Morillo, a Donald Trump supporter who is the daughter of singer Jose Luis "El Puma" Rodriguez. The Miami-based Venezuelan shared an image to her 485,000 Instagram followers of fake driver's licenses confiscated in Chicago. "All registered to vote Democrat!" she wrote in Spanish. "Will there be fraud November 3? Are we playing dumb? Vote in person!"

There is no evidence that the licenses were linked to the Democratic party or to voter fraud. And US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) spokesman Steven Bansbach told AFP that CBP

Third attempt at Karabakh ceasefire quickly collapses

STEPANAKERT: A third attempt at halting weeks of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh collapsed quickly yesterday with Armenia and Azerbaijan trading accusations of violating the US-brokered ceasefire within minutes. As fighting over the disputed region enters its second month, international mediators are scrambling to bring a stop to frontline clashes and shelling of civilian areas that have left hundreds dead.

The latest "humanitarian ceasefire" was announced by Washington on Sunday, after truces brokered by Russia and France fell apart over previous weekends. It took less than an hour after the ceasefire was due to begin at 8:00 am for the first accusations to be made. Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said Armenian forces had shelled the town of Terter and nearby villages in "gross violation" of the truce. Armenia's defense ministry said Azerbaijani forces had "grossly violated" the cease-

Gas and tensions in east Mediterranean

LONDON: The discovery in recent years of huge natural gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has whetted the appetite of nearby countries but exacerbated geopolitical tensions between Turkey and its neighbors. Relations have been strained in recent months following Turkish exploration and drilling operations in waters claimed by both Cyprus and Greece. Here is the latest on these so-called "blue gold" reserves.

Cypriot fields

Cyprus, which has aspirations of becoming a major energy player in the region, has a key exclusive economic zone (EEZ), divided into 12 blocks and potentially rich in gas. Last November, it signed its first operating license



CLEARWATER, Florida: Angela Harrison, a supporter of President Donald Trump, waves at cars passing by near the Pinellas County Courthouse early voting polling station on Sunday. —AFP

Trump, who is head-to-head with Democrat Joe Biden in Florida, a crucial state in the November 3 election. Hispanics in Florida make up 17 percent of a 14 million voter electorate. Biden, the Jewish community, and African Americans have been the subject of disinformation. Venezuelan radio host Carines Moncada of Actualidad Radio, a mainstream Spanish-language outlet in Miami, recently associated the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement with witchcraft. —AFP



An Armenian soldier fires artillery on the frontline on Sunday during ongoing fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh. —AFP

dead in the fighting, mainly Armenian separatist fighters but also dozens of civilians. Azerbaijan has not released any figures on its military casualties and the death toll is believed to be substantially higher, with Russian President Vladimir Putin saying last week that close to 5,000 people had been killed. —AFP

begin exploiting the Leviathan field located 81 miles (130 kilometers) off the coast of Haifa in January 2020. Discovered a decade earlier, it is thought to contain 539 billion m3 of natural gas. The Tamar deposit—closer, at just 50 miles from Haifa—has been in operation since 2013 and its reserves are estimated at 238 billion m3. In addition, Israel has fields of smaller sizes, including Tanin and Karish. Neighboring Egypt also has a gigantic offshore field, Zohr, discovered in August 2015 by ENI, which could house 850 billion m3.

Gas pipeline

To transport this abundance of gas to the rest of Europe, and help meet its aim of reducing energy dependence on Russia, Cyprus, Greece and Israel struck an agreement in December 2018 to build a gas pipeline, called East Med. This 1367-mile pipeline is set to pass 106 miles south of Cyprus and end in Otranto, in southern Italy after crossing the Greek island of Crete and mainland Greece. —AFP

News in brief

Protesters target churches

WARSAW: Protesters targeted Catholic churches across Poland on Sunday in the fourth straight day of upheaval against a near-total ban on abortion in the EU country. Demonstrators chanted "we've had enough!" and "barbarians" inside a church in the western city of Poznan, according to a video clip posted on social media, in scenes that were repeated across the deeply Catholic country. The protesters were reacting to Thursday's ruling by Poland's constitutional court that an existing law allowing the abortion of damaged fetuses was "incompatible" with the constitution. The verdict is in line with the position of Poland's powerful Roman Catholic episcopate and the governing nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party. Protesters, brandishing placards bearing expletives and others saying "I wish I could abort my government", clashed with police and supporters of the ban outside a landmark church in central Warsaw. —AFP

Colombia rebel commander killed

BOGOTA: Commander Uriel, one of the main leaders of Colombia's left-wing National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels, was killed during a military operation, President Ivan Duque announced on Sunday. "This is a particularly important blow (to the ELN) because one of the most visible figures of this terrorist organization has fallen," the president said in a speech in Choco department, in north-west Colombia where the operation took place. According to the president, Andres Vanegas, 41, better known by his nom de guerre Commander Uriel, was responsible for kidnappings, murders and recruiting minors for his Marxist guerrillas. He is also accused of being behind a car bomb attack on a police academy in Bogota in January 2019 which killed 21 recruits. After that attack, Duque ended peace talks with the ELN that had been started by his predecessor, Juan Manuel Santos. —AFP

Chileans vote for constitution

SANTIAGO: Chileans voted overwhelmingly in a landmark referendum Sunday to replace their dictatorship-era constitution, long seen as underpinning the nation's glaring economic and social inequalities. The result set off wild celebrations across the capital and other cities after voters threw out the constitution left by the regime of 1973-1990 dictator Augusto Pinochet. Thousands of people flocked onto the streets of Santiago amid a cacophony of horn-blowing to celebrate a crushing victory for the "Approve" campaign - by 78.28 percent to 21.72 with over 99 percent of the votes counted. "I never imagined that us Chileans would be capable of uniting for such a change!" said a jubilant Maria Isabel Nunez, 46, as she walked in the crowd hand-in-hand with her 20-year-old daughter. —AFP

Early US voting surpasses 2016

WASHINGTON: Early voting in the 2020 US election has surpassed all the pre-election ballots from four years earlier, an independent voter monitor said Sunday, with nine days still to go before the November 3 poll. Millions of Americans wary of crowded polling booths during the coronavirus pandemic and energized by an election fight that both President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden have framed as existential are smashing records for casting ballots, whether by mail or in person. The tally by the independent US Election Project, run by the University of Florida, said that as of Sunday more than 59 million people had voted so far. That is higher than the 57 million who voted early or by mail in 2016, according to the US Election Assistance Commission website. —AFP

International

Malaysia's leader faces calls to quit after failed bid for emergency rule

King rejected Muhyiddin's request for emergency

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin faced calls to resign yesterday as doubts swirled over the support that he commands, after the king rejected his request to declare a state of emergency to fight the coronavirus epidemic. Muhyiddin had requested emergency rule amid a fresh spike in infections in Malaysia and a global pandemic that has battered the economy. But critics accused him of using it as a pretext to suspend parliament and avoid a test of his razor-thin parliamentary majority.

King Al-Sultan Abdullah's refusal is seen further eroding Muhyiddin's grip on power, a month after opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said he has majority support in parliament, including from defectors from the ruling alliance, to form a new government. Turning down Muhyiddin's request on Sunday, the king also asked politicians to end any politicking that could destabilise a government that he said has handled the pandemic well, and stressed the importance of the 2021 budget scheduled to be set before parliament on Nov. 6.

But leaders of other parties in Muhyiddin's coalition and the opposition criticized his move to seek emergency powers and called on him to step down after the bid failed. "Thankfully, His Majesty the King was not influenced by the political game that could drag the country into more critical territory,"

said Ahmad Puad Zarkashi, a senior leader in the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) - the largest party in the ruling coalition - said in a post on Facebook. "The people's wellbeing is more important. By right, Muhyiddin should step down," Ahmad Puad said.

Opposition lawmaker Wong Chen said Muhyiddin's "malicious" proposal was rightfully rejected by the king, and that the premier should resign or fire ministers who proposed the emergency. The Southeast Asia nation was plunged into political instability in late February following the resignation of the previous prime minister, veteran politician Mahathir Mohamad, after his coalition broke apart, and former ally Muhyiddin forged a new alliance with UMNO to become prime minister.

Within weeks, Muhyiddin was faced with the coronavirus crisis, but the new ruling coalition is also beset with infighting, with UMNO seeking to exert more influence. And some of the UMNO's corruption tainted leaders, notably former prime minister Najib Razak, have been trying to revive their political fortunes. Some in UMNO have called for polls to resolve the crisis, but others are opposed to holding an election due to the pandemic.

In response to speculation, Ismail Sabri, senior minister of security, said a dissolution of parliament that would lead to elections was not discussed in a

Coalition partners, opposition call for PM to step down



KUALA LUMPUR: A couple looks at the skyline of the Malaysian capital on Sunday. —AFP

special cabinet meeting held yesterday. The country's politicians, however, could be influenced by the king's call to avoid politicking, and put the nation's needs first, analysts said. "The King appears to be sending a signal that the government of the day will

hold, and that the Budget should be passed, and there should not be any political changes, at least for the time being," Shazwan Mustafa Kamal, a senior associate with political and policy risk consultancy Vriens & Partners, said. —Reuters

Anger over Italy's COVID rules; curfews enforced around Europe

ROME: Anger was growing in Italy yesterday over harsh new coronavirus restrictions brought in to "save Christmas", while other hard-hit countries enforced curfews in a bid to avoid fresh national lockdowns. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's decision to close restaurants and bars from 6:00 pm and shut all theatres, cinemas and gyms for a month was widely criticized, even as scientists questioned whether it would be enough to stop the virus.

"These restrictions will be the end of us," said Giuseppe Tonon, 70, the owner of a restaurant in Oderzo, a small village in northeastern Italy. "We're not in a city centre, we're in the provinces. Our customers come in the evening or during the weekend," he told AFP after a photograph of him, slumped in despair at the news, went viral on social media.

Countries across Europe are seeing dramatic spikes in cases, and governments are taking drastic action. Spain imposed a new national state of emergency and overnight curfews, while France

set a daily record of more than 50,000 cases and extended an overnight curfew to cover areas home to around 46 million people. COVID-19 has now claimed the lives of 1.1 million people and infected more than 43 million globally.

The United States-still the worst-hit country-smashed its own record for new daily cases this weekend, pushing the issue up the agenda in the nation's presidential election campaign. Challenger Joe Biden accused President Donald Trump's administration of waving "the white flag of defeat" after a senior official conceded the government was not going to control the pandemic. But the battle was being won elsewhere: Australia's second biggest city Melbourne registered no new cases yesterday, and was set to exit lockdown this week after nearly four months of onerous restrictions.

'The end of us'

Conte told Italy he hoped the unpopular new restrictions, which deal a severe blow to sectors already on their knees after a national lockdown this spring, "will allow us to be more relaxed by Christmas", though he warned "hugging and partying" would still be out of the question. "Stop! We've brought in a decree to save you!" a cartoon Conte told a suicidal Father Christmas on the Corriere della Sera's front-page. Restaurant and bar owners were not laughing. The early closing times mean Italy's bustling aperitivo hour is gone, as are dinners out. Famed Italian conductor

aware of it," the spokeswoman said in a statement, adding that Facebook had "more work to do".

Facebook's last transparency report for the six months to December 2019, showed that Pakistan was the source of the second highest number of requests to curb content after Russia. A source with direct knowledge of the issue at Facebook told Reuters that the most requests for the removal of content relating to Islam came from Pakistan, exceeding other Muslim-majority countries. Facebook traditionally complies, as not doing so would be to break Pakistan's laws, the source said, adding that authorities would often send dozens of links at a time and demand they be taken down.

'Attacking Islam'

In his letter, Khan also referred to the situation in France, where, he said, Islam was being associated with terrorism. Khan said Macron had "attacked Islam" by encouraging the display of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Khan's comments came after Macron paid tribute to a French history teacher beheaded by an Islamist radical who wanted to avenge the use of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a class on freedom of expression.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said the French ambassador in Islamabad had been summoned to be given a diplomatic protest against Macron's "irresponsible remarks". Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan also criticized Macron, saying last week the French president needed mental help over his attitude towards Muslims. France then recalled its ambassador to Turkey. Pakistan and Turkey share strong ties, while Khan and Erdogan have developed a

country reported 337 new deaths and 5,960 new cases over the past 24 hours. A banner on state TV said that amounted to a death every four minutes. Authorities have complained of poor social distancing, and Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi said last week the death count could soon rise to 600 a day if Iranians fail to respect health protocols.

The closure of schools, mosques, shops, restaurants and other public institutions in Tehran, that was due to end yesterday, would now be extended until Nov. 20, state TV reported. "Extreme measures and limitations" will be imposed for one week in at least 43 counties where the infection rates have been alarming, the TV report added, citing officials. It added that 21 one of



TURIN: Taxi drivers stand next to taxis parked on Piazza Castello yesterday during a strike to protest against COVID-19 restrictions. —AFP

Riccardo Muti appealed publicly to the prime minister, saying closing down the arts would also "harm health".

"Defining... theatre and music as 'superfluous', as some elements of the government have, is ignorant, uncultured and insensitive," he said. Italy, the first European country to be hit hard by the pandemic, on Sunday registered 21,273 new cases. Regional heads had warned a new decree with strict measures would fuel social tensions, after street clashes in Naples and Rome last week. The World Health Organization's Italian government adviser Walter Ricciardi said it also may "not be enough" to stop the virus spreading. —AFP



LAHORE: Traders shout slogans during a protest following French President Emmanuel Macron's comments over the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) caricatures yesterday. —AFP

close relationship - particularly on the topic of Islamophobia. Khan's letter to Facebook and comments on Macron come as he faces pressure from a newly formed coalition of opposition parties seeking to oust him. The cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, first published in 2005 by Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, have long been a sensitive topic among Muslims, stirring protests in Pakistan and elsewhere. Tens of thousands of people protested in Pakistan last month when the cartoons were republished by the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo.

Khan's government has subjected a number of social media apps to intense scrutiny and banned some for content authorities deemed obscene or immoral. —Reuters

Iran's 31 provinces were on a coronavirus red alert.

Tehran has blamed U.S. sanctions for hampering its efforts to tackle the outbreak. Washington, accusing Iran of "incompetent and deadly governance", has refused to lift sanctions that were reimposed after 2018 when Trump exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers. Yesterday's data took Iran's total death toll to 32,953 and the number of identified cases to 574,856, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said. Some experts have doubted the accuracy of Iran's official coronavirus tolls. A report by the Iranian parliament's research centre in April suggested that the coronavirus tolls might be almost twice as many as those announced by the ministry. —Reuters

News in brief

Pompeo in India over 'threats'

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in New Delhi yesterday, kicking off a four-country Asia tour that he has said will focus on the "threats" posed by China. Joined by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for the two-day visit, Pompeo will hold top-level talks following a spike in tensions between India and China since a deadly border clash in June. India has sought US cold weather equipment as the slowdown goes into the freezing Himalayan winter and officials said this could be raised when Pompeo and Esper meet India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The world's two biggest democracies are expected to sign an agreement on sharing geo-spatial intelligence, paving the way for the United States to ship sophisticated missile technology, officials said. —AFP

Philippine envoy ordered home

MANILA: The Philippines ordered its ambassador to Brazil to return home yesterday after video footage showed her "mistreating" a Filipino domestic helper. Marichu Mauro, who was posted to Brazil in 2018 and also had jurisdiction over Colombia, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela, was under investigation, the foreign ministry said. "The Department of Foreign Affairs has instructed the Philippine Ambassador to Brazil to return home immediately following release of video footages showing her berating and mistreating her household staff," the statement said. The announcement came after Brazil's GloboNews broadcast security camera footage which they said showed Mauro repeatedly assaulting a female member of her household staff. GloboNews said the woman worked at the ambassador's official residence in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia. The images-dated from March to October-were used as evidence in a complaint lodged against Mauro in late August, it said. —AFP

Iraqi protesters, police clash

BAGHDAD: Dozens of Iraqi protesters again clashed with security forces in Baghdad yesterday, a day after a rally marked the first anniversary of the start of nationwide mass anti-government demonstrations. Police fired stun grenades and tear gas at protesters who were burning tyres and hurling rocks on the strategic Al-Jumhuriyah bridge across the Tigris River leading to the highly-fortified Green Zone, an AFP photographer reported. The bridge, barricaded by towering concrete walls, separates the Green Zone from Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the old and new demonstrations. The highly-secure Green Zone, where government offices, parliament and the US embassy are located, is off-limits to ordinary Iraqi citizens. In a repeat of last year's demonstrations, rallies were also held in Shiite Muslim-dominated southern towns and cities. —AFP

Nigeria struggles with unrest

LAGOS: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has appealed for "peace" as authorities struggled to halt looting across the country, the latest in a wave of unrest sweeping Africa's most populous nation. A statement from the presidency said Buhari backed a judicial inquiry in Lagos "to give justice to peaceful protesters who lost their lives, security men who were murdered" and those who lost property in days of violence. The leader "appealed to the people all over the country to maintain peace and brotherhood as the machinery of the government and the wheel of justice turn against the perpetrators", it said. Peaceful demonstrations against police brutality erupted in Nigeria on October 8 and quickly snowballed into one of the biggest challenges to the ruling elite in decades. —AFP

Iran reports COVID-19 death every 4 minutes

DUBAI: Iran extended COVID-19 curbs in Tehran and across the country yesterday as health authorities said they were recording a death from the virus every four minutes. Some hospitals had run out of beds to treat new patients, the head of the national coronavirus task-force told state TV. "Our doctors and nurses are tired. I urge everyone to respect the protocols," Alireza Zali said.

The health ministry in the Middle East's hardest-hit

Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

African money transfer firms thrive

World Bank forecasts 20% drop in remittances to poor countries

JOHANNESBURG/HARARE: Having fled an economic implosion in his native Zimbabwe, Brighton Takawira was able to support his mother back home with modest earnings from a small perfume business he set up in South Africa.

Then the pandemic struck. Borders closed. The buses he had used to send his cash stopped running.

"I had to send something, even a few dollars," said Takawira, though it meant sometimes going without bread. So he tried out an online remittance company on a friend's recommendation. He is one of many African migrants being pushed towards digital transfer services, often for the first time, during the pandemic.

sprawling informal networks of traders, bus drivers and travellers used by many migrants to send money home.

"We've seen an influx of new customers, and we see them mainly coming to us from the informal market," said Andy Jury, chief executive of Mukuru, the company Takawira now uses.

Jury and other industry executives say that shift is likely to last as digital remittance services are typically cheaper, faster and safer than informal networks, which are difficult for governments to regulate.

Mukuru, which focuses mainly on African remittances and allows customers to send both cash and groceries, has seen a roughly 75 percent acceleration in growth compared to last year.

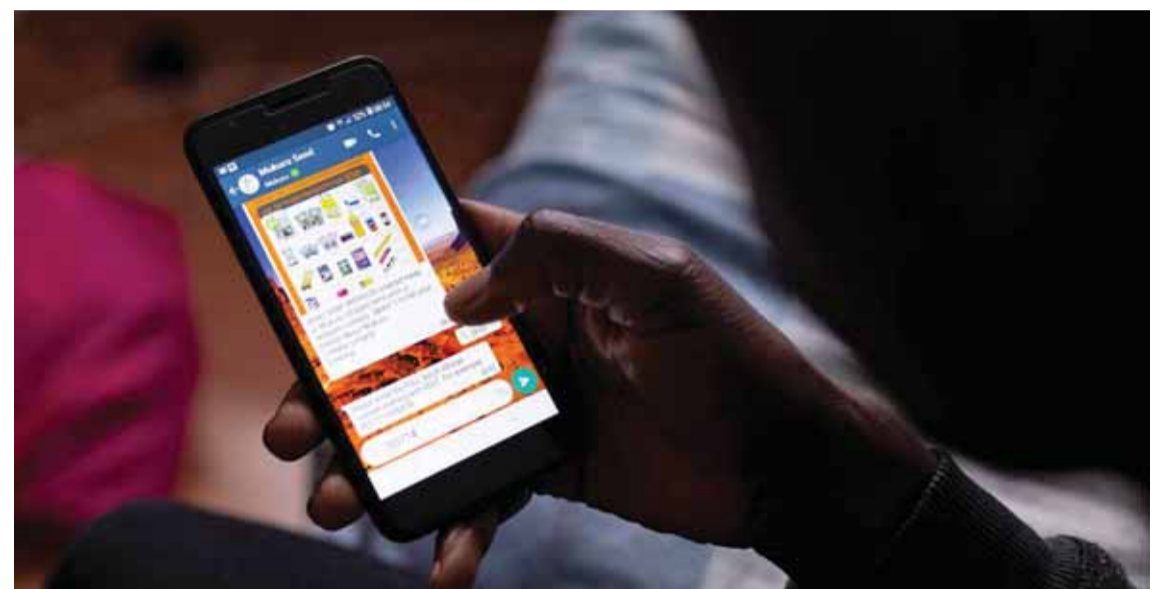
'Silver lining'

Remittances to sub-Saharan Africa officially totaled \$48 billion last year, according to the World Bank. Experts, however, say that figure tells only part of the story. Much of the money Africans ship home via informal networks is absent from official data.

As those networks ground to a halt during lockdowns, formal money transfer businesses - particularly digital platforms - were suddenly the only game in town. According to Kenyan central bank data, remittances to Kenya were up 6.5 percent through August compared to the same period last year. Remittance inflows to Zimbabwe were up 33 percent through July.

Online remittance company WorldRemit reported last week that transfers to Zimbabwe via its service had doubled over the past six months. Azimo, a UK-headquartered remittance company whose major African markets include Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya, saw a nearly 200 percent increase over the expected number of new customers in April, May and June.

"I'd swap it out for no pandemic any day of the week," Azimo CEO Michael Kent told Reuters. "But given that's what's happening, I think you are seeing



Despite predictions of a historic drop in remittances due to a pandemic-induced global economic slump, Africa's money transfer companies have seen a boom. — Reuters

digital adoption in financial services all over the place."

Remittance companies got an additional boost early on in the pandemic when African central banks reduced fees and loosened limits on digital transactions, to encourage the public to use digital services to facilitate social distancing.

"I would probably agree with the World Bank that the total amount (of remittances) will go down," said Dare Okoudjou, founder of MFS Africa. "But anyone who's in digital would actually gain market share and see their volume go up." The company, which runs networks across 36 African countries to channel remittances between mobile money accounts, has seen

year-on-year transaction growth of over 90 percent in 2020. The industry is now at an inflection point, analysts say. "If we can get the money flowing with less friction, it's going to be better for everybody. That's the silver lining," said Timothy Ogden, managing director of the Financial Access Initiative at New York University. Takawira, whose brother also works in South Africa, says he's now using Mukuru each month to send cash and groceries to his 60-year-old mother in rural Zimbabwe, where inflation is topping 650 percent. "My salary does not buy much ... When the boys send me money, it does help a lot," his mother Gladys Muzira said. — Reuters



Pandemic spurs online remittances

This is fuelling a boom for Africa-focused money transfer companies, despite predictions from the World Bank of a historic 20 percent drop to \$445 billion in remittances to poorer countries this year due to a pandemic-induced global economic slump. "We saw an increase of transfers as the diaspora wanted to help their family," said Patrick Roussel, who heads mobile financial services for the Middle East and Africa at French telecom company Orange - a dominant player in French-speaking Africa.

Like Takawira, many had to dip into savings or make other sacrifices to do so, analysts and company officials say. The pandemic gave remittance companies an advantage over their main competition in Africa: the

Pandemic plunges Lagarde into 'intense' first year at ECB

FRANKFURT: It's been a baptism by fire for Christine Lagarde whose first year as head of the European Central Bank has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic and the drastic action needed to keep the eurozone economy afloat. The former International Monetary Fund chief, who became the ECB's first female president last November, says the past 12 months have been "very intense" and at times "without much sleep" as policymakers confront an unprecedented economic shock.

"It has been a very tough time for Christine Lagarde," said ING bank analyst Carsten Brzeski, "and probably not what she had imagined when accepting the job." Lacking the technical expertise of her predecessors has caught her out over the past year but ECB watchers have also praised Lagarde, a former French finance minister and top corporate lawyer, for her political instincts and cool handling of the crisis so far. She will on Thursday chair her eighth monetary policy meeting at Frankfurt's gleaming ECB tower, with the 25-member governing council once again holding their discussions via video link because of virus precautions. The meeting comes as Europe battles a spike in coronavirus infections that is forcing countries to reimpose some of the painful lockdowns that pummeled the economy in the spring. Lagarde, 64, warned last week that the second COVID-19 wave and new restrictions "are adding to the uncertainty and weighing on the recovery" in the 19-nation euro area.

Nevertheless, observers expect the ECB to adopt a wait-and-see approach Thursday, before adding greater muscle to the bank's pandemic stimulus in December.

'Extraordinary times'

When Lagarde first arrived in Frankfurt, a key task on her to-do list was to patch up a rift between ECB members openly divided over her predecessor Mario Draghi's ultra-loose monetary policy. But the spat was quickly overshadowed by the pandemic, which saw the ECB leap into action and roll out a 1.35-trillion-euro emergency bond-buying scheme to keep credit flowing and cushion the impact from the biggest global downturn since World War II.

"Extraordinary times require extraordinary action," Lagarde said, stressing that the ECB stood ready to do even more. "Under her leadership the ECB has been successful in averting a sovereign debt crisis," said Andrew Kenningham of Capital Economics, although Lagarde



European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde, wearing face mask, attends the 16th Congress of Regions (Congres des Regions) in Saint-Ouen, north of Paris. — AFP

"has on occasion seemed unsure of herself in handling some of the more technical economic aspects of the job". Lagarde notably gaffed in the early stages of the pandemic, triggering a sell-off in bond markets after saying it was not the ECB's job to "close the spread" between Italian and German bond yields.

She learned the hard way that "every single word of the ECB president can have an enormous impact," Brzeski said. "It is under Lagarde that the ECB (website) had to introduce the 'blog' entry to repair any communication damage from the press conference the day after."

'More collegial'

Under Lagarde's leadership, ECB board members and eurozone central bankers are communicating more frequently with the media, giving markets more insight into their thinking in between the six-weekly policy meetings. The ECB's communication is "more collegial than under Draghi," noted Gilles Moeck, chief economist at insurance firm AXA.

Lagarde's political experience has given weight to her pleas for European leaders to use their fiscal firepower to support the ECB's efforts. She has praised the European Union for agreeing a historic 750-billion-euro rescue fund and urged governments not to withdraw their coronavirus support for businesses and citizens too quickly. Lagarde's diplomatic skills "help in a crisis situation where good coordination between monetary and fiscal policy is more important than ever," said Fritzi Koehler-Geib, chief economist at German public bank KfW.

The ECB boss has also focused on "greening" the ECB's agenda-climate change is among her chief concerns-and launched a major review of the bank's tools and goals, due to conclude next year.

Lagarde herself has vowed to be a "consensus builder" and said she is not "overly concerned" by diverging opinions, as the bank weighs the crucial next steps to take. — AFP

Consider all options to cut emissions: Saudi minister

SINGAPORE: Saudi Arabia's energy minister said yesterday the world should be looking at all options to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases in its fight against climate change, but that getting rid of oil and gas would be "far-fetched and unrealistic". "Let's not focus on the fuel of choice but rather how we can mitigate and adapt to these realities without showing any preferences," Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told the Singapore Energy Summit.

Prince Abdulaziz said he embraces technologies that would allow the country which sits on the biggest hydrocarbon reserves in the world to make full use of its resources. For example, Saudi Arabia is building solar power plants to free up oil and gas for exports. In response to a question about how OPEC+ has ensured high compliance with production quotas, Prince Abdulaziz said: "Engaging people as equal, ensuring that people do understand that the lack of conformity and lack of commitment would undermine ... the credibility of this agreement to the market."

"Therefore the market, instead of rewarding us, it would actually penalize, and the more it penalizes, the less the others who are in conformity with it would see the point of continuing control, and then all of this will cascade down to nothing."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and their allies including Russia, a group known as OPEC+, are cutting output by about 7.7 million barrels per day to balance the global oil markets after demand was severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Supply cuts by OPEC+ have helped revived global oil price Brent to above \$40 a barrel although rising COVID-19 cases has again depressed prices. "The fear now is for a re-occurrence of a second wave," Prince Abdulaziz said, responding to a question about the global oil market. However, he added he was optimistic that "everybody has learned harsh and tough lessons of attending to the first wave". "What we need to do is to continue working, attending and improving the world economy and local economies yet ensuring that we will abide by (social distancing measures)," he said. — Reuters



ISTANBUL: A currency exchange office worker counts Turkish lira banknotes in front of the electronic panel displaying currency exchange rates at an exchange office in Istanbul. — AFP

Turkish lira slides to record low against dollar

ANKARA: Turkey's lira yesterday set a new record low against the US dollar after the central bank refused to raise its main interest rate and tensions increased sharply with the country's Western allies. The lira was at 8.03 against the dollar at around 0730 GMT, suffering a loss of nearly one percent since the start of the day. The Turkish currency also recorded its lowest level against the euro, trading near 9.52.

The lira has lost 26 percent of its value against the dollar since the start of the year.

Turkey's central bank last week upset the markets which had expected a 175 basis points hike to the one-week repo rate. The bank opted instead to keep the rate unchanged at 10.25 percent despite market concerns over persistently high inflation, which remains in double-digits, and worries about a sharp drop in foreign currency reserves.

Consumer price inflation was 11.75 percent in September. The bank's governor will deliver the quarterly inflation report on Wednesday in Istanbul. The lira's decline comes at a time of strained relations with NATO allies including France, Greece and the United States over multiple issues.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan angered Paris after he said his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron needed to have "mental checks" at the weekend. France responded by recalling its ambassador to Ankara and on Saturday described Erdogan's comments as "unacceptable". — AFP

Microsoft quietly prepares to avoid focus under Biden

WASHINGTON: Microsoft Corp, which has largely evaded Washington's scrutiny of Big Tech companies and scored a lucrative \$10 billion government contract under the Trump administration, has emerged as a significant backer of the Biden campaign.

The Redmond, Washington-based software company is the fourth largest contributor to Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden's candidate campaign

committee, according to data from OpenSecrets, a website which tracks money in politics and campaign finance records.

The company's President Brad Smith is playing a key role behind the scenes, hosting a fundraiser for Biden last year in Medina, Washington. He is also a big dollar bundler - people who help raise more than \$25,000 for the Biden campaign - and had a public role during the Democratic National Convention, similar to Amazon.com Inc policy chief Jay Carney.

Microsoft Chief Technology Officer Kevin Scott and his wife have contributed over \$50,000 supporting committees helping Biden win, according to campaign finance records. And Microsoft board member and co-founder of LinkedIn, Reid Hoffman, and his wife have also donated generously to the Biden campaign. Hoffman's wife has contributed over half a million dollars to the Biden victory

fund. Microsoft senior executives also have donated more to the Biden campaign during the primaries than any other large tech company, according to data from the Revolving Door Project, part of Center for Economic & Policy Research (CERP). "Microsoft has been playing politics for much longer than the other large technology companies that are widely talked about," said Max Moran, a researcher at CERP, noting it has been around longer than most US tech companies. "It knows how to play the game on both sides of the aisle," he added.

Companies are prohibited by law from donating themselves. The contributions, according to OpenSecrets, were either made by the company's political action committees (PACs) themselves, members of the PAC or their employees. Microsoft spokeswoman said the company has a history of engaging with administrations on issues that matter to its business. —Reuters



Business

Caught by deluges and droughts, India's cities look to become climate smarter

While designing projects, urban planners consider growing climate risks

MUMBAI: India's southern city of Hyderabad is known as a high-tech hub - but its infrastructure is looking increasingly dated in an era of strengthening climate change impacts.

The city - home to offices of Microsoft and Google - this month saw its heaviest rainfall in a century, which left 70 dead and 5.7 billion rupees (\$77 million) in damage to roads and drains, officials said. In many cities in India, which find themselves increasingly caught between worsening droughts and deluges, urban planners have rarely considered growing climate risks when designing projects.

That lack of preparation - a global problem - is expected to be hugely costly, with about \$90 trillion likely to be spent worldwide building and updating infrastructure by 2030, according to the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. But India - hit by worsening disaster-related losses - hopes to begin correcting that with a project launched last month to train cities to become climate smart.

"Cities are experiencing huge variability in climate... one year there is flood, another year water scarcity," said Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar, who heads the Climate Centre for Cities at India's National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

The institute is helping India's housing and urban affairs ministry to implement the project, with Rajasekar at the helm. "It is not about looking at the past but looking at the future... how we can enable future development through informed action," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

The effort is part of an ambitious broader plan to modernize cities with everything from high-speed internet to better transport systems. Under it, 139 cities will be trained to integrate climate risk in the planning stage of projects. The "Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework" will tackle the "increasing frequency of cyclones, floods, heat-waves, water scarcity and drought-like conditions", according to the government.

Cities will incorporate climate considerations in their management of water, waste and mobility, and in projects designed to make cities walkable and air breathable. Virtual trainings have already begun with city planners and municipal authorities, officials said. Several Indian cities have over the past few years worked on achieving ambitious U.N.-led global goals to make cities sustainable and protect the planet but on a "case by case basis", said NIUA's Rajasekar.

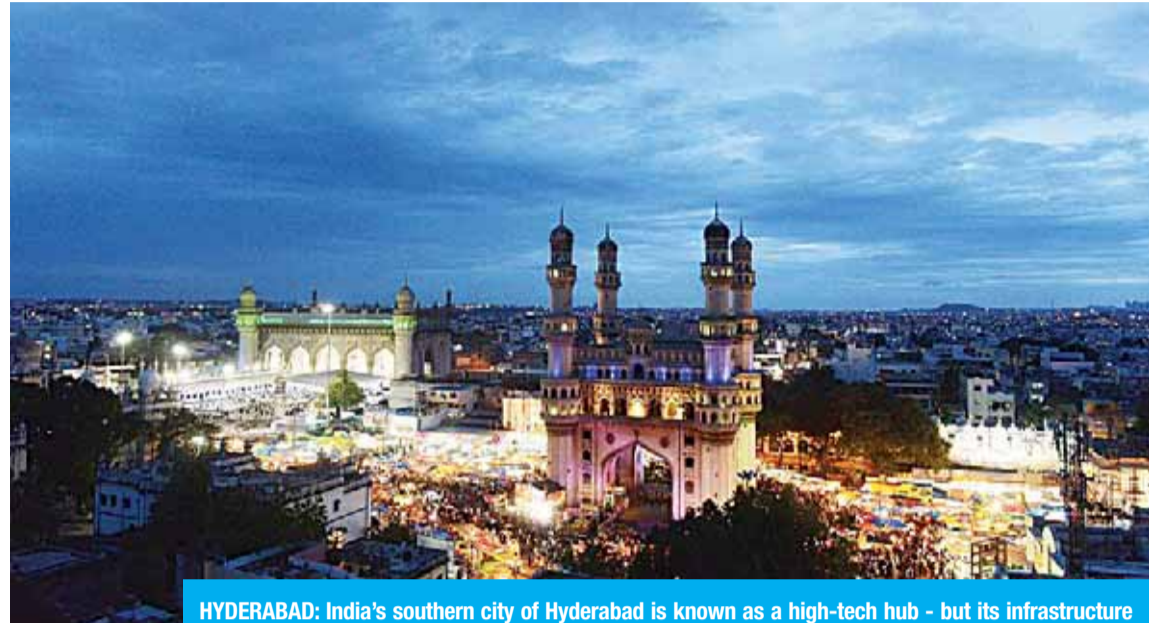
"These actions were happening in parts but we want to make climate part of their ongoing activity," Rajasekar said. "Cities should be informed of future climatic and demographic changes."

Climate cost

Threats to India's cities are growing amid worsening climate risks. Last year the country experienced a longer-than-usual summer, the biggest monsoon rains in 25 years, a record number of cyclones and unusual cold waves. In August this year, a new bridge in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh - still awaiting its official inauguration - was washed away as the river flowing under it swelled after heavy rains, local media reported.

Heavy rainfall has hit operations and shut down the largest and busiest airport in coastal Kerala state's Kochi for several days in 2018 and 2019. This month, machinery deployed at a planned new airport site in suburban Mumbai was submerged in floodwater amid heavy rainfall and water pouring in from a river diverted to make way for the airport, officials said.

Delhi and its satellite town Gurugram also were waterlogged once again this year as heavy rainfall lashed the capital. India has ranked among the top 10 countries globally in disaster deaths with a toll of 98,000 lives lost between 1996 and 2015, according to the UN disaster risk agency.



HYDERABAD: India's southern city of Hyderabad is known as a high-tech hub - but its infrastructure is looking increasingly dated in an era of strengthening climate change impacts. —AFP

Financial losses from climate-related disasters also totalled about \$80 billion for that period, it said.

Damodara Sivananda Pai, head of climate research and services at the India Meteorological Department, said the increasing rainfall over the last decade was in part a product of rising heat linked to climate change. But human changes to land also are playing a role in worsening flooding, he said. "Earlier, the rain would be absorbed in the soil. Now our drains are choked. Because of urbanisation, the impact (of the rainfall) is more."

'Do things differently'

India's population in the 70 years since it won independence from colonial rule has surged from

about 320 million to 1.3 billion, and the percentage of people living in urban areas has jumped as well, the country's census data and studies show. By 2030, India is expected to be home to seven megacities with a population of more than 10 million, according to government projections.

While the government supports urban growth, which can create opportunities for people, "the problem is, how do we want to grow?" asked Hyderabad-based urban planner and architect Srinivas Murthy. Cities in India have expanded into adjoining agricultural land, buildings have been constructed on filled-in lakes and roads are being built on land reclaimed from the sea to accommodate growing populations, expanding industries and more traffic. —Reuters

S Korean tycoons pay tribute to late Samsung chief

SEOUL: South Korea's billionaire business leaders lined up yesterday to pay respects to the late Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-hee, for decades the country's richest and most powerful industrialist. Lee died aged 78 on Sunday, six years after suffering a heart attack that had left him bedridden. Under his leadership, Samsung became the world's largest producer of smartphones and memory chips, and the firm's overall turnover today is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP. It is by far the largest of the chaebols, the sprawling family-controlled conglomerates that dominate business in the country. Attendance at Lee's mourning ritual - which runs until tomorrow will be kept low because of the coronavirus pandemic, Samsung said.

But a series of top politicians and tycoons arrived at the Samsung Medical Center in Seoul to pay tribute to Lee yesterday, including Hyundai Motor Group chief Chung Eui-sun and Korean Air chairman Cho Won-tae. "It's very sad that a great man has passed away," Chung told reporters, praising Lee's leadership "across entire fields of the country's business community".

The Hyundai group, founded by Chung's grandfather, is South Korea's second-biggest chaebol. Ruling Democratic Party chairman and former prime minister Lee Nak-yeon also praised the late Samsung chief for his "superb innovation that is unimaginable to an average man". "I want to thank him for elevating the country's status and pride," he



SEOUL: Korean Air chairman Cho Won-tae (front) arrives at a funeral hall to attend a mourning ritual for the late Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-Hee at Samsung Medical Center in Seoul yesterday. —AFP

said. Other attendees included the US and Chinese ambassadors, whose countries are at loggerheads over trade and other issues. The chaebols drove South Korea's transformation from war-ravaged ruin to the world's 12th-largest economy, but have long been accused of murky political ties and stifling competition.

Lee Kun-hee himself was twice convicted of criminal offences, in one case for bribing a president, though he was later pardoned. His son and heir Lee Jae-yong is currently being retried on corruption and other offences linked to the scandal that brought down former president Park Geun-hye. He also faces a separate fraud case over company deals said to be linked to his succession. —Reuters

How real are our virtual lives at work and play?

NEW YORK: As our lives become more virtual with technology, how do gadgets define our identity at work, home and social circles at this unique moment in history?

Mary L. Gray, an anthropologist and recent recipient of a 2020 MacArthur "genius grant," looks at the way technology affects labor, identity and human rights. Gray, 51, who is based in Somerville, Massachusetts, discusses how digital culture can improve our professional as well as personal lives. Below are edited excerpts.

Q: Nearly six in 10 workers say that working from home means their day is less defined, according to a recent study. What are your thoughts on how technology is keeping us connected to work more than we probably want or need it to?

A: Remote work is not new to anyone who does contingent work. Contract workers, who have no healthcare benefits and can be fired at any time, work as much as they need to make ends meet, and they have always done that work around family demands.

What is new is the experience of the salaried worker now working from home, who is figuring out how to juggle eldercare, childcare, household chores and everything else. That's the thing about this pandemic - it drove so many of us to the realities that gig economy workers live every day.

Q: How can we make technology matter, but not overshadow our life?

A: By understanding that technology is not the thing that

matters. What matters is how can we apply technology to problems where we see inequity. Take broadband: It's expensive to access data plans in rural parts of US Rural broadband won't fix rural poverty. But it's a lever. The internet is not a "nice-to-have." It's essential to economic productivity.

Q: Are you worried that we are all spending too much time online these days?

A: No. What were our options before Facebook? The internet provides a place to connect, explore and be seen. We all crave social connection, especially right now.

Q: What is your advice for parents who worry about too much "screen time"?

A: We have a popular narrative that says video games are bad, and parents are bad if they let kids sit in front of screens all day.

The more pressing question is what are we trying to achieve when we are on our screens? The most valuable skill is teaching kids to evaluate and critically analyze what is in front of them. They need to learn how to make sense of the world, to think through a problem and how to identify sources.

If there is one thing our democracy needs, it is fact checking. Through screens, young people are learning how to collaborate, and even how to work with a group they've never met before. It's not always obvious to parents, but if kids are developing skills to learn how to learn, that is a good thing.

Q: What form of technology is most indispensable to you?

A: I feel like I could live without all of it. I'm quite conscious of the connections I have with people - that's the most important structure we can put in our lives. If pushed to pick one form of technology, I'd say I rely on the phone the most to stay in touch with family and friends. But mostly it's just talking, not FaceTime. My dad is 91. He doesn't have internet in his house. And he has a flip phone. —Reuters

German business morale falls on virus angst

BERLIN: German business morale fell for the first time in six months in October, weighed down by companies' concerns about rising coronavirus infection rates that are making them more cautious about the coming months, a survey showed yesterday.

The Ifo institute said its business climate index fell to 92.7 from a downwardly revised 93.2 in September. A Reuters poll had foreseen a decline to 93.0. "Companies are considerably more skeptical regarding developments over the coming months," Ifo President Clemens Fuest said in a statement. "In view of rising infection numbers, German business is becoming increasingly worried."

The cooling of the sentiment in Europe's largest economy coincides with a survey showing British consumer confidence also falling for the first time in six months. An easing of lockdown measures, coupled with an unprecedented array of rescue and stimulus packages, led to a robust recovery in the third quarter from a 9.7 percent second-quarter slump, but a spike in new coronavirus cases has caused concern activity could slow again.

Reliance to push on with retail deal in battle with Amazon

MUMBAI: Indian conglomerate Reliance has dismissed Amazon's push to delay its acquisition of domestic retail giant Future Group, despite an arbitration panel suspending the deal following objections by the US online titan. The row is the latest development in a prolonged battle for dominance in India between Reliance, owned by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, and Amazon, whose founder Jeff Bezos is the world's wealthiest person.

Amazon, which owned a stake in one of Future Group's firms that reportedly included an option to buy into the flag-

The number of confirmed cases in Germany rose by 8,685 to 437,866, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases showed yesterday.

The Ifo survey did not point to another economic slump, said ING economist Carsten Brzeski. "But as all of Europe is in the second wave of the virus, today's Ifo index definitely marks the end of the rebound and the start of double-dip fears," he added. Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe forecast fourth-quarter growth of 2.1 percent, but said that could prove too optimistic if rising infection rates triggered a second lockdown. Rising infections in France, Italy and Spain were also hitting exports, he added.

"The real hit would come if schools and kindergartens had to close," he said. "That would have a massive impact on the economy and industry." Chancellor Angela Merkel wants to avoid that scenario and on Saturday reinforced her appeal to Germans to curb social contacts and keep travel to a minimum.


Wohlrabe said the auto industry was one bright spot. "The car-makers are doing really well at the moment." Recent German data has been mixed.

Consumer morale fell heading into November as fears about a second coronavirus wave made Germans less willing to spend, a survey showed last Thursday. A separate survey on Friday showed private sector activity grew for the fourth month running in October. Manufacturing expansion accelerated, but services activity shrank, suggesting the economy is operating at two speeds. —Reuters

ship company, claims that the \$3.4-billion Reliance deal, announced in August, amounted to a breach of contract. After an arbitration panel ordered the deal to be put on hold following Amazon's request, Reliance said late Sunday that it would nevertheless "enforce its rights and complete the transaction in terms of the scheme and agreement with Future group without any delay". Reliance's retail subsidiary RRVL said in a statement that it had followed "proper legal advice" before agreeing to buy Future Group, adding that the deal was "fully enforceable under Indian Law".

Reliance, Amazon and Walmart-backed Flipkart have been locked in a frenzied contest for a share of India's lucrative online market.

The acquisition of Future Group, which owns some of India's best-known supermarket brands such as Big Bazaar, would strengthen Reliance's presence in the hugely competitive e-commerce sector. The arbitration panel has 90 days to give a final verdict on the Reliance-Future deal. —AFP




شركة مشاريع الكويت (القابضة)
Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)

CONDOLENCES

**The Management and Staff of
Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)**

wish to offer their heartfelt condolences to

Mr. Sufian Shaikh

on the sad demise of his

Daughter

May her soul rest in peace and may

God grant comfort and strength to the

bereaved family members

Business

Al Mulla Automobiles announces arrival of new Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 4MATIC Coupe

Expressive, muscular and dynamic exterior; elegant and robust interior

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Automobiles Co, the sole authorized distributor and exclusive service partner for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, has announced the arrival of the new Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 4MATIC Coupe to Kuwait. The latest generation of Mercedes-Benz' flagship SUV Coupe debuts a dynamic new look, a fresh choice of wheel designs and improved aerodynamics, while providing an ideal balance between design, sportiness, performance and technology.

Commenting on this occasion, Michael Ruehle, General Manager- Al Mulla Automobiles-Mercedes-Benz Kuwait stated: "We are very excited about the arrival of the new Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 4MATIC Coupe. The new GLE 53 Coupe builds on the success of the previous model, with a sporty new design and dynamic driving characteristics that have become synonymous with AMG products. Our latest performance Coupe offers all of the advantages of a Mercedes SUV: ample space for passengers and luggage, extensive safety features and superior traction on damp or sandy surfaces. The new GLE 53 Coupe adds even more style and elegance to our SUV family, together with hallmark AMG features such as the brand-specific radiator grille. The attractive Coupe lines envelop sophisticated suspension technology and our powerful, efficient six-cylinder in-line engine with 48-volt technology, which is sure to guarantee a thrilling driving experience."

Exterior

The design idiom of the exterior is the embodiment of hallmark AMG Driving Performance. Membership of the AMG model family is obvious at first glance thanks to the AMG-specific radiator grille. The stylish and striking Coupe silhouette makes for a self-assured appearance, with design lines that convey the passion for performance. This is also confirmed by the prominent powerdomes surmounting the bonnet. Elegant details such as the Mercedes star in a double ring, the slim headlamps and the striking "A-wing" in the front apron accentuate the sharper all-round design.

The AMG front apron has model-specific features such as sporty outer air inlets, each with two side louvres in silver chrome, and black flies. Like the louvres of the air inlets and the trim on the A-wing, the front splitter is in silver chrome. The AMG side skirts and the spoiler lip on the boot lid are painted in the vehicle color. The flared wheel arch-

es allow space for the large wheels - 20-inch light-alloy wheels with AMG lettering are fitted as standard. A choice of six other wheel variants from 20 to 22 inches is available on request.

The newly designed rear apron with AMG-specific details such as a striking diffuser and a trim strip in silver chrome visually accentuate the vehicle's width. The special AMG exhaust system with two round twin tailpipe trim elements in high-gloss chrome rounds off the sporty, dominant look. Further individualization options are available in the AMG Night package. This includes heat-insulating, dark-tinted windows and also the front splitter, front apron trim, diffuser and outer air inlets, mirror caps, window frames and exhaust tailpipe trim elements in dignified black.

Interior

The look and feel typical of the brand also continue in the high-quality interior. Characteristic color highlights such as red contrasting topstitching on the upholstery and red seat belts ensure a thoroughly sporty ambience with a dynamic and exclusive touch. The AMG seats in black ARTICO man-made leather / DINAMICA microfibre provide optimum lateral support and have an AMG-specific pattern layout with "AMG" badges in the front backrests.

AMG-specific interior features and controls lend a typical AMG atmosphere to the cockpit and support the sporty, precise handling. The latest generation, three-spoke AMG steering wheel with aluminum shift paddles impresses with its optimum driver-oriented ergonomics. Alongside the AMG brushed stainless steel sports pedals with rubber studs, door sill panels and black floor mats with "AMG" lettering accentuate the sporty look.

A host of leather upholstery variants and a wide range of high-quality interior trim elements are available for further individualization of the interior. AMG trim elements in carbon fiber lend a particularly sporty touch to the interior.

Agile and precise

The AMG RIDE CONTROL+ air suspension newly developed in Affalterbach provides a driving experience characterized by both long-distance comfort and great agility, neutral cornering behavior and maximum traction.

One new feature makes a decisive contribution to the AMG-specific setup for high driving dynam-



Optimum handling

The electromechanical speed-sensitive power steering has a variable ratio. It impresses with its direct steering action and precise feedback. In addition, steering power assistance is adjusted in the two stages "Comfort" or "Sport". The configuration is automatically activated based on the selected AMG dynamic select drive program. Settings can optionally be personalized at any time in the "Individual" drive program.

Six-cylinder engine

The basis for the hallmark AMG vehicle dynamics is provided by the electrified 3.0-litre engine with twin turbocharging by a turbocharger and an electric auxiliary compressor. The 6-cylinder in-line engine generates 320 kW (435 hp) and delivers a maximum torque of 520 Nm. Its EQ Boost starter-alternator delivers an additional 16 kW (22 hp) and 250 Nm of torque for a short period, and also feeds the 48 volt onboard electrical system.

The EQ Boost starter-alternator combines a starter motor and alternator in a powerful electric motor and it is fitted between the engine and the transmission. This innovation as well as the intelligent charging via an electric auxiliary compressor and an exhaust gas turbocharger all have the same goal: to enhance the hallmark AMG performance and driving dynamics, but also to reduce fuel consumption and emissions. The GLE 53 4MATIC+ Coupe accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in just 5.3 seconds, and reaches an electronically limited top speed of 250 km/h.

Jazeera Airways to launch service to Muscat from Nov 2

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways yesterday announced the launch of a new service to the capital of the Sultanate of Oman, Muscat, starting from November 2, 2020, offering direct flights between Kuwait and Muscat once a week every Monday.

With these new flights, passengers can enjoy the rich history and culture of the capital, enjoy shopping, cliff-top landmarks, old forts, museums flower-filled parks and seafood over the sandy beaches. Scenically wedged between mountains and ocean, the city has a character quite distinct and hospitable to visitors. Commenting on the new route, Rohit Ramachandran, Chief

Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said, "We are pleased to be flying once again to Muscat and offering additional leisure options to the Kuwait market. Muscat and Oman generally are very popular with Kuwaitis. This is the third new route we have launched during the pandemic which shows that we are making good progress in building back our operations."

Jazeera Terminal 5 and Jazeera flights comply with all hygiene regulations to ensure a safe flying experience for passengers. Passengers are advised to check and comply with local health regulations in Kuwait and Oman before they fly.



Flight Number	Frequency	From	To	Departure (Local Time)	Arrival (Local Time)
J9 161	Monday	Kuwait	Muscat	05:45 am	08:35 am
J9 162	Monday	Muscat	Kuwait	09:20 am	10:35 am

CBK bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 200 million for 3 months with rate of return at 1.250 percent.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly Al-Danah draw on 25th October 2020 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 18 - 22 October 2020. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:
Mohammed Khalifah Mohammed Almulalla
Mustafa Sayed Hassan Alzelzela
Hameed Musalem Ali Almashmoum
Fadila Hussain Ahmad Abdulsalam
Abd Alredaa Sayed Hassan Almawsawi

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

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

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

Huawei unveils most powerful mate line-up with Mate 40 Series

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (BG) yesterday bolstered its product line-up with the advanced Huawei Mate 40 Series, the latest revolutionary flagship smartphones that empower users to leap further ahead. Showcasing the pinnacle of Huawei technology, the new Series reinforces Huawei's dedication to innovation and its unrelenting determination to create the best Mate ever.

The Huawei Mate 40 Series has the Mate Series DNA at its core. Over the last eight years, there have been 10 outstanding generations of Mate Series devices and now the latest flagship smartphones take Mate to new heights with the best technology in the industry. From powerful performance to unique user interactions, everything about the Huawei Mate 40 Series has been fine-tuned to provide the most exciting smartphone experience possible. Huawei Mate 40 Pro and Huawei Mate 40 Pro+ incorporate the world's first 5 nanometer 5G SoC, Ultra Vision Cine Camera system and the iconic Space Ring Design, as well as a smarter, more attentive digital experience.

Richard Yu, Executive Director and CEO of Huawei Consumer BG said: "Each year the Huawei Mate Series brings the most exciting technology together into one stunning package. This is what defines the Mate Series DNA and is all made possible by our dedication to innovation. In these unprecedented times, we remain committed to creating a better future, with innovative technology that delivers a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of consumers. In the future, we will continue working closely with our partners to bring the Seamless AI Life experience to consumers all around the world." Pre-orders for the Huawei Mate 40 series will begin in Kuwait in November.



Iconic space ring design

Marrying iconic design with innovative technology, Huawei Mate 40 Pro and Huawei Mate 40 Pro+ are informed by the design principle that form manifests function. The uncompromised design of the Huawei 88° Horizon Display creates an immersive viewing experience in a compact package, while the silky curve also means the devices are comfortable to hold. The handsets also offer IP 68 dust and water resistance, a choice of both virtual and physical volume controls and enhanced mistouch prevention algorithms. Objects of sheer beauty, the Huawei Mate 40 Pro and Huawei Mate 40 Pro+ devices carry a small front camera cut-out, which is packed full of technology, with 3D Face Unlock, an Ultra Vision Selfie Camera and Smart Gesture Control.

Turn the devices over and you will see that the Huawei Mate 40 Series adopts the Space Ring Design, an evolution of the Huawei Mate Series' iconic circular and symmetrical design. Huawei Mate 40 and Huawei Mate 40 Pro are available in Black and White, as well as an enchanting Mystic Silver, a finish with a color-shifting effect that evokes the mysteries of the unseen. There are also two vegan leather variants, Yellow and Green. Meanwhile, Huawei Mate 40 Pro+ features an exquisite nanotech ceramic back panel available in two iconic colors: Ceramic White and Ceramic Black.

British companies dread a Brexit border breakdown

SEVINGTON, England: Deal or no deal, British companies will have to confront a wall of bureaucracy that threatens chaos at the border if they want to sell into the world's biggest trading bloc when life after Brexit begins on January 1. When Britain casts off from the European Union, firms that drive nearly \$1 trillion in annual trade will have to navigate myriad new rules and red tape that will increase costs just as COVID-19 bleeds the economies of the West.

Outside the EU single market where trade flows freely, Britain's exporters will have to complete a raft of paperwork including customs and safety declarations and navigate multiple IT systems to gain entry to Europe. But with a matter of weeks to go, companies used to trading as easily to Berlin as to Birmingham are yet to see the new IT systems.

Customs brokers have not been trained, operators do not know what information is required nor how the rules will be enforced.

Many have predicted chaos. Even the government has said 7,000 trucks could be held in 100-km queues in Kent, south-east England, if companies do not prepare. "It's going to be carnage," Tony Shally, managing director of freight specialist Espace Europe, told Reuters. "We'll be fire-fighting from the 1st of January." The current row over whether Britain leaves the EU with or without a deal has helped mask the fact that the deal on offer represents the biggest change to UK trade since the formation of the single market in 1993. Outside the bloc, companies will have to complete paperwork and submit goods for random checks to cross borders, increasing both the cost and time it takes to do business. — Reuters

Classifieds

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Rather hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

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

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 26/10/2020 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	36 °C	22 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	15 °C			
ABDALY	36 °C	17 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	36 °C	19 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	22 °C			
SALMIYAH	29 °C	25 °C			
AHMADI	- °C	- °C			
NUWAISIB	33 °C	16 °C			
WAFRA	36 °C	15 °C			
SALMY	34 °C	18 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	10/27	Rather hot	36 °C	16 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	10/28	Rather hot	35 °C	15 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	10/29	Rather hot	35 °C	15 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h
Friday	10/30	Rather hot	36 °C	16 °C	VRB	06 - 20 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:24

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	37 °C
MIN. Temp.	15 °C
MAX. RH	86 %
MIN. RH	05 %
MAX. Wind	S 18 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
Khalidiya	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

SITUATION WANTED

An experienced accounting and financial professional with big 4 firms background seeks job. Manage upto finalisation of accounts, auditing, transaction advisory and projects, business plans and familiar with Investments, banking, consulting general trading contracting and projects including oil sector etc. Pls call 65052066 (C5807) 26-10-2020

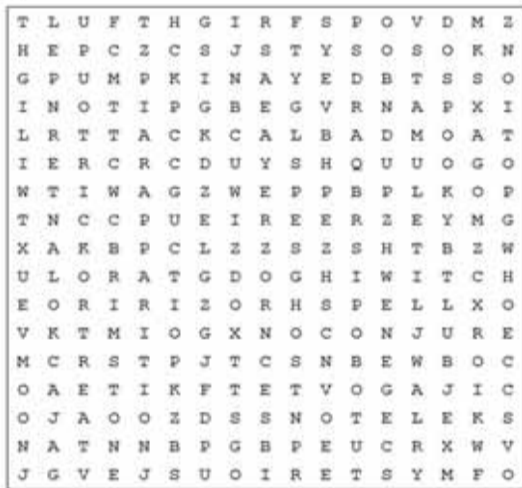
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aisha D/o Habeeb, have changed my name to Aisha Habibi and father's name changed to Habib Haji Abdulqadir, as per the National ID card and birth certificate for all purposes in future. (C5806) 23-10-2020

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
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1

Word Search



AMULET APPARITION BATS BLACK CAT BOO BRIMSTONE CACKLE CAULDRON COBWEB CONJURE EERIE FRIGHTFUL GHOST GOOSE BUMPS JACK-O-LANTERN MADON MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM POTION PUMPKIN SKELETON SPELL SPOOKY TRICK OR TREAT TWILIGHT WITCH

Join the Dots



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)
 Information that comes your way today could launch you into a search for truth, Aries. Perhaps this is a new business-related idea that you want to explore. It could be a new philosophical interest, and you will want to learn as much as you can about it. Whichever it is, your mind is sharp, so you're likely to finish the day a lot more knowledgeable than you were when it began.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
 You may have been expecting some money over the past several days, and today it could finally arrive. Delays in reaching your goals are finished for the moment. If you have a project you've been trying to complete, Cancer, this is the day to do it, especially if it involves paperwork. This isn't the day to compete with anyone, however. Your sense of cooperation is too strong.

Libra (September 23-October 22)
 Gatherings in your neighborhood could bring new and interesting information your way, Libra. A message from an acquaintance could send you down a new path toward a new goal. Relations with everyone around you - from your romantic partner to the most casual of acquaintances - should be warm and congenial. Conversations should be stimulating.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)
 Past impressions that you may not even know you have could enhance your ability to deal with practical matters today, Capricorn. You might need to handle some paperwork regarding a settlement of some kind. The thoughts and feelings of those closest to you are more apparent than usual. You may tailor your behavior toward them accordingly. Spend a quiet evening with your loved ones.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Although you're usually very responsible and you try to keep the proper balance between your home and professional lives, today your mind and heart are more focused on your home, Taurus. A warm sense of unity with family and close friends could make for a very pleasant day and an even more pleasant evening. Even finishing up paperwork will seem easier than usual.

Leo (July 23-August 22)
 You're feeling especially sharp, Leo. Your thoughts are more focused than usual and your mind especially penetrating. A promised get-together with friends or loved ones may have to be delayed, but it will take place. Information about possible business opportunities could come through periodicals, and if you like them, check them out. The outlook on anything that comes your way today is especially bright.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)
 Success in a project you've been working on could mean you want to go out and celebrate. You might feel guilty about doing it, but go ahead, Scorpio. Order a glass of wine and dessert! Tonight is the night to forget work and go for sheer, unadulterated pleasure. You have the break coming. Your efforts are finally being recognized, and you're on your way. Enjoy your good fortune!

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)
 Small social events and group activities are on the agenda today if at all possible, Aquarius. You may be introduced to someone who could prove helpful to your career. A letter containing good news could come from a friend or partner. Any new moneymaking enterprise begun now is likely to succeed as long as you stay with it and continue to face it in a businesslike manner.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
 Having a sense of community unites the people around you in aiming for a common goal, and this could be a new interest for you, Gemini. Warm and loving emails and calls could come from family, close friends, or your life partner. An impromptu short trip to a favorite place could result in a pleasant surprise. This promises to be a busy day and a great one.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)
 Practical thoughts may be the result of unconscious impulses brought to the surface by events at home. Old traumas and phobias could be released, although you should take care to not dwell on them too much or you'll reinforce them instead of getting rid of them. Your imagination is flying high. You might focus it on decorating your house. You could find antiques especially appealing.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)
 A subject that you've been studying for a long time might suddenly start making sense to you, Sagittarius. Or you could finally reach a point where you can make it work for you in a practical way. Your thinking now is especially clear, focused, down to Earth, and efficient, so whatever you try or start today is likely to lead to success. Don't let occasional self-doubt stop you.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)
 Glowing health and an enthusiastic attitude make almost anything a pleasure today, Pisces. Relations with friends and family are warm, congenial, and cooperative. Your day should go as smoothly as you could expect. There is something you want to do in the afternoon that you're looking forward to. In the evening, consider attending an online class, lecture, or workshop.

A GIANT BIODEGRADABLE LAND ART PAINTING BY FRENCH ARTIST GUILLAUME LEGROS



This aerial photograph shows a giant biodegradable land art painting by French artist Saype (Guillaume Legros) representing two hands clasped together on a 80-metre-long floating barge on the Bosphorus Golden Horn in Istanbul.



People look at French artist Guillaume Legros' (aka Saype) giant biodegradable land art painting. — AFP photos



French artist Saype (Guillaume Legros) lies on his giant biodegradable land art painting.



This aerial photograph shows a giant biodegradable land art painting by French artist Guillaume Legros (aka Saype).

GIACOMETTI SCULPTURE IN SEALED BID AUCTION – STARTING PRICE \$90MILLION

A sculpture by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti is being auctioned by Sotheby's with a reserve price of \$90 million but the winning offer today could remain secret as it is being sold by sealed bid. If "Grande femme I" sells for more than \$100 million, Giacometti will equal Pablo Picasso as only the second artist with four works beyond that threshold. The nearly nine-foot (2.68 meter) bronze of a spindly female figure, cast in 1960, is part of a series of large outdoor sculptures originally intended for Chase Manhattan Plaza in New York but never installed.

Under the rules of the hybrid auction, interested buyers can make only one secret bid of at least \$90 million. The auction closes at 1600 GMT today and the work will go to the highest bid, if it is

at least five percent higher than the second highest, otherwise a second round will take place. Unlike a traditional auction, Sotheby's will not reveal the purchase price, although the buyer can if they wish. Since 2010, three works by the Swiss artist, known for his elongated, emaciated figures, have already sold for more than \$100 million, the only sculptures to have reached this level. "L'homme au doigt" (Man Pointing), a 1947 bronze, sold for \$141.3 million at Christie's in New York in 2015, the most expensive sculpture sold at auction.

"Grande femme I" is "the culminating example" of Giacometti's work, said Brooke Lampley, vice chairman of Sotheby's global fine art division. "This work is really the apotheosis of his exploration of the female standing figure over

the course of his lifetime," she said. "It's mesmerizing. It places us in the artwork. How you encounter it and how it makes you feel is so much part of the work and his intention." Throughout his career, the sculptor gradually enlarged the size of his works up to the monumental "Grande femme I" towards the end of his life. "The Grande femme I" is intended to be vast, enormous and dwarfing to a regular human," said Lampley, to stimulate "reflection and an introspection about your place in the world." The star of the autumn sales at Sotheby's, the "Grande femme" will be followed tomorrow by a sale of contemporary art and a second of Impressionist works and modern art. — AFP



A person looks at Alberto Giacometti's "Grande femme I" during a press preview at Sotheby's for the upcoming Sotheby's Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale tomorrow, in New York City. — AFP photos



A person walks by Andy Warhol's "Albert Einstein" from Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century (1980), during a press preview.



A person looks at Frank Stella's "Untitled" during a press preview.



Alfa Romeo Berlina Aerodinamica Tecnica Concepts cars the B.A.T. 5, 7 & 9, a trio of extraordinary automotive sculptural designs are seen on displays during a press preview at Sotheby's October 23, 2020 for the upcoming Sotheby's Contemporary Art Evening Auction.



A person walks by Rene Magritte's "L'Ovation" during a press preview.



A person looks at Clyfford Still's "1957-G" during a press preview.



Pandemic halts bullfighting where animal rights activists couldn't

In a matter of months, the novel coronavirus achieved something that animal rights activists failed to do in decades: put a halt to bullfighting in Peru. The annual Señor de los Milagros (lord of the miracles) festival at Lima's Acho Bullring that usually takes place in October or November was cancelled this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. The 14,000 capacity Acho Bullring is currently being used to provide shelter for homeless pensioners affected by the pandemic. "There will be no bulls this year," Rafael Puga, a retired bullfighter who also rears bulls, told AFP. In 1973, he won the Señor de los Milagros festival's top prize, the Escapulario de Oro.

It's the first time since the festival began in 1946 that it's been cancelled. "But it's also the first time that the San Isidro festival in Madrid hasn't been held. It's due to a force majeure," sighed Juan Manuel Roca Rey, who organizes bullfights in the Acho ring and also rears bulls, using a legal term referring to events beyond anyone's control. Bullfighting-known as a corrida in the Hispanic world-was brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century and has since become hugely popular among Peruvians of all social classes. Peru has more bullfighting arenas than football stadiums.

The Acho arena in the Rimac neighborhood of Lima, built in 1766, is one of the oldest in the world and the oldest in the Americas. In Peru, "there must be 700 bullfights a year with 2,500 bulls killed," said Puga. But they have all been banned due to the pandemic that has killed 34,000 people and infected 875,000 in the country. Football, on the other hand, restarted in August after a five-month hiatus, although without fans. "The fact that there aren't any bullfights in the provinces is like death for breeders. Some won't be able to survive because the cattle eat every day," said Rey.

'It's good news'

"This doesn't just affect us artists but everyone that works around a bullfight,"

said bullfighter Fernando Villavicencio, 34. He said the ban has also affected bullfighter assistants, those who make the heavily-embroidered suits, stable owners of horses used in the corridas and cattle transporters. In Puga's ranch 140-kilometers northeast of Lima, he has 400 fighting bulls and 140 "mother cows." There's also a small square where novice bullfighters can practice. "We ranchers now have to live off other businesses. Some have even sent their cattle to the slaughterhouse, that is to reduce their livestock to a minimum to cut costs," said Puga, 72. Animal rights activists are celebrating, though.



In these file photos Peru's bullfighter Andres Roca Rey performs during the "Señor de los Milagros" festival at the Acho bullring in Lima. — AFP photos

"It's good news. There's no reason for the bull festival to go ahead," Luis Berrospi, an activist also campaigning against cockfighting, told AFP. In February, Peru's top court rejected a lawsuit brought by animal rights activists hoping to ban cock and bullfighting on the grounds they were unconstitutional. More than 5,000 people had signed a petition, submitted in 2018, demanding that "all cruel shows using animals" be banned. But the Constitutional Court ruled that "there is no universal declaration of animal rights that has been adopted by either the UN or UNESCO."

More expensive than football

Peru has 199 bullrings, according to official statistics, far more than its 80 football stadiums. Bullfighting websites claim that twice as many Peruvians pay to watch corridas than professional football. Tickets for the Acho Bullring also cost more than those for the national football stadium. Last year, a ticket for all five Sunday corridas during the Señor de los Milagros festival cost up to \$1,600. By comparison, the most expensive ticket for all nine of Peru's World Cup qualifying home matches was \$1,200. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Greek ghost villages wake up for tourists

The moonlight is the only light in the alleys of Mikro Chorio, the ancient capital of the Greek island of Tilos. And as in many other abandoned villages in Greece, they only come back to life for the tourists. When night falls, Mikro Chorio (Little Village in Greek) reawakens, as a handful of visitors sip cocktails at the small bar-museum at the foot of the ruins. "We are trying to bring it back to life," said the bar's owner Giorgos Aliferis. For years now, between 11:00 pm and midnight, he has been going in his little van to pick up customers from Livadia, the island's port, where all the villagers were relocated after World War II. "There was no water, no electricity, so people left looking for more comfort," Aliferis's partner Vania Yordanova said as she served drinks on the bar's terrace.

She first had to rush to get the power generator working for the bar after a bumpy 30-minute drive to Mikro Chorio. Then, the deserted island village suddenly lit up like a film set, melancholic Greek music echoing in the starry night. In the 1930s, the capital of Tilos—one of the Dodecanese islands in the southeastern Aegean Sea—still had 1,200 inhabitants, including three priests. But gradually the population headed to the

port, where business was thriving after 1947 when the Dodecanese islands were annexed by Greece from Italy. By the 1960s the school that had once served 180 pupils was also transferred to the port and Mikro Chorio's three cafes closed.

'Crazy dream'

Aliferis, who hails from the Peloponnese in western Greece, discovered the abandoned village of Mikro Chorio in the 1980s, after he arrived on the island when his brother, a doctor, went to work there. "I thought it was really sad that this village was deserted, and I had this crazy dream of bringing it back to life," he said. He keeps the bar open three to four months every year, welcoming a variety of customers. "Visitors come from everywhere—even from abroad—and the descendants of families who used to live in the village return and they are really moved," Aliferis said. But the project, he said, has "cost me a lot, financially and psychologically"—further complicated by the coronavirus pandemic, which has lost him as much as 80 percent of his revenue. Nor is he happy about the asphalt road that is due to be built to the village, which he fears will "change the landscape and the atmosphere".



This photo shows Mikro Chorio (that means Little Village in Greek) on the Greek Aegean island of Tilos. — AFP

Forlorn atmosphere

Mikro Chorio is far from being the only Greek village deserted by its inhabitants who migrated to towns and cities in the search for jobs. And through a variety of initiatives, both public and private, some local people are trying to breathe back life into some of those abandoned places. Vathia, a village on the Mani Peninsula in the southern Peloponnese,

boasts spectacular views of the sea. But its derelict stone castles and the scattered possessions of its former inhabitants, give it a forlorn atmosphere.

Some tourists visit for the 18th-century square towers still dominating the village that, while still thriving in the 19th century, was abandoned because of urban migration. A government-backed restoration project in the 1980s was in turn also scrapped, so the guesthouses remained

without visitors in the wind-battered village. Not far from there, the fortified town of Mystras, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1989, has become a major attraction, one of the 10 most-visited sites in Greece. Tourists flock to its paved alleys, admiring the elaborate frescos of the Byzantine churches and visiting the town's monastery, which is still occupied, even if the town itself was deserted in 1950. Spinalonga, a small abandoned island off Crete, still attracts tourists captivated by its dramatic past.

There, in the Venetian fortress that has become an archaeological site, patients suffering from leprosy stayed there until the early 20th century. Spinalonga is also known as the setting for Victoria Hislop's 2006 bestseller "The Island", a historical novel that was also adapted into a popular Greek television series. Other abandoned villages in Greece also come to life to cater for tourists that are looking for unusual destinations, like the 14th century Perithia on Corfu. Taverns in Perithia open only in the summer for the visitors, who are enchanted by the Venetian style buildings in varying states of dereliction and the prospect of hiking to the summit of Mount Pantokrator. — AFP



This picture shows South Korean television host Song Hae smiling next to his bronze statue on a street named after him in Seoul. — AFP photos



This picture shows South Korean television host Song Hae (right) and film director Jero Yun (left) walking on the street named Song Hae in Seoul.



This undated handout photo obtained from the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan on October 20, 2020 shows South Korean television host Song Hae in a scene from his documentary film "Song Hae 1927".



South Korean television host Song Hae speaking during an interview with AFP at his office in Seoul.

SPLIT PERSONALITY: THE ELDERLY KOREAN STAR SHAPED BY DIVISION

At the age of 93 the arc of South Korean television host Song Hae's life mirrors that of his country, from Japanese colonialism to war to cultural rise, chequered by suffering and loss. Song is known across the South as the host of "National Singing Contest", a talent show broadcast from a different location each week that has been running for 40 years and remains popular. His warm and funny personality has earned him a huge fanbase, from children to teenagers to the elderly, and the locations named after him include a street in Seoul and a park in Daegu. But Song was born in today's North Korea and was among the millions of people whose families were left divided by the Korean War—which he played a part in ending when he relayed the order to cease fire. "My generation lived in very hapless times," Song told AFP.

His extraordinary life is featured in a documentary that has its world premiere at the Busan film festival, Asia's largest, on Monday. Directed by the award-winning Jero Yun, "Song Hae 1927" focuses on Song's private grief and the turmoil of his family history—as well as being separated from his parents and siblings by the war, his only son was killed in a traffic accident at the age of 23. "Mr. Song is a survivor," said Yun, who has previously tackled themes of migration and North Korean defectors. "My question for this project was, how do we deal with the holes in our mind when we lose someone?"

'Fighting will cease'

Born as Song Bok-hee in 1927 in Jaeryong, in what is now the North, Song grew up during the Japanese colonial era, when he remembers being beaten for speaking Korean and spending gruelling hours cutting hay to feed Japanese cavalrymen's horses. "I still have a scar on my leg from those days, from cutting myself while using a sickle," he said. He studied singing at music school and once hostilities broke out, he regularly stayed away from home to avoid being conscripted into the North's forces. On one occasion his mother called him back as he was leaving. "She told me: 'Be careful this time.' So I just told her: 'I'm coming back in two days'."

It was the last time they ever spoke: with North Korean forces advancing he sought shelter on a US warship evacuating civilians to the South. He spent most of the three-day journey staring at the open waters, not knowing if he would ever be able to return home, and later renamed himself Hae—meaning "sea"—to remember the voyage that forever separated him from his family. In the South, Song became a military signaller, and says that he and his colleagues later transmitted the encoded message that ended hostilities and sealed the division of the peninsula. "We later learned it meant 'As of 2200 on July 27, 1953, fighting on all front lines will cease'," he lamented. "It was me who sent it, and even now I still can't return."

In a motorcycle crash. "I just couldn't say 'be careful of car accidents' on air after losing my son that way," he said.

In 1988 he took over as the "National Singing Contest" host—somewhat incongruously given that he had discouraged Chang-jin from pursuing a musical career. At the time professional singers like him were looked down on socially, and he followed the example of his own father, who had also sought to dissuade him. "It's a sin for a father to not understand what his child is going through," he said, wiping away tears. Song has since hosted almost 1,500 episodes of the show from every part of the South, and one installment in Pyongyang, during the "Sunshine Policy" rapprochement of the early 2000s.



South Korean television host Song Hae weeping during an interview with AFP at his office in Seoul.



South Korean television host Song Hae speaking during an interview with AFP at his office in Seoul.

'It's a sin'

In the subsequent decades South Korea has undergone an economic boom while enduring authoritarian military governments from the 1960s to the 1980s—Song was once interrogated for three days for complaining about hardships. The country has gone on to establish itself as a vibrant democracy and a technological and entertainment powerhouse. Song made a career as a singer, comedian and television personality, and spent 17 years hosting a radio show doing traffic reports, until his son Chang-jin was killed

But he was unable to visit his home town, pay his respects at his presumably long-dead parents' graves, nor meet the sister he had left behind, and cried throughout the journey back to Seoul. Unresolved feelings of sadness and resentment against injustice, known as "han", are a longstanding theme in Korean culture and literature. Song said: "Even an entire day would not be enough to count the things that I find to be filled with han." — AFP

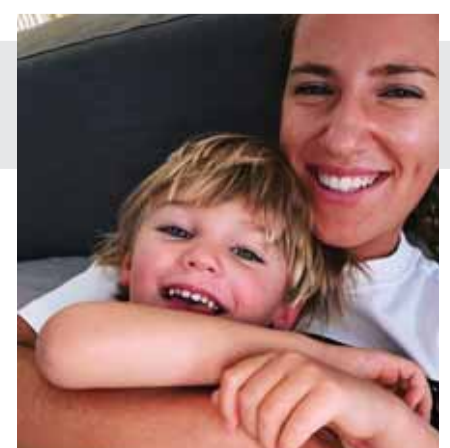
Azarenka's Halloween dilemma: Who will be Elsa?

Victoria Azarenka ended her season after reaching the Ostrava Open final on Sunday but she is now facing another tough battle—striking a deal with her son on his Halloween costume. After losing to compatriot Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2, Azarenka confessed she had had a "heated argument" with her

four-year-old son Leo who insists on being Elsa, the snow queen from the Walt Disney blockbuster "Frozen". "He likes to wear different costumes every day... and he's into Frozen and Paw Patrol now," said Azarenka. "I said, how about mommy's going to be Elsa, and he said, no, I want to be Elsa, and I said, well, Elsa is a girl,

and he said, well, I want to be Elsa." "So that started to be a heated argument and his dad suggested also that maybe he'll be Olaf but he didn't take that lightly, it was a blunt no," she half-sighed, half-chuckled. The former world number one and this year's US Open finalist still has almost a week to strike a deal with

Leo, but she knows outstanding diplomatic skills will be required to reach a compromise. "One Halloween, when we were able to do it together, we were all skeletons so hopefully we'll figure something out," she said. — AFP



Victoria Azarenka and her son

Sports

Photo of the day



Julian Wilson Project at Urban Surf Wavepark in Melbourne, Australia. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Kershaw shines; Dodgers on brink of World Series crown

Dodgers shake off a crushing defeat to beat Tampa Bay 4-2

ARLINGTON: The Los Angeles Dodgers, led by pitcher Clayton Kershaw's gutsy performance, shook off a crushing defeat to beat Tampa Bay 4-2 and move within one win of their first World Series title in 32 years on Sunday. Joc Pederson and Max Muncy homered for the Dodgers and Kershaw notched the 13th post-season win of his career - his fourth this post-season - as Los Angeles took a three-games-to-two lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship series.

"Tonight was a grind, all the way through," said Kershaw. "My slider wasn't as good as it was in game one. But I stuck with the game plan." "To only give up two runs is huge for me," Kershaw and the Dodgers, who came up agonizingly short in World Series appearances in 2017 and 2018, can lock up their first title since 1988 in game six at Globe Life Field in Arlington today. "It is very exciting, but at the same time we've got to win one more. I am going to keep it together for one more game," Kershaw said.

Kershaw, a three-time Cy Young Award-winner whose Hall of Fame resume is lacking a World Series title, pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up two runs on five hits. His six strikeouts took his career post-season tally to a record 207 - sur-

passing the 205 of Justin Verlander. Perhaps his most memorable throw to home on the night, however, wasn't a pitch, but a sharp throw to cut down Manuel Margo as he tried to steal home and thwart a Rays rally attempt.

The Dodgers insisted they were over the disappointment of game four, when a couple of Dodgers errors helped the Rays walk off 8-7 winners after being down to their last strike. It certainly looked as if they had put it behind them when they leapt on Rays pitcher Tyler Glasnow in the first inning. Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager said battling Glasnow and pushing up his pitch count would be key, and Los Angeles did a good job of it.

Mookie Betts led off with a stand-up double and scored on a single from Seager. Seager reached second and third on two wild pitches from Glasnow and scored on a single from Cody Bellinger before Glasnow - who became the first pitcher to throw three wild pitches in a World Series game - ended the inning after throwing 34 pitches. Pederson led off the second with a home run, clubbing a 98-mph fastball from Glasnow over the left centerfield wall to give the Dodgers a 3-0 lead. Muncy's towering homer off a Glasnow fastball with two outs in the fifth put the Dodgers up 4-2. "That one felt

pretty good," Muncy said. "(It's) not to many times you connect right middle of the barrel. It felt really solid."

The Rays had pulled back two runs in the bottom of the third when Yandy Diaz belted a line drive down the right field line that Betts couldn't corral for a run-scoring triple. Diaz scored on a single from Randy Arozarena, whose 27th hit of these playoffs gave him the record for most in a single post-season. Kershaw kept the Rays from building any momentum, despite the aggressive efforts of Manuel Margot, who drew a walk to lead off the fourth, stole second and reached third when the attempt to catch him at second failed.

Kershaw nailed Margot as he tried to steal home to end the inning and retired three straight in the fifth and two in the sixth before handing over to Dustin May. "It has happened to me before," of Margot's attempt to steal home. "I work on that with the first baseman. I just know now to step up fast and throw it." "That was a big out for us right there." Rays manager Kevin Cash called it a "frustrating inning." "Man on third, no outs, first and third, no outs. Pop-up, strike out and then get thrown out trying to do that. Ideally, we've got to find a way to get that guy in to tie the game there."

Dodgers fans, the majority of the 11,437 in attendance at the neutral venue, boomed when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts went to the mound to tell Kershaw his night was done after he retired the first two batters of the sixth inning. But they cheered Kershaw as he headed to the dugout and the Dodgers bullpen didn't let them down. May recorded five outs before yielding to Victor Gonzalez, who faced the potential go-ahead run at the plate in the eighth but retired Arozarena and Brandon Lowe to end the inning.

Rays aim to rebound

Blake Treinen gave up a leadoff single in the ninth, but retired the next three to gain the save. While the Dodgers looked toward Tuesday saying they needed to keep focused on the game at hand, and not on hoisting the trophy, the Rays said they would come ready to bounce back. Tampa Bay won game-five and game-seven series clinchers this post-season, and Kiermaier said they could do it again. "If there's any team who can respond well with their backs against the wall, knowing what's at stake - we're in a situation now where it's win or go home - our group is the group to come through," he said. —AFP

Qadisiya tops standings with nine points

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The final score of 2-1 in favor of Qadisiya football club does not reflect how tough and complicated the match was. The match of the third round between Qadisiya and Sahel saw Sahel's Talison score first in the 17th minute and the match continued with the same score though Qadisiya had the most possession until the 45th minute when the referee awarded Qadisiya a penalty kick which the veteran Bader Al-Mutawaa used to equalize the score.

In the second half, it was not until the 84th minute when Salem Al-Buraiki snatched the three points for Qadisiya, which now tops the standings with 9 points in goal difference with Fahaeel. Qadisiya started the match in an attacking mood from the first whistle while relying on Lucas in front of Bader Al-Mutawaa and Eid Al-Rashidi as Ahmad Al-Thafiri and Sultan Al-Enezi backing them up at midfield.

Meanwhile, Sahel made sure the defense remained solid and relied on counterattacks as the goalkeeper Nawaf Al-Mansour was able to thwart the scoring opportunities by Qadisiya, then Sahel surprised Qadisiya



by scoring a goal of their own in the 17th minute. Sahel almost scored again if not for the heroics of Qadisiya's goal keeper Khalid Al-Rashidi.

Qadisiya continued their attack in the second half as Sahel maintained a balanced performance - defending and attacking - until Qadisiya's substitutes Udai Al-Saifi and Salem Al-Buraiki arrived, thus yielding the winning goal in the 84th minute. The second match between Kuwait and Kazma ended in a 1-1 draw. Kuwait's Abdallah Al-Buraiki scored in the 73rd minute only to have Kazma's Nasser Faraj scoring the equalizer 7 minutes later from the penalty spot. Kuwait now has five points while Kazma has two.

It was a lively match between the two teams as both were trying to make up for lost opportunities in their pre-

vious matches. Kazma had the better start and attempted to carry out attacks but Kuwait's defense was very effective. The second half saw both teams adopting an attacking philosophy and it was in the 73rd minute when Abdallah Al-Buraiki scored after receiving a pass from Sami Al-Sane.

Kazma did not relent and remained on the attack and gained a penalty kick that was converted into a goal by Nasser Faraj in the 80th minute. Al-Nasr Sports Club defeated Khaiteh by the score of 2-0 as Salem Al-Mislati scored in the 49th minute and Mishal Favaz in the 60th. Al-Nasr now has 6 points while Khaiteh has a lonely one. Finally, the match between Tadhamon and Jahra ended in a scoreless draw. Tadhamon now has 4 points in 4th place as Jahra is in 5th place with 3 points.

Jahra Club honors Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah

KUWAIT: Chairman of Jahra Sports Club Nawaf Jadedd Al-Thabyan has lauded the support given by Sheikh Mubarak Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to the club. The club honored Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah during a ceremony attended by Chairman and members of the club in appreciation of the Sheikh's role. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah said his support of the club is a continuation of what his father Sheikh Abdallah Al-Mubarak had instilled in the form of supporting sports and athletes in Kuwait, as well as the sports establishments and sports facilities.

Sheikh Mubarak expressed respect for the clubs including that of Jahra - that is exerting all efforts to be one of the distinguished clubs. He praised Kuwait sport and lauded the support of HHI the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HHI the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Chairman Nawaf Jadedd presented Sheikh Mubarak a commemorative plaque at the end of the ceremony.



Sheikh Ahmad congratulates Tunisia over Ons

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah congratulated Tunisia Minister of Youth, Sports, and Vocational Integration Kamal Daqish as Tunisian tennis player Ons Jabeur reached the WTA's rank of 31 in the world. He also sent two similar letters to the President of Tunis Olympic Committee Mehrez Boussayene and President of Tunis Tennis Federation Dr Salma Al-Mouelhi.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber expressed his pleasure towards this unprecedented Arab achievement. Ons reached this rank

following her distinguished performance in Grand Slam tournaments, especially at Roland Garros - reaching the fourth round. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber said the Arab federation is ready to extend all possible support to the Tunisian federation and other Arab federations in order to make the sought after achievements.

He wished Ons Jabeur success in her career. Ons, who turned pro in 2010, became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament. She is also the highest ranked Arab Player in WTA history.



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah

News in brief

Real Sociedad back at top

MADRID: Real Sociedad overtook Real Madrid on Sunday to reclaim their place at the top of La Liga after thrashing Huesca 4-1. Mikel Oyarzabal scored twice, including one from a penalty, before Portu and Alexander Isak rounded off an impressive victory after Rafa Mir had briefly pulled Huesca level. La Real go one point above Real Madrid, although having played one game more than the reigning champions, and also become the first team to hold onto top spot for two consecutive rounds this season. Imanol Alguacil's side were in the mix for a Champions League qualification place last term, only for their form to fizzle out following the three-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic. But they have hit the ground running again in recent weeks, with only one defeat from their opening seven games and new signing David Silva showing against Huesca what an asset he could be for their bid for the top four. —AFP

Fluminense extend unbeaten run

RIO DE JANEIRO: Fluminense extended their unbeaten run to seven games with a convincing 3-1 win at home to Santos on Sunday. Luccas Claro put Fluminense ahead after 28 minutes when he headed home a loose ball and although Marinho equalized nine minutes before halftime, Nino gave Fluminense the lead again in the 56th with another header. Marcos Paulo made the points safe with a third in the dying seconds for the home side that lifted them to fourth place in the 20-team Serie A table with 29 points from 18 matches. Santos, who fell to their second league defeat in three games, slipped to sixth, two points behind their opponents. —Reuters

Zverev closes on top six

PARIS: German Alexander Zverev edged closer to the world's top six yesterday after his weekend triumph in Cologne, while Novak Djokovic chalked off another week in his bid for the record amount of time as world number one. Zverev beat Diego Schwartzman on home soil in Sunday's final to secure a second straight title. He remains seventh in the ATP rankings, but cut the gap to world number six Daniil Medvedev and the fifth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas. Roger Federer has been world number one for a record 310 weeks in his career. But Djokovic, who is at the ATP tournament in Vienna this week having not played since Roland Garros earlier this month, has now spent 292 weeks as the world's best player. —AFP

Dixon takes 6th IndyCar crown

MIAMI: New Zealand's Scott Dixon captured his sixth career IndyCar points crown Sunday with American Josef Newgarden settling for his second consecutive victory in the season-ending Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The 40-year-old Kiwi driver finished third in the race, good enough to hold off Newgarden 537-521 to complete a wire-to-wire season title run and move one shy of AJ Foyt's all-time record of seven IndyCar championships. "Six is good. Seven sounds better," Dixon said. "That's obviously going to be the goal. It's going to be tough." Newgarden began the day needing a win or runner-up effort to have a hope of taking the title while Dixon knew a top-nine result was enough for the crown no matter how his rival fared. "We had a smooth race," Dixon said. "We were able to put it together when we needed to. Credit Jose. He put us under a lot of pressure." —AFP

Sabalenka eyes WTA top 10

PARIS: Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka moved to 11th in the WTA world rankings yesterday after winning her seventh Tour title in Ostrava. The 22-year-old beat compatriot Victoria Azarenka in straight sets in Sunday's final in the Czech Republic. Serena Williams is 10th in the rankings. US Open runner-up and former world number one Azarenka jumped a place to 13th after reaching her third final of the year. Australia's Ashleigh Barty remains at the top of the rankings despite not having played since February due to the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP

Ronaldinho tests positive

RIO DE JANEIRO: Former Brazil playmaker Ronaldinho said on Sunday he had contracted coronavirus but had no symptoms. The 40-year-old ex-Barcelona and AC Milan midfielder, who won the Champions League and World Cup in an illustrious career, will remain in isolation in a Belo Horizonte hotel. "Hi friends, family, fans, I took a Covid-19 test and the result was positive, I'm doing well, I'm asymptomatic for now," he said in a video posted on Instagram. In August, Ronaldinho returned to Brazil following more than five months in detention in Paraguay over a fake passport scandal. The former Ballon d'Or winner and his brother had both been held for a month in jail and another four months under house arrest in a hotel in Asuncion. Brazil has registered more than 156,000 deaths from coronavirus, behind only the US in terms of fatalities. —AFP

Sports

Hoffenheim's Geiger ends 3-year goal drought in Bremen draw

Arnold crucial as Wolfsburg stop draw run with Bielefeld win

BERLIN: Hoffenheim midfielder Dennis Geiger scored his first Bundesliga goal in three years to secure his team a 1-1 draw away to Werder Bremen on Sunday. "It's not usually my job, but I'm happy that I was finally able to score again," Geiger told Sky. The draw leaves Sebastian Hoeness' Hoffenheim without a win in three league games since they beat champions Bayern Munich 4-1 in September.

"After the Bayern game we had two unnecessary defeats, but our attitude was much better today," said Geiger. Maximilian Eggstein turned in a fizzing cross from Theodor Gebre Selassie to give the hosts an early lead. Yet the goal would remain Bremen's only shot on goal in the first half, as Hoffenheim increasingly took control.

They were rewarded on 22 minutes as Robert Skov and Sebastian Rudy linked up to set up Geiger, who fired a fine first-time finish under the bar. Skov came closest to breaking the deadlock in the second half, thundering a vicious free-kick against the bar with ten minutes to play. Having narrowly escaped relegation last year, Bremen have lost just one of their first five games this season and currently sit in sixth place. Hoffenheim's attention, meanwhile, now turns to their upcoming Europa League clash with Belgian side Gent on Thursday.

Arnold 'relief'

Earlier Sunday, Wolfsburg avoided an unwanted Bundesliga record as they battled to a 2-1 win over Arminia Bielefeld. After picking up four points so far

this season, Wolfsburg were on course to become only the fourth Bundesliga side ever to draw all of their first five games, equaling an all-time league record. Yet Maximilian Arnold's impressive first-half display ended the dreary run of results to give Oliver Glasner's side their first win of the season against promoted Bielefeld.

It was the first league meeting between the two clubs since Wolfsburg's title-winning season in 2009, and Bielefeld's top-flight inexperience showed in the first half. With 19 minutes gone, they were caught flat-footed as Arnold set up Wout Weghorst with a short free-kick, and the Dutchman fired home to score his second goal in two games. Arnold himself doubled the lead just a minute later, as Wolfsburg pinned Bielefeld back and regained

possession with aggressive pressing directly after the restart.

In Sven Schipplock, Bielefeld brought on a striker with 153 top flight appearances to his name in the second half, and the former Hoffenheim and Hamburg front man promptly fired them back into the game, sweeping in a sharp assist from Japan winger Ritsu Doan. The visitors then hit the post as they pushed for an unlikely comeback, but Wolfsburg held on to avoid yet another draw. "It's a huge relief, particularly as we made it difficult for ourselves towards the end," Arnold told Sky. After starting the season strongly with a win and a draw, Bielefeld have now lost three games in a row in October and are now just two points above the relegation play-off place. — AFP

'World-class' Vardy rocks Arsenal as Leicester go fourth

LONDON: Brendan Rodgers saluted "world-class" Jamie Vardy after he sealed Leicester's late 1-0 win as spluttering Arsenal crashed to a third defeat in their last four Premier League games on Sunday. Vardy was only fit enough for the bench after a calf injury, but Foxes manager Rodgers sent the striker on with 30 minutes left. Vardy responded with his sixth goal of the season. The 33-year-old has made a habit of tormenting Arsenal and has now scored 11 goals in 12 Premier League games against them. "Our plan was always to bring Jamie Vardy into the game and he can stretch it," said Rodgers.

"He makes the big contributions in the big games," he added after Leicester's first win at Arsenal since 1973. "That shows you the level he is at and he is a world-class player. I'm lucky to have him." Leicester climbed to fourth after ending a run of two successive league defeats. "We deserved it, we played against a really good side and have players who can run in behind," Rodgers said. "To keep a clean sheet and play with the quality and calmness was good." Arsenal are languishing in 10th after a second consecutive league loss following their 1-0 defeat at Manchester City last weekend.

But it might have been a different story when,



LONDON: Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy (left) heads the opening goal past Arsenal's German goalkeeper Bernd Leno during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Leicester City at the Emirates Stadium in London on October 25, 2020. Leicester won the match 1-0. — AFP

early in a then goalless game, Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette headed in from a corner only for his effort to be disallowed for offside against Granit Xhaka. Gunners boss Mikel Arteta was also disappointed by his team's lack of cutting edge. "I'm really disappointed, we had it in our hands in the first half and I don't know how the hell Lacazette's goal was disallowed," Arteta said. "It is difficult to create spaces with 10 men behind the ball, but we should have finished the game better."

The principle problem is a sudden dip in form

for captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. The Gabon forward is without a goal in his last five league games—his worst drought since 2014, although he did net against Rapid Vienna in the Europa League on Thursday. Aubameyang has scored just once in the league this season, hardly the kind of form Arteta would have hoped for after handing the striker a lucrative new contract in September. Arsenal's ability to challenge for a top four place rests on Aubameyang leading the charge. So far this term he has been a flop. — AFP

Toko Ekambi at the double; Lyon thrash Monaco 4-1

PARIS: Lyon continued their revival with another first-half spree on their way to thrashing Monaco 4-1 in Ligue 1 on Sunday but earlier Lille faltered and blew a chance to retake top spot, drawing at Nice. Lyon ended the eighth round of the French league season with an decisive home victory as Karl Toko Ekambi struck twice for the second week in a row. "Toko Ekambi played a huge match," said Lyon coach Rudi Garcia. "Let's hope he keeps it up." Memphis Depay opened the scoring after a pass from Houssein Aouar in the 12th minute. Toko Ekambi converted a cross from Tino Kadewere at the second attempt in the 34th minute.

In the 41st minute, the Cameroon striker won a penalty that Aouar converted. Three minutes later, Toko Ekambi took advantage of a misunderstanding in the Monegasque defense to score. "We led 4-0 at half-time on our four shots on target," said Garcia. "In the first half, Anthony Lopes made at least two great saves that allowed us to reach the break in the lead." Monaco had dominated possession and their coach Niko Kovac agreed that the half-time score flattered Lyon. "It was a pretty



DECINES-CHARPIEU: Lyon's Dutch forward Memphis Depay (right) vies with Monaco's French defender Benoît Badiashile (left) during the French L1 football match between Olympique Lyonnais (OL) and AS Monaco on October 25, 2020. — AFP

incredible first half," said Kovac. "I have never experienced such a first half before."

Last week in Strasbourg, Lyon led by three goals after 42 minutes only to finish the game clinging to a 3-2 victory. Wissam Ben Yedder converted a Monaco penalty early in the second half but even though the visitors dominated possession, they could

not make the game close. "We had opportunities to put in a fifth goal but the main thing is to hold on to a good win," said Lopes. Lyon moved up to sixth and next week face Lille who are second on goal difference after drawing at Nice. Lille remain unbeaten after eight matches but trail reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain on goal difference. — AFP

Kulusevski rescues point for Juventus against Verona 1-1

MILAN: Dejan Kulusevski came off the bench to rescue a point as champions Juventus, playing without Cristiano Ronaldo, were held to a third Serie A stalemate at home against Hellas Verona on Sunday. Portuguese forward Ronaldo remains absent after testing positive for coronavirus with Juventus preparing for next week's Champions League tie against Barcelona in Turin. "We had a too wait-and-see first half, we weren't very aggressive with the midfielders but we had the most dangerous opportunities," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo.

Substitute Andrea Favilli put Verona ahead after an hour in Turin but Swedish forward Kulusevski rescued Pirlo with 13 minutes to go. "In the second half after the goal there was a good response, but we shouldn't need a slap in the face to wake us up. "When you play against Verona it's hard for everyone, but we could have done better." To add to Pirlo's problems before hosting

Barcelona, defender Leonardo Bonucci went off with a thigh problem. Veteran Giorgio Chiellini is already out.

"He had already felt something on Tuesday (against Dynamo Kiev), he felt something again today," said Pirlo. "We will evaluate it tomorrow, calmly." Juventus are fifth in Serie A, three points behind leaders AC Milan, who hosted Roma yesterday. The nine-time reigning champions have stalled under new coach Pirlo after winning their opener against Sampdoria, their only victory on the pitch in Serie A this season. They drew against promoted Crotone 1-1 and 2-2 at Roma. Between those matches they were awarded a 3-0 victory after Napoli refused to travel to Turin on October 4 because of coronavirus cases.

On Sunday, Ebrima Colley had a goal ruled offside after quarter of an hour for Verona with the hosts also denied an Alvaro Morata goal for a marginal offside. Favilli came on after 55 minutes and five minutes later had



TURIN: Verona's Italian goalkeeper Marco Silvestri (left) and Verona's Italian defender Davide Faraoni jump for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Verona at the Allianz Stadium on October 25, 2020. — AFP

the visitors ahead finishing off a Mattia Zaccagni cross. Morata missed another chance on 72 minutes. Paulo Dybala, making his return after three months, hit the crossbar five minutes later. Then Kulusevski beat Silvestri from an angle. The Verona goalkeeper pulled off two late saves to stop Dybala and Morata.

Napoli moved up to second place,

one point behind AC Milan, after a 2-1 win over promoted Benevento, a match in which brothers Lorenzo and Roberto Insigne scored for rival clubs. "I'm very happy, but sorry my first goal in Serie A was against my brother," said midfielder Roberto, 26, who opened the scoring after half an hour against his hometown club who he left two seasons ago for Benevento. — AFP

Berkane win CAF Confederation Cup

JOHANNESBURG: Defender Issoufou Dayo scored a rare goal to give Renaissance Berkane of Morocco a 1-0 win over Pyramids of Egypt in Sunday's CAF Confederation Cup final. Dayo only previous effort in the competition came more than a year ago at home to Ashanti Gold of Ghana in a round-of-32 second leg. The title decider was delayed five months because of the coronavirus pandemic. Beaten in the final of the secondary African club competition last season by Zamalek of Egypt, Berkane made no mistake at the second attempt and should have won more convincingly in Rabat.

The Moroccans created far more scoring chances than the Egyptians before surviving a tense finish when reduced to 10 men on 89 minutes after Bakr el Helali was shown a red-card. Burkina Faso international Dayo—the only non-Moroccan in the starting line-up—struck after 15 minutes at the Stade Moulay Abdallah in a match staged behind closed doors. A goalmouth scramble after a free-kick ended with the centre-back credited with the goal that proved the match-winner.

Berkane are the fifth Moroccan club after FAR Rabat, FUS Rabat, Moghreb Fes and Raja Casablanca to win the African equivalent of the Europa League. North African clubs have dominated the 17 editions of the Confederation Cup with Tunisian clubs also lifting the trophy five times, and Egyptian giants Al Ahly and Zamalek once each. Berkane will defend the trophy next season while Pyramids go into the CAF Champions League or Confederation Cup depending on whether they finish second or third in the Egyptian Premier League.

Pre-match surprise

Croatian coach Ante Cacic sprang a pre-match surprise by omitting Ghanaian forward John Antwi from the team that beat Horoya of Guinea in a semi-final last Tuesday. He preferred defender Abdallah Bakry, signalling a cautious approach that backfired during the opening half with the Cairo outfit lacking numbers on the rare occasions they attacked.

Berkane pressed Pyramids and 35-year-old forward Mouhssine Iajour was a constant threat with his pace. It took the Egyptians 25 minutes to worry Berkane when Mohamed Farouk fired narrowly wide from an Omar Gaber pass. Cacic changed his approach as the second half progressed, bringing on attackers Ibrahim Hassan and Antwi. Farouk once again came close to equalising.

Hamid Laachir wasted a chance to put Berkane further ahead on 72 minutes by blazing over from close range after a defensive mix-up. El Helali was sent off after a VAR (Video Assistant Referee) review for a reckless challenge on Omar Gaber, but Pyramids could not find the equaliser that would have taken the final to extra time. It was a disappointing end to the first African campaign of Pyramids, who are called the 'Manchester City' of Africa because the club has benefited from spending sprees by Saudi and Emirati owners. Renaissance are known as the Orange Boys as they are based in Berkane, the northeastern hub of citrus fruit production in Morocco. — AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

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

14 Kershaw shines; Dodgers on brink of World Series crown



15 Kulusevski rescues point for Juventus against Verona 1-1



15 'World-class' Vardy rocks Arsenal as Leicester go 4th



Steelers hand Titans first loss

49ers manhandle Patriots; Lions down Falcons



NASHVILLE: James Conner #30 of the Pittsburgh Steelers runs with the ball in the second half of a game against the Tennessee Titans at Nissan Stadium on October 25, 2020. — AFP

NASHVILLE: Ben Roethlisberger passed for 268 yards and two touchdowns as the Pittsburgh Steelers rode a big first half to a 27-24 win over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday in Nashville. The Steelers built a 20-point lead in the third quarter, then held on as Stephen Gostkowski missed wide right on a potential tying 45-yard field goal with 19 seconds left. Pittsburgh improved to 6-0 and knocked the Titans (5-1) from the unbeaten ranks. Roethlisberger was 32 of 49 with three interceptions and two touchdown passes to Diontae Johnson. Benny Snell added a touchdown run. Ryan Tannehill completed 18 of 30 passes for 220 yards for Tennessee, with scoring passes to Corey Davis and AJ Brown.

Cardinals 37, Seahawks 34 (OT)

Zane Gonzalez kicked a 48-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining in overtime as Arizona handed Seattle its first loss of the season in Glendale, Ariz. Gonzalez made three field goals, including a 44-yarder on the final play of regulation to force overtime. Tyler Murray completed 34 of 48 passes for 360 yards and three touchdowns for the Cardinals (5-2) and also rushed for a team-high 67 yards and a score. His counterpart, Russell Wilson, was 33 of 50 for 388 yards and three TDs, all to Tyler Lockett, but also threw three interceptions, the last one setting up Gonzalez's winning kick. Lockett had 15 receptions for 200 yards for the Seahawks (5-1).

Browns 37, Bengals 34

Baker Mayfield shook off a dreadful start to complete a franchise-record 21 straight passes and toss five touchdowns as Cleveland (5-2) survived a big effort from Joe Burrow to beat host Cincinnati (1-5-1). Mayfield didn't complete a throw (0-for-5 passing) in the first quarter. But the third-year quarterback finished 22 of 28 for 297 yards, and the five touchdown passes were a career high. Mayfield's only incompletion after the string of 21 came on a spike to stop the clock with 16 seconds left and the Bengals leading 34-31. On the next snap, Mayfield found rookie Donovan Peoples-Jones down the right sideline for a 24-yard, game-winning touchdown reception with 11 seconds left.

Lions 23, Falcons 22

Matthew Stafford completed an 11-yard scoring

pass to TJ Hockenson as the clock ran out and Matt Prater's extra-point conversion gave visiting Detroit a walk-off win over Atlanta. Stafford threw for 340 yards and Kenny Golladay had six catches for 114 yards for the Lions (3-3). Prater kicked field goals of 50, 41 and 49 yards. Todd Gurley rushed for 63 yards and two touchdowns for the Falcons (1-6). Matt Ryan passed for 338 yards and a score, while Julio Jones caught eight passes for 97 yards. Detroit led 16-14 before Ryan completed three passes to Russell Gage while Gurley picked up a key first down, putting Atlanta in range for a game-winning field goal. The Lions, out of timeouts, essentially allowed Gurley to score on the next play from 10 yards out to preserve clock time with 1:04 left. Ryan then found Calvin Ridley for a two-point conversion to give the Falcons a 22-16 lead.

Chiefs 43, Broncos 16

Patrick Mahomes was 15-for-23 passing for 200 yards and a score, Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for a touchdown, and visiting Kansas City trounced Denver as Byron Pringle returned a kick for a touchdown and Daniel Sorensen returned an interception for another score. Tyreek Hill had six catches for 55 yards and a TD and backup quarterback Chad Henne ran for another for the Chiefs (6-1), who have won 10 straight against Denver. Drew Lock threw for 254 yards on 24-of-40 passing and two interceptions and also ran for a touchdown, and Melvin Gordon III rushed for 68 yards and another score but fumbled twice for the Broncos (2-4). Denver running back Phillip Lindsay rushed for 79 yards on nine carries before leaving late in the first half with a concussion suffered when he was tackled by Sorensen.

Buccaneers 45, Raiders 20

Tom Brady threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score and moved past Drew Brees into the NFL's top spot for career touchdown passes as visiting Tampa Bay cruised past Las Vegas. Brady, who has thrown 559 TD passes in his career, moved past Brees (558) with a 1-yard pass to rookie Tyler Johnson with 3:08 remaining to seal the victory. Brady completed 33 of 45 passes for 369 yards and no interceptions for Tampa Bay (5-2). Derek Carr, making his 100th career start, completed 24-of-36 passes for 284 yards and two touchdowns and an

interception while Daniel Carlson connected on field goals of 42 and 36 yards for Las Vegas (3-3). Nelson Agholor caught five passes for 107 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders, who managed just 76 yards rushing.

Bills 18, Jets 10

Rookie Tyler Bass matched the franchise record with six field goals and Buffalo avoided a devastating defeat by escaping with a victory over winless New York at East Rutherford, N.J. Josh Allen completed 30 of 43 passes for 307 yards and rushed for a team-leading 61 yards for the Bills (5-2), who ended a two-game losing streak. Cole Beasley caught 11 passes for 112 yards, Jerry Hughes had two sacks and one interception, and Dane Jackson also had a pick. Bass hit on 6 of 8 attempts with the makes coming from 53, 48, 46, 37, 29 and 40 yards to tie the club mark set by Steve Christie, also in a game against the Jets at the Meadowlands, in 1996. New York's Sam Darnold returned from a two-game absence due to a shoulder injury to complete 12 of 23 passes for 120 yards and two interceptions. The Jets (0-7), who remain the NFL's lone winless team, have just 20 total points over the past three games.

Saints 27, Panthers 24

Drew Brees passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another as host New Orleans held off visiting Carolina. Brees completed 29 of 36 passes for 287 yards as the Saints (4-2) won their third consecutive game, defeating their NFC South rivals (3-4). Teddy Bridgewater, who backed up Brees the last two seasons before signing with the Panthers in the offseason, completed 23 of 28 passes for 254 yards and two touchdowns. Wil Lutz's 43-yard field goal with 7:59 remaining gave New Orleans a 27-24 lead.

Washington 25, Cowboys 3

Kyle Allen threw two second-quarter touchdown passes and Antonio Gibson rushed for a career-high 128 yards as the Washington Football Team snapped a five-game losing streak with the defeat of struggling Dallas in Landover, Md. Allen completed 15 of 25 passes for 194 yards as Washington (2-5) became the latest team to take advantage of the Cowboys' leaky defense. Washington outgained Dallas 397-142 and controlled the ball for more than 36 minutes. The lopsided loss for Dallas (2-5) came with more injuries

for a team already dealing with plenty. After losing starting quarterback Dak Prescott in Week 5 to a season-ending broken ankle, the Cowboys saw backup Andy Dalton leave Sunday's game in the third quarter with a concussion after he absorbed an illegal helmet-to-helmet hit from linebacker Jon Bostic.

Packers 35, Texans 20

Aaron Rodgers tossed four touchdown passes, including a pair to Davante Adams, as visiting Green Bay rolled past host Houston. Rodgers and the Packers' offense enjoyed a bounce-back effort following the poor showing last Sunday in Tampa Bay. Rodgers went 23-of-34 for 283 yards as the Packers (5-1) amassed 22 first downs and went 7-for-12 on third down against Houston (1-6) and its 30th-ranked defense. Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson passed for 309 yards and two touchdowns but was sacked three times.

49ers 33, Patriots 6

Jeff Wilson Jr rushed for three touchdowns before suffering an ankle injury, and San Francisco intercepted four passes, including Cam Newton three times, as the defending NFC champions steamrolled host New England. The 27-point margin of defeat was the largest for the Patriots (2-4) since a 41-14 loss at Kansas City in Week 4 of the 2014 season. The loss was the third straight this season for New England, which hasn't scored more than 12 points in any of those defeats. In his first homecoming since a 2017 trade to the 49ers, Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 277 yards and managed an offense that ran up 467 yards for the 49ers (4-3) against the traditionally strong New England defense.

Chargers 39, Jaguars 29

Quarterback Justin Herbert's breakout rookie season continued as he threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score to lead host Los Angeles over Jacksonville. Herbert picked up his first win as a starter, completing 27 of 43 passes for 347 yards and running for 66 yards on nine attempts to help the Chargers (2-4) snap a four-game losing streak. The Jaguars (1-6) suffered their sixth consecutive loss. According to ESPN Stats and Info, the Jaguars became the third team in NFL history to allow 30 or more points in six consecutive games in a single season. — Reuters