



**6** 50 years on, Nasser is still a polarizing figure



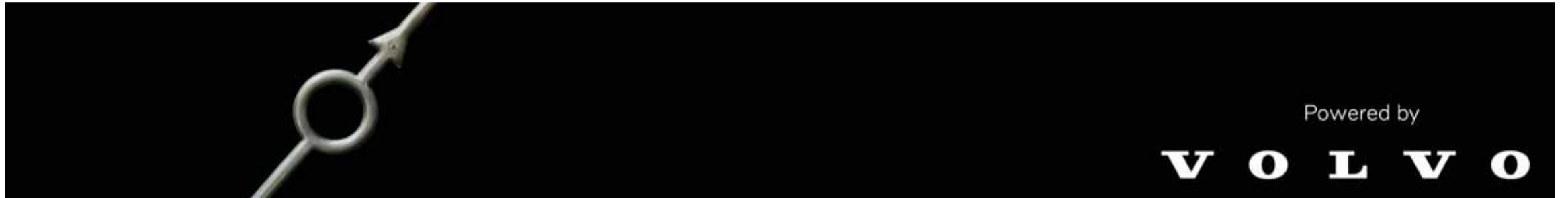
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# Medics stranded in Manila clamor to return to Kuwait

## 64 Filipino nurses, lab technicians appeal for direct chartered flight to Kuwait

### Driving licenses halted for expat nurses, students

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for traffic and operations affairs Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh instructed all traffic departments and traffic sections at citizen service centers to stop issuing driving licenses to expat students registered at government and private universities and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training as well as to nurses working in public and private hospitals.

The instructions were issued after the activation of ministerial decision 270/2020 amending previous decision 81/1979 pertaining the traffic law's executive charter, according to a report in Al-Jarida Arabic daily. "This ministerial decision was issued on March 18, 2020 at the beginning

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By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The Philippine Embassy is coordinating with Kuwaiti authorities to allow 64 Filipino medical workers contracted with the health ministry to return to Kuwait. The medical workers, mostly nurses and lab technicians, have been stranded outside the country since Kuwait closed its airport in March, and later banned people returning directly from 34 countries, including the Philippines.

The 64 medical workers in Manila are hoping for a chartered flight straight from the Philippines to Kuwait, similar to a flight that brought 116 Indian medical workers from India late last week. They are willing to adhere to the 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Kuwait and take the PCR test as required. The Philippines has recorded a total 307,000 coronavirus cases as of yesterday, out of a population of 109 million people.

"We really want to go back to work at the ministry of health because it's been six long months without work since our vacation in February. We do not want to take the risk of going to a third country for quarantine, since it's very risky. We do not know whether we will test negative or positive at the end of the 14-day quarantine period. There are people

who reportedly tested positive while in quarantine, so we do not want to take the risk," said Mary Grace Grajo, who hails from Surigao Del Sur in the Philippines and is part of the group of 64 medical workers appealing to return to Kuwait.

Kuwait already brought back 23 nurses on Aug 1 via a chartered flight directly from Manila. Grajo was meant to be included in that first batch of returnees, but the final list of approved names was curtailed and she was left out. "I was not included in the final list, although in the list of 40 names provided by the MoH, mine was included. So we are waiting for the next batch. The problem is we are paying for our hotel stay in Manila - we are spending money here and are not sure when we can go back to Kuwait," Grajo told Kuwait Times.

Another MoH nurse, Betty Nulada, worries that she will run out of money before she can return to Kuwait. Some nurses stuck abroad had their salaries stopped in April, others in June. "My vacation was in February. We would like to return to work soon, but this is only possible if the Kuwaiti government allows us to fly back via a chartered flight direct to Kuwait. We are ready to rejoin the ministry, but we need help. We appeal to the Philippine Embassy and the ministry of health in Kuwait to help us,

because we've been here waiting for long and we do not know when we can come back," said Nulada, who hails from Iloilo.

"The problem is we came to Manila from various provinces and are paying hotel charges daily. We have been waiting for help as promised by the Philippine Embassy, but it's taking time. We have been spending money since the time we were called - we were asked to undergo swab tests and paid for it from our own pockets. Yet we are stuck here waiting for the directive from Kuwait," Nulada added.

Asked about the assistance by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait, Vice Consul Charleson Hermusura said the embassy has already sent a note verbale to the Kuwaiti government requesting that Filipino medical workers be immediately allowed to return to Kuwait.

"We are hoping for a favorable decision, which may only come from Kuwait's ministry of health. The embassy strongly believes, especially at a critical time like this pandemic, the return of Filipino medical workers and nurses to Kuwait will bring back the high level of technical expertise and patient care for which they have earned a stellar reputation and profound admiration worldwide," Hermusura told Kuwait Times via text message.

### Global virus death toll tops 1m; India cases surpass 6m

**PARIS:** More than one million people have died from coronavirus, according to an AFP tally, marking a grim milestone in the spread of the disease that has ravaged the world economy, inflamed diplomatic tensions and upended lives from Indian slums to New York City. In the nine months since the virus was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan, schools, businesses, live entertainment, and international travel have been upended by strict stay-at-home measures designed to curb the contagion.

Drastic controls that put half of humanity - more than four billion people - under some form of lockdown by April at first slowed the spread, but since restrictions were eased, infections have soared again. By 1100 GMT yesterday, the disease had claimed 1,002,036 victims from 33,162,930 record-

ed infections, according to an AFP tally collected from official sources by journalists stationed around the world, and compiled by a dedicated team of data specialists.

The United States has the highest death toll with more than 200,000 fatalities, followed by Brazil, India, Mexico and Britain. Behind the figures lie millions of lives shattered by an illness that still holds many mysteries and which cannot yet be effectively treated or prevented, despite a global race to develop drugs and a vaccine.

For Italian truck driver Carlo Chiodi, the global mortality statistics include both his parents, whom he lost within days of each other. "I saw my father walking out of the house, getting into the ambulance, and all I could say was 'goodbye'," Chiodi, 50, told AFP. "I regret not saying 'I love you' and I regret not hugging him."

With new cases again surging worldwide, governments have been forced into an uneasy balancing act: virus controls slow the spread of the disease, but they hurt already reeling economies and businesses. The IMF has warned that the economic upheaval could cause a "crisis like no other", though

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**NEW DELHI:** In this file photo taken on May 10, 2020, relatives wearing protective gear tie up the body of a victim who died from COVID-19 before burial at a graveyard. — AFP

### Report claims Trump avoided taxes for years

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Sunday faced allegations that he paid little or no federal income tax for years before he came to power, as his cloudy financial past stoked controversy ahead of the first election debate. The New York Times alleged the billionaire president paid just \$750 federal income taxes in 2016 - the year he won the White House - and 2017, and no federal income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he reported losing more money than he made.

Trump, who immediately dismissed the accusations as "totally fake news", is readying to come face to face with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden at a pivotal live debate today. The Republican leader has broken with presidential tradition by refusing to release his tax returns, fighting a long battle in the courts and triggering speculation about what they might contain. "First of all, I paid a lot and I paid a lot of state income taxes too... It'll all be revealed," Trump said as he shrugged off the Times' story that cited tax data extending more than 20 years. —AFP (See Page 7)

### Death toll rises as Karabakh fighting enters second day

**YEREVAN:** Azerbaijani and Armenian forces battled for a second day yesterday after dozens were killed in an outbreak of heavy fighting that has raised fears of an all-out war between the longtime enemies. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorny Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up earlier this year and in 2016.

The region declared its independence from Azerbaijan after a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives but is not recognized by any country - including Armenia - and is still considered part of Azerbaijan by the international community. Defense officials in both countries said intense clashes continued after erupting on Sunday along the frontlines of the region.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev yesterday ordered partial military mobilization and General Mais

Barkhudarov vowed to "fight to the last drop of blood in order to completely destroy the enemy and win". The Armenian separatists announced that 15 more of their fighters had been killed and Azerbaijan increased its civilian toll from rebel shelling near Terter by one to six, bringing the total reported fatalities on both sides to 40.

With each side blaming the other for the latest fighting, world leaders have urged calm as fears rise of a full-scale conflict that could draw in regional powers Russia and Turkey. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday that Russia was monitoring the situation closely and that the current priority was to "stop the hostilities, not to deal with who is right and who is wrong".

The Karabakh defense ministry said yesterday that 32 of its fighters had been killed in the latest clashes. Eight civilian fatalities have been

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**STEPANAKERT:** A boy plays with a ball in a building's basement used as a bomb shelter in Nagorny Karabakh's main city on Sunday. — AFP



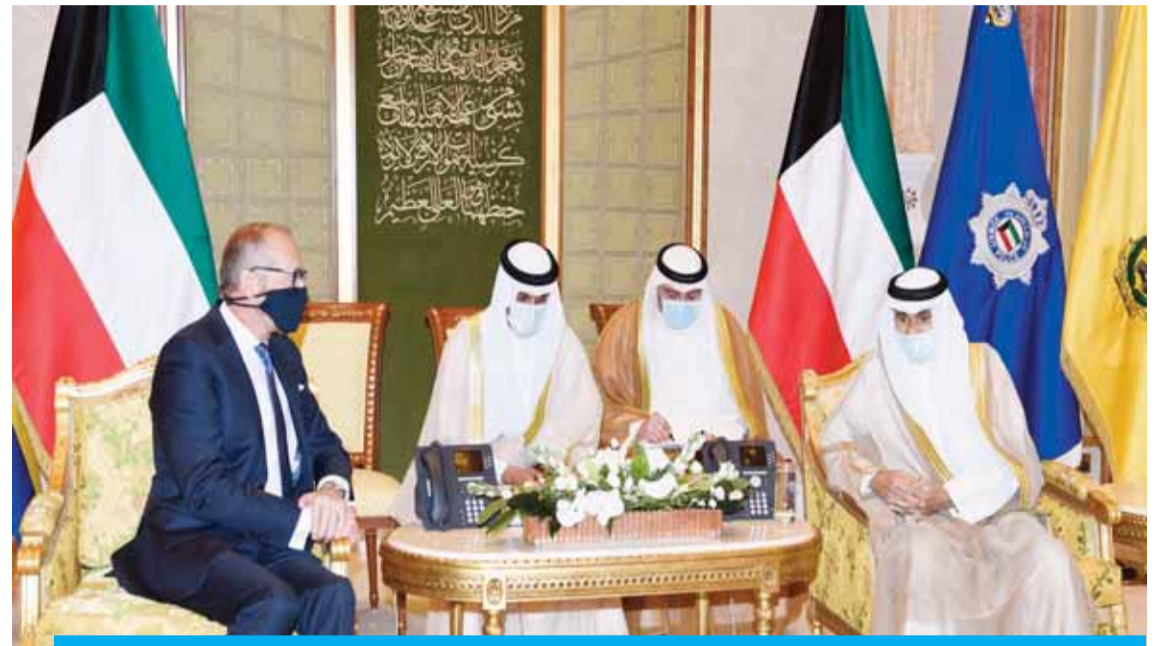
## Local

# Kuwait's Deputy Amir receives new ambassadors' credentials

## Sheikh Nawaf meets Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulmunem Al-Ameen. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Netherlands' Ambassador to Kuwait Laurens Westhoff.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulmunem Al-Ameen.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the Netherlands' Ambassador to Kuwait Laurens Westhoff.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of Austria's Ambassador to Kuwait Marian Alexander Wrba.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Austria's Ambassador to Kuwait Marian Alexander Wrba.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the credentials of several foreign ambassadors at Bayan Palace yesterday. The newly appointed envoys are Sudan's Ambassador Abdulmunem Al-Ameen, the Netherlands' Ambassador Laurens Westhoff,

and Austria's Ambassador Marian Alexander Wrba. Several officials from the Amiri and Crown Prince Diwans attended the ceremony. Separately, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

## Death toll rises as Karabakh fighting...

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reported, including an Azerbaijani family of six and a woman and child on the Armenian side. Azerbaijan has not announced military casualties but Armenian defense ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan claimed that "dozens of corpses of Azerbaijani soldiers" lay on territory won back overnight. She said heavy fighting continued yesterday morning along the frontline and claimed Armenian forces had won back positions taken Sunday by Azerbaijan.

But Baku claimed further advances. Azerbaijani forces "are striking enemy positions... and have taken several strategic positions around the village of Talysh", the defense ministry said. "The enemy is retreating," it added. Armenian military officials said Azerbaijani forces were continuing to attack rebel positions using heavy artillery, while Azerbaijan's defense ministry accused sep-

arate forces of shelling civilian targets in the town of Terter. Baku claimed to have killed 550 separatist troops, a report denied by Armenia.

The escalation has stirred an outpouring of patriotic fervor in both countries. "We have been waiting for this day for so long. The fighting must not stop until we force Armenia to return our lands," Vidadi Alekperov, a 39-year-old waiter in Baku, told AFP. "I'll happily go to the battlefield." In Yerevan, 67-year-old Vardan Harutyunyan said Armenia had been anticipating the attack. "The (Karabakh) question can only be resolved militarily. We are not afraid of a war," he said.

Fighting between Muslim Azerbaijan and majority-Christian Armenia threatened to embroil regional players Russia, which is in a military alliance with Yerevan, and Turkey, which backs Baku. Armenia accused Turkey of meddling in the conflict and sending mercenaries to the battlefield. France, Germany, Italy, the United States, the European Union and Russia have urged a ceasefire. Armenia and Karabakh declared martial law and military mobilization Sunday, while Azerbaijan imposed military rule and a curfew in large cities. — AFP

ally resume normal life activities, the decision was activated and driving licenses will no longer be issued to expat students and nurses.

Sayegh added the decision exempts children, spouses, widows and divorcees of Kuwaiti citizens as well as illegal residents (bedoons) with valid central apparatus and health insurance IDs. "The decision will not apply to students and nurses whose licenses were issued prior to resolution number 270/2020," Sayegh underlined. He pointed that according to interior ministry systems, the total number of driving licenses issued to citizens is 648,383, while 822,794 were issued to expats. Vehicles with valid insurance number 2,293,785.

## Driving licenses halted for expat...

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of COVID-19 pandemic, but was not put into practice due to the health situation in Kuwait, and accordingly all government bodies were shut down," Sayegh said.

He noted that since those bodies started receiving the public based on Cabinet decisions to gradu-

## Global virus death toll tops 1m; India...

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the Fund's outlook appears brighter now than it did in June.

Europe, hit hard by the first wave, is now facing another surge, with Paris, London and Madrid all forced to introduce controls to slow infections threatening to overload hospitals. A million Madrid residents are under partial lockdown, with the city and the surrounding region at the epicenter of Spain's second wave. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman urged citizens to keep to strict hygiene measures. "The development of infection numbers is of great concern to us," Steffen Seibert said. "We can see from some of our European friends where that could lead."

Masks and social distancing in shops, cafes and public transport are now part of everyday life in many cities around the world. Mid-September saw a record rise in cases in most regions and the World Health Organization has warned virus deaths could even double to two million without more global collective action.

Infections in India, home to 1.3 billion people, surged past six million yesterday, but authorities pressed ahead with a reopening of the battered South Asian economy. The virus initially hit major metropolises including financial hub Mumbai and capital New Delhi, but has since spread to regional and rural areas where healthcare systems are even more fragile and patchy. Santosh, a student in Delhi, said the virus was now "part of our lives". "You cannot shut down every business, because the economy cannot collapse... COVID-19 is not going to pay the rent."

Currently, nine vaccine candidates are in last-

stage clinical trials, with hopes some will be rolled out next year. The SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the illness known as COVID-19 made its first known appearance in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, ground zero of the outbreak. How it got there is still unclear but scientists think it originated in bats and could have been transmitted to people via another mammal.

Wuhan was shut down in January as other countries looked on in disbelief at China's draconian controls, even as they went about their business as usual. By March 11, the virus had emerged in over 100 countries and the WHO declared a pandemic, expressing concern about the "alarming levels of inaction".

The least privileged around the globe have been the hardest hit by the breakneck spread of the virus, which has also infected some among the powerful, rich and famous. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson spent a week in hospital. Madonna and Tom Hanks also tested positive.

The Tokyo Olympics, Rio's Carnival and the Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah are among the major events postponed or disrupted by the pandemic. Some major sports tournaments have resumed but with empty stadiums - such as Premier League football in England - or highly restricted spectator counts. The French Open is limiting access to 1,000 tennis fans a day.

As the restrictions tighten, protests and anger are rising as businesses worry about their survival and individuals grow frustrated about their jobs and families in the face of another round of curbs. Authorities have clashed with anti-lockdown protesters around the world, while blame for the disease and its consequences has led to increased tensions between the United States and China in particular. Along with the turmoil, though, lies some hope, with Wuhan now appearing to have controlled the disease. "Life has returned to the kind of flavor we had before," resident An An said. "Everyone living in Wuhan feels at ease." — AFP



Local

# Kuwait's Prime Minister meets visiting Italian Defense Minister

## Kuwait, Italy discuss military ties

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received visiting Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini at Seif Palace yesterday. Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr and his Deputy Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad also held talks with the visiting Italian Defense Minister on military and defense cooperation. The two senior officials, meeting at Seif Palace as well, discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest, as well as exchanged views over issues of mutual interest, an official statement said. Lt Gen Mohammad Khodhr, Lt Gen Khaled Al-Sabah attended the meeting, in addition to the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait and Italian Military Attache. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini. — KUNA photos



**Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets with Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini.**

## San Marino eyes more cooperation with Kuwait

**ROME:** San Marino government expressed on Monday its eagerness in boosting diplomatic cooperation with Kuwait in international arenas, to enhance values of dialogue in encountering international challenges. San Marino's Foreign Minister Luca Beccari made the remarks while receiving the Ambassador of Kuwait to Italy, and non-resident ambassador to the Republic of San Marino Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah to discuss bilateral relations and means to bolster them, especially in the diplomatic field, Kuwait's embassy to Italy said in a statement. Beccari endorsed the progress in the bilateral ties

between both nations, stressing on the importance of diplomatic cooperation between his country and Kuwait, as San Marino cherishes a network of prominent active international relations, and both nations would positively coordinate their efforts in serving joint challenges in international arenas. Both countries would work in attaining international peace by achieving stability and prosperity all over the world, he affirmed. Beccari expressed his country's aspirations to develop ties with Kuwait in various fields, especially in cultural and investments cooperation. He conveyed the greetings of the Republic's Presidents to His Highness

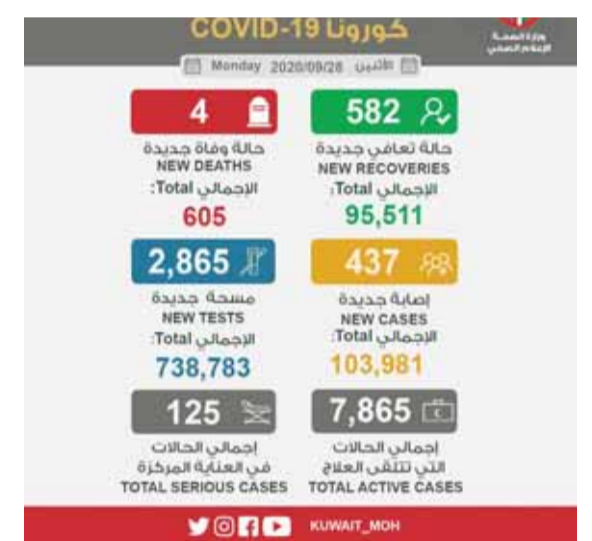


**ROME:** San Marino's Foreign Minister Luca Beccari meets with Ambassador of Kuwait to Italy and non-resident ambassador to the Republic of San Marino Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA

the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and expressed his sincere wishes for a speedy recovery and wellbeing to His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Kuwaiti diplomat warmly welcomed bolstering bilateral ties to best serve the interest of both countries and people. — KUNA

## Kuwait records 437 new COVID-19 cases, four deaths



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced yesterday that it registered 437 positive novel coronavirus cases and four deaths in the last 24 hours. Registered infections' tally increased to 103,981, whereas deaths reached 605 cases. The ministry announced earlier the recovery of 582 patients to increase recoveries to 95,511. The new infections according to health zones are as follows: 117 in Hawally, 92 in Ahmadi, 68 in Farwaniya, 85 in the Capital, and 75 in Jahra, Ministry of Health spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said. There are 125 patients in intensive care units while the number of people receiving treatment in hospitals was 7,865. Dr Sanad added. He also revealed that health care workers conducted 2,865 swab tests in the past 24 hours to increase total tests since the outbreak of the pandemic in Kuwait to 738,783. He called anew on the public to take all safety precautions like social distancing in order to prevent the virus from spreading. — KUNA

## Salwa building evacuated due to fire

**KUWAIT:** Firemen battled a blaze reported in a Salwa house yesterday. The fire started in two makeshift rooms set up on the house's roof, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said, noting that human injuries were prevented thanks to firefighters' swift action and evacuation of the entire building. Bidaa and Mishref fire stations' men participated in extinguishing the blaze. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.



### News in brief

#### No vehicle inspection until further notice

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of the Interior announced that vehicles with expired registrations since March 12, 2020 are still exempted from technical examination for registration's renewal, noting that this stipulation will continue until the beginning of the fifth phase of normalization of life. Owners of vehicles with registrations that expired from March 12th need to obtain a new insurance policy and go to a traffic department vehicle registration office to renew the registration without having to have their vehicles inspected.

#### Quran offender arrested

**KUWAIT:** Police arrested an Asian man who appeared in a video clip that circulated on social media while desecrating the Holy Quran. The suspect was taken to the proper authorities for further legal action, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media report said in a press statement.

#### Helpers' officers seek re-opening

**KUWAIT:** President of the union of domestic help offices in Kuwait Khaled Al-Dakhnan urged the government to re-open visas to recruit domestic helpers from abroad, which he believes is achievable provided that necessary health precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are taken. Dakhnan claimed in statements to Al-Rai Arabic daily that huge demand has led to the creation of a 'black market' where runaway domestic helpers offer services for "as high as KD 400 a month." He called on the government to follow in the footsteps of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia who recently resumed recruitment of domestic helpers from the Philippines, noting that Qatar is expected to make a similar announcement next week.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.





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Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
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Yemen prisoner  
release deal

RIYADH: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf welcomed a deal reached earlier today by the Yemeni government and Houthi group to immediately release a first group of 1,081 conflict-related detainees and prisoners. Dr Hajraf said in a press statement Sunday that it is necessary to immediately put the deal in place and set free prisoners and detainees without any delay, leading up to freeing all prisoners and reunify them with their families. The GCC chief appreciated the efforts of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Prisoners' Exchange Agreement, represented by the Special Envoy for Yemen and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hadhrami extolled the prisoner release agreement reached by Yemeni parties in Geneva earlier Sunday. He said in a press statement that the issue of prisoners is a purely humanitarian one, stressing the government's utter compliance with the deal. The UN office of the Special Envoy for Yemen said earlier in the day that delegates representing the Government of Yemen and Houthi group had agreed to immediately release a first group of 1,081 conflict-related detainees and prisoners, in accordance with the lists of agreed-upon names. The parties renewed their commitment, as per their agreement in Stockholm in 2018, to release all prisoners, detainees, missing persons, arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared persons, and those under house arrest. — KUNA



Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A worker wearing a facemask stands behind the counter at a restaurant in Mubarakiya Market. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Despite warnings,  
gatherings still  
happen at funerals

KUWAIT: Despite health warnings and calls to follow health precautions during burials and funerals, many still neglect such warnings, a local daily pointed out yesterday. Daily images of funerals at Sulaibikhat cemetery have been proving endless disregard to precautionary measures, as large crowds of people attend funerals without respecting social distancing and mostly without wearing facemasks, Al-Rai Arabic newspaper wrote in a report published yesterday. "The most dangerous practice is the traditional method of greeting by touching noses while paying condolences, which might be the easiest and fastest way of catching and spreading COVID-19 infections amongst attendees and possibly their families as well," the report reads.

In this regard, the manager of the funerals department at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Al-Awadhi stressed that funeral halls are still closed at various cemeteries and are only open for waiting purposes after removing all seats from them. Awadhi added that cemeteries are open for visits and burials with unlimited numbers. "Some people only receive condolences during the burial," he underlined.

Meanwhile, health sources warned of gatherings

during all forms of social occasions including funerals and stressed that all social or family gatherings are still banned. "Resuming such gatherings is part of the activities included in the fifth phase of resumption of normal life activities, so they are still banned and relevant authorities should accordingly deal with them," the sources underlined. They noted that the health ministry only provides guidance and health precautions, while imposing them is the responsibility of various ministries and government bodies. "The number of people recently hospitalized with COVID-19 is increasing because of such gatherings, during which people do not follow preventive measures," the sources argued.

## Back to school

In other news, a number of female teachers have reportedly voiced their objection to going to schools as the start of the school year approaches, in view of the increasing number of COVID-19 infections and alleged lack of compliance with precautionary measures. "Situations are not safe in schools. We experience daily stress and worry that our schools are not being regularly sanitized, and we are afraid of taking the infection to elderly folks back at our homes," the teachers told Al-Rai.

The teachers also stressed that they are using their personal laptops and Internet connections. "Why go to school then?" they wondered, noting that school wi-fi signals are very weak, which is not the case at their homes. "We hope teachers can be given the freedom to choose whether to go to school or work from home," they said.

One of the teachers added that university professors already work online from home. "Why not do the same with school teachers," she said, calling for an immediate decision giving teachers the option to work either from home or from schools, especially since some school administrations are secretive about the true number of infections detected. "With the start of the second session exams, teachers will have to

attend and mark the exam papers. What if we get infected from touching the exam papers," asked another teacher.

Meanwhile, an educational report showed the constant and exceptional progress in IT has created greater challenges for educational institutions and teaching staff members, who seem to be far behind learners in terms of using modern technology and smartphones. "Teaching staff members are in real danger now and education officials need to work on bridging the gap between their digital skills and those of learners," the sources said. The 2020/2021 school year starts October 4, and while students will attend online classes at home, teachers will reportedly be asked to report to public schools to deliver online classes.

In my view

## Nicotine - a toxic drug



By Abdellatif Sharaa

local@kuwaittimes.com

God gave man all characteristics and advantages and made him supreme over all creation. He gave him a brain to think, analyze, decide and act. Yet I am amazed to see how weak and naive this man can be, no matter the level of education and learning he achieved, to a point that makes his use of the bounty of brains limited. Many of my friends may question my assertion, and they may be right, but I am alluding to those who willingly do harm to their bodies. I have seen a good number of doctors smoking in their clinics, and giving strong advice to their patients to quit smoking as part of their treatment, and I personally know some doctors who had ailments that were caused by the cigarette.

We all are aware of the huge business tobacco companies are running, and their brilliant marketing campaigns on which they spend millions. That is no problem for them because theirs is a multi-billion-dollar business. Those companies think about their future of course, and do not want to lose even a dollar - rather they want to increase their profits, so we started hearing about alternative nicotine delivery devices to replace the "bad" old tobacco stick, as I like to call it.

About such devices, the American Journal of Public Health said: "It is well established that nicotine meets all criteria of a highly addictive drug. However, as recognized by the US surgeon general, the nicotine delivery system itself is an important determinant of the toxic and addictive effects engendered by nicotine use. Therefore, altering the form of nicotine dosing may allow for selective therapeutic action in efforts to develop safer and less addictive nicotine replacement therapies."

This may be expert opinion, but I find it difficult to understand how this can be achieved while we are talking about a highly addictive drug! The article continues: "It is the case that initial tobacco use often escalates to compulsive use, accompanied by tolerance and physical dependence. This is not usually observed with nicotine replacement therapies. These observations are consistent with laboratory data indicating that (1) nicotine polacrifex and transdermal systems deliver nicotine more slowly and at a lower dose level than tobacco-based forms, and (2) human data suggesting that the abuse liability of these systems is substantially lower than that of the tobacco based nicotine delivery system."

Though I am still not convinced about any level and concentration of any foreign substance getting into our bodies, I hope that what is being said about the devices is first right, and second a way to lead to making smokers quit both smoking and vaping altogether. I also hope that tobacco giants start thinking about getting into other businesses instead of spending millions on research and development on nicotine delivery into our bodies.

A final note: Many plants are toxic and harmful if ingested as they are, but they are also a source of highly effective medicines for a wide range of illnesses. Think about it. Thank you!



KUWAIT: Head of the cardiology department at the Chest Hospital, senior cardiologist and internist Abdullah Al-Enezi said a breakthrough operation to replace the aortic valve for an 80-year-old male patient proved successful. The medical team was under the supervision of Dr Enezi and Dr Khaled Al-Merri who heads the catheterization unit.

Worker dies at  
construction site

KUWAIT: A construction worker died at a construction site in Mulla residential area. Preliminary investigations indicate that the man had lost balance and fell from an elevated working site, said security sources. Further investigations are ongoing in the case.

## Generators stolen

An unidentified thief stole the power generators of a telecommunication tower in Jahra, said security sources, noting that detectives later found the stolen generators in a truck parked in a dark corner amongst ranches and farms. Further investigations are still in progress to identify and arrest the robber.

## Youngsters fight

Detectives managed to put an end to a fight between two groups of young people (three against four) in Abdullah Al-Mubarak, said security sources, noting that four suspects were arrested while three managed to flee the scene when policemen arrived and took the injured to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment. However, policemen were summoned later to the hospital where the other three suspects went to resume the fight with their rivals, the sources added, noting that detectives managed to arrest all seven this time and subjected them to medical treatment pending further legal actions.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

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E: info@kuwaittimes.net





Wildfire erupts in California's Napa Valley wine country

## Egypt's Nasser still a polarising figure, 50 years on



THESSALONIKI: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (L) and Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias touch elbows during their meeting in the northern city of Thessaloniki, yesterday. Pompeo and Dendias will sign a bilateral science and technology agreement, as well as host energy sector business leaders for a discussion to highlight energy diversification and infrastructure projects in Greece.

# Pompeo begins Greece talks to calm east Mediterranean tensions

## Two NATO members are at loggerheads over energy exploration in disputed waters

**ATHENS:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo began talks yesterday in Greece to de-escalate tension in the eastern Mediterranean and boost tentative steps at dialogue between Athens and Ankara.

Pompeo began his two-day visit by meeting Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias in Thessaloniki. Neither side has released a statement. "Thrilled to be back in Greece, a vital US partner with whom we share a common strategic vision," the secretary of state tweeted yesterday.

"The strength of our bilateral relationship is at an all-time high, and I'm looking forward to a productive visit." Ahead of the trip, a senior US official said Washington was keen to tamp down the tension, reduce the likelihood of "accidents or incidents" and for Greece and Turkey to complete an agreement.

The two NATO members are at loggerheads over energy exploration in disputed waters after

Ankara stepped up hydrocarbon research in the sea. The row has roped in other European powers, raising concern about a wider escalation.

But last week Athens and Ankara said they were ready to start talks. "Let's meet, let's talk and let's seek a mutually acceptable solution. Let's give diplomacy a chance," Mitsotakis said on Friday to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in an address to the virtual UN General Assembly.

Pompeo will fly to the Greek island of Crete today and tour the NATO naval base of Souda Bay. Mitsotakis — who is hosting Pompeo at his family home on Crete — wants closer military ties with the US.



### Thrilled to be back in Greece

The secretary of state signed defence agreement last October allowing US forces a broader use of Greek military facilities. A key element of the October deal was the northern Greek port of Alexandroupolis, a Balkans and Black Sea gateway of strategic value to the US navy and NATO.

The US has been granted priority status to the port after paying roughly \$2.3 million (2 million euros) to remove a sunken dredging barge that had blocked part of the harbour since 2010. At the time, Greek officials said the Pentagon was expected to invest over \$14 million on the Greek airbase of Larissa and around six million euros at Marathi, part of the Souda base.

### Pressure on Huawei

The visit to Thessaloniki is also intended as a sign to the Balkans on American willingness to invest in the region, the State Department said. Pompeo will sign a bilateral science and technology agreement, and host an energy sector gathering of business leaders.

Pompeo's tour later in the week also includes stops in Italy, the Vatican and Croatia. In Rome, the secretary of state will discuss efforts by the Trump administration to deter its European allies from using equipment by Chinese manufacturer Huawei in developing their 5G networks.

The US accuses Huawei of being a tool for Chinese espionage. Pompeo is also scheduled to attend a meeting at the Vatican on religious freedom, his human rights priority. There, too, he will warn of China's actions against minorities, including Muslims. —AFP

## 'Cold War with China' demands US-Europe united front: Germany

**BERLIN:** Europe and the United States need to face up to a "new Cold War with China" together, regardless of who wins the White House in November, Germany's point man on transatlantic ties told AFP.

With just five weeks to go until the US election, the German government's coordinator for relations with the United States and Canada, Peter Beyer, insisted there were more shared interests than differences.

"Europe has got to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the US to face the huge challenge of China," he said. "The new Cold War between the United States and China has already begun and will shape this century."

After four years of frequent friction between Donald Trump and Angela Merkel on issues including Iran, trade, NATO and the climate, Beyer said it was no secret that Germany would

find it easier to work with Joe Biden.

"I'm the last person who's so naive to say 'If Biden wins, everything will be super, it's the beginning of a golden age'," he said. "The controversial issues won't go away overnight but with Biden the transatlantic friendship would become more reasonable, calculable and reliable again."

### 'Won't be better'

On China and Iran, Americans and Europeans had "similar, sometimes identical interests," Beyer said. "That's why I'm frustrated that we can't find a common denominator right now" on issues including support for the World Health Organisation amid the coronavirus pandemic, ways to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions and tackling climate change.

But he insisted that despite the high stakes of the race, Trump's re-election would not bring the implosion of the West, citing enduring close cooperation with members of Congress and many US states.

"It won't all be grim if Trump two comes. But it also won't be better," he said. "Who is sitting in the White House is essential. But it can't dominate the transatlantic friendship. Washington and especially the United States

aren't just the Oval Office."

Beyer said decades of post-war cooperation between the allies had built a foundation of "supposedly old-fashioned values" like "freedom and democracy, peace and prosperity".

"It's worth remembering Americans taught us those values and we're still thankful for them," he said.

That stood in contrast to a Chinese system marked by "dictatorship, a lack of press freedom and human rights, digital surveillance, (abuse of) the Uighurs, Hong Kong, the environment..."

Beyer is one of the few top members of the Christian Democrats (CDU), Merkel's party, at a foreign ministry run by the Social Democrats, junior partners in her ruling coalition.

He said the CDU would have to think of those crucial factors when picking a new leader in December ahead of a general election next year at the end of Merkel's 16-year tenure. "Whoever wins will have to confront these issues."

### Hearts and minds

He said security was just one area in which Germany would have to up its game, particularly given Trump's plans to slash the number of US troops stationed in Germany by 9,500 to 25,000.

Trump cited anger with Germany for not sticking to NATO targets on defence spending and for treating the US "badly" on trade in justifying the move. "I don't think a Biden administration would completely reverse the plans, but I also doubt it would pursue them with the same vehemence," Beyer said.

In either case, however, Germany must stick to its pledges to increase defence spending while working with European partners to play a bigger role on security.

"We don't want to make NATO obsolete," Beyer said. "But for our own sake we have got to push defence cooperation within Europe."

He said a younger generation of Germans was less interested in American pop culture or study abroad programmes than he had been growing up in Cold War-era West Germany, noting that Australia, Canada and parts of Asia were now more likely to capture hearts and minds.

And he admitted that Germany had occasionally neglected US ties over the past decade and bore part of the blame for any estrangement. "Polls show Germany and Germans are very popular among many Americans," Beyer said, with an eye to rekindling the relationship. "It's a place to start." —AFP



## International

# India coronavirus cases pass six million, surge closer to US

## India has a much lower death rate than other worst-hit nations

**NEW DELHI:** India reported its six millionth coronavirus case yesterday as it surged closer to the United States as the most-infected nation, and authorities pressed ahead with reigniting the economy.

The vast nation is home to 1.3 billion people, some of humanity's most densely populated cities and a feeble health care system, and for several weeks it has reported around 90,000 new cases daily — the highest in the world.

Health ministry data showed a rise of 82,000 cases yesterday, taking the total to 6.1 million and closing the gap on the United States, which has recorded 7.1 million infections. India could leapfrog the US in the coming weeks. India has a much lower death rate than other worst-hit nations with almost 100,000 fatalities so far — fewer than half the grisly toll of 205,000 recorded in the US, which has roughly a quarter of the population. Brazil has meanwhile recorded 140,000 deaths.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called on people to keep wearing face coverings when they ventured outside of their homes. "These rules are weapons in the war against corona. They are potent tools to save the life of every citizen," Modi said during his monthly radio address on Sunday. The virus initially hit major metropolises including financial hub Mumbai and capital New Delhi, but has since spread to regional and rural areas where healthcare systems are even more fragile and patchy.

"In several of the pockets where the transmission is active, the infection has gone into the community," former national health secretary Sujatha Rao told AFP. "It is difficult to control transmission in such situations and a dramatic turnaround can perhaps be possible only through a rigorous implemen-

tation of a lockdown and preventive measures like mask wearing."

### No lockdown 2.0

The government is unlikely to reimpose major restrictions after a lockdown in March battered the economy and wrecked the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly the poor. Some schools have now reopened, and trains, metros, domestic flights, markets and restaurants have been allowed to operate with some restrictions. The Taj Mahal also



### No major restrictions

opened again for tourists this month.

Anand Krishnan, a community medicine professor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, said authorities should focus on treating people who contract the virus.

"The only thing that we can do is take care of people who are ill — identify them faster and treat them better. And follow the social-distancing norms," he told AFP. "Beyond that, I don't think there is anything specific that can be done." Some locals in Delhi told AFP that while they remained



**MUMBAI:** Health workers wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at a Covid-19 Coronavirus testing centre, in Mumbai yesterday. India reported its six millionth coronavirus case as it surged closer to the United States as the most-infected nation, and authorities pressed ahead with reigniting the economy. — AFP

cautious, their worries about the pandemic had lessened since the start of the year.

"I'm out of the house all day because of my work. I don't step out of the house for anything else," said 23-year-old medical store worker Umang Chutani. "The future is uncertain but one can only be cautious and follow all safety protocols."

Himanshu Kainthola, 61, who recovered from the virus last month after testing positive with two other

relatives, said his family's fears "have reduced substantially". "We have made peace with it. We take the necessary precautions and invest in increasing our immunity rather than being anxious or scared of it." Creative writing student Santosh added that the virus was now "part of our lives".

"You cannot shutdown every business, because the economy cannot collapse... Covid-19 is not going to pay the rent," he said. — AFP

## Pandemic deals 'crushing blow' to Kashmir tourism

**SRINAGAR:** When Kashmir went into a coronavirus lockdown in March, tourism in the Indian-administered territory had already been hobbled by eight months of tight security restrictions that New Delhi imposed after revoking the region's semi-autonomous status.

Now hoteliers, taxi drivers and others relying on tourism in the region say the pandemic has compounded the financial shock to the industry and they fear it could take years to recover.

The state of tourism in Kashmir is "a typical case of out of the frying pan into the fire," said Faiz Bakhshi, a prominent businessman and former secretary general of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

"I don't see any resumption of tourism in Kashmir until there is zero incidence of COVID-19 cases (here)," said Bakhshi, who owns the Shangrila, a hotel in Srinagar, the region's main city. Kashmir has reported about 70,000 cases of COVID-19 and at least 1,084 deaths, according to government figures. Estimates by the KCCI show that more than 600,000 jobs have been lost since India's decision to scrap the region's special status in August last year. In that time, Kashmir's economy across all sectors has lost 400 billion Indian rupees (about \$5.4 billion). KCCI vice president Majeed Mir told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview.

While there are no reliable estimates of how many people have been made unemployed since March, Bakhshi said the pandemic has only exacerbated the situation. In a policy brief published last month, the United Nations said the pandemic could cost the global tourism industry approximately \$1 trillion and threaten more than 100 million jobs.

Kashmir has been disputed by India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both countries claim it in full but rule it in part. India followed its move last year with a security lockdown in Kashmir, imposing strict restrictions on the movement and assembly of people and shutting down phone and internet communications for several months.

The government said the restrictions were necessary to quell unrest in the region. Communications in Kashmir have gradually been reinstated in recent months, but mobile internet is yet to be restored fully, with only slow-speed 2G access allowed in 18 of the region's 20 districts.

Ejaz Ayoub, an independent Srinagar-based economic analyst, said Kashmir's tourism business needs two basic factors in order to thrive: peace and sustainable demand. "The August 5 decision jeopardised both. And, since March this year, the pandemic has dealt a crushing blow to tourism," Ayoub said. Zahoor Ahmad Trumboo said the occupancy of his Hotel Shah Abbas, overlooking the famed Dal Lake in Srinagar, has fallen by more than 90% since August last year.

Before then, all 80 rooms would be booked every summer and the hotel would do good business in the winters, too, he noted, as visitors came to enjoy the lake as well as the Himalayan region's scenic mountains and glaciers.

Now, the tourist industry "has no raw material," Trumboo said as he leaned back on a sofa at his hotel. "Tourists are the raw material for us. But, there have been no tourists in Kashmir for a year now." Kashmir's tourism season officially started on July 15, noted the region's director for tourism Nissar Ahmad Wani. — AFP

## First virus death in Greek migrant camp

**ATHENS:** Greek officials on Sunday announced the first coronavirus death in a migrant camp near Athens, as refugee groups stepped up criticism of the containment policy of the Greek government and Europe.

The victim was a 61-year-old father-of-two from Afghanistan who had been living in the Malakassa camp near Athens, the asylum ministry said. He died while being treated in a hospital in Athens.

Malakassa, along with the Schisto and Elaionas camps near Athens, were placed in quarantine in early September as concerns mounted over the spread of the coronavirus among thousands of asylum-seekers living there in squalid conditions.

Greece's migrant camps have been under lockdown since March, with restrictions on who can leave and enter, conditions harshly criticised by some rights groups. On the Aegean island of Lesbos meanwhile, more than 240 asylum-seekers who transferred to a temporary camp after the destruction of the Moria camp in fires earlier this month,

have contracted the virus. Greek authorities on Sunday announced 218 new coronavirus cases and three deaths — including that of the migrant. Since the start of the pandemic, 379 people have died of the virus in Greece, with an average age of 78. Sixty-eight people are currently in intensive care. Asylum Minister Notis Mitarachi said Sunday that all unaccompanied children had now been removed from the island camps.

### 'Conditions are dire'

But refugee groups are still angry at plans to keep the island facilities open for other asylum seekers and at the new EU migrant policy, unveiled on Wednesday. The EU's "New Pact on Migration and Asylum" calls for a tougher stance on returning migrants who do not have the right to stay in the EU, and for the ratcheting up border controls.

"The (European) Commission promised 'No more Moria', while building a new containment camp in Lesbos, where conditions are dire," tweeted the one migrant rights group, Legal Centre Lesbos. The only flaw from Greece's perspective is the Commission giving up on quota-based redistribution of asylum seekers among EU countries — a plan first mooted during the migration crisis of 2015 but which foundered on opposition from several

member states. "While there has been a climate of support from Europe after the Moria blaze, the final answers are not what some people might expect," Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi told Real FM radio on Sunday.

"There is a reserve in member states with few exceptions. Our country is constantly asking for relocations." The Greek government has struggled to manage overcrowding in camps on the five Aegean islands most affected by the arrivals — even more so since the Moria camp on Lesbos burned down on September 8 and 9. Half of the 24,000 migrants packed into Greek camps remain on Lesbos.

Government officials there scrambled to set up a provisional site for those left without shelter by the blaze, but charity groups were already incensed at conditions there. Campaigners point to the long waits the migrants endure for their one meal a day; the lack of mattresses and the impossibility of respecting coronavirus infection control measures like social distancing. "We have continuously exposed the human cost of this outrageous containment policy to leaders in European capitals, to commissioners in Brussels and to citizens through the media," Christos Christou, the president of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) tweeted. — AFP

## Egypt's Nasser still a polarising figure, 50 years on

**CAIRO:** Fifty years since Gamal Abdel Nasser's death, controversy over the legacy of the charismatic Egyptian president who championed Arab unity lives on in Egypt as deep divisions beset the Middle East.

Best known for his colloquial charisma and pan-Arab populism, he enraptured listeners with his radio broadcasts and inspired enormous pride inside the North African country and well beyond its borders.

Nasser was feted as a bulwark against Israel, colonialism and poverty during much of his 16 years in power, first as prime minister and then president. Early successes included the thwarting, albeit thanks to US influence, of an invasion by Britain, France and Israel in 1956 after Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal.

Critics, however, saw him as a symbol of populist authoritarianism, economic folly and geopolitical imprudence which significantly compromised his standing by the time he died on September 28, 1970. To mark 50 years since his death, his oldest daughter, Hoda, published a book giving new insight into the life of the divisive leader.

"Nasser: Secret Archives" includes excerpts of his journal while he fought the Arab-Israeli war in 1948 and exchanges with US president John F. Kennedy, as well as Soviet ruler Nikita Khrushchev.

"All I did was recount the events as they happened, and explained the principles he followed by showing documents he wrote while an officer in the army and during his presidency," she told AFP. "It is up to people how they perceive his rule."

### 'Boosted dignity'

A senior army officer, Nasser led a group of officers who toppled British-backed King Farouk in a 1952 military coup that later came to be known as the "July 23 revolution".

He served as prime minister from 1954 to 1956, when he became president, until his death.

During his rule, Nasser dismantled the privileges of a landowning aristocracy that had thrived under the old monarchy, and pushed socialist policies including free education and substantial subsidies.

Although very popular, his efforts to establish social equality proved increasingly difficult to fund.



**KHARTOUM:** This file photo released on September 1, 1967, shows King Faisal of Saudi Arabia (L), Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser (C), and Sudan's Prime Minister Muhammad Ahmad Mahgoub, meeting during the summit of the Arab League in Khartoum, Sudan. — AFP

He initiated costly mega-projects like the building of the Aswan High Dam and nationalised the Suez Canal, a move that prompted the 1956 attack by Israel, Britain and France, who were forced to withdraw under US pressure.

"He boosted people's sense of dignity, and that is what Arab peoples miss as they recall Nasser," said Mustapha Kamel, political science professor at Cairo University.

Political parties were abolished under Nasser, while authorities launched a severe crackdown on opponents, including the Muslim Brotherhood.

And Nasser ushered in decades of military rule, characterised by extended emergency powers and the army's significant, often opaque, influence within the economy. "While he sought to abolish classism, his regime initiated the concept of the police state, and instilled a culture of fear of authority," said Said Sadeq, political science professor at Nile University.

Kamel added: "He did not believe in democracy and used to declare that openly."

"He is a historic leader, who represented key features of the 1950's to 60's — from battling colonialism and seeking social equality to undermining political and economic liberalism," he added.

In his public speeches, Nasser assumed a populist tone and used simple Arabic to openly lampoon colonial powers and Israel. But his assertiveness on the international stage sometimes amounted to imprudence, according to critics.

In 1962, Nasser dispatched troops to back revolutionaries in Yemen against Saudi-backed royalists, draining Egypt's resources in a years-long quagmire.

But the decimating blow to Nasser was defeat in the 1967 Six-Day War, during which Egypt, Jordan and Syria lost key territories. — AFP

## S Korea calls for joint probe into killing of official

**SEOUL:** South Korea yesterday expanded the search for a missing fisheries official killed by North Korean troops at sea last week, a day after North Korea accused the South of raising tension by intruding into its territorial waters.

South Korea's military has accused North Korean soldiers of killing the man, dousing his body in fuel and setting it on fire near the sea border, apparently in an effort to prevent the risk of a novel coronavirus outbreak.

Officials in Seoul are calling on North Korea to agree to a joint investigation into the incident, which prompted an apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who said the killing should not have happened.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said on Monday that military hotlines with North Korea should be restored to prevent unexpected incidents. North Korea severed the inter-Korean hotlines this year as relations soured.

Moon called Kim's apology "unprecedented, very rare and special" and a sign that North Korea did not want relations to worsen. He added that communication must resume to prevent future problems.

As of yesterday, the North had not responded to the call for a joint investigation. On Sunday, its state media issued a statement complaining that South Korea's naval operations had entered its territorial waters in the area, off the west coast of the peninsula, threatening to raise tensions.

"We have never crossed the Northern Limit Line to the North's side, but there has been differences in how the two Koreas mark the waters," South Korea Coast Guard Lieutenant Lee Hong-cheol said, referring to a disputed maritime demarcation that dates to the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War.

At least six aircraft and 45 vessels were participating in the search, including 36 ships from the coast guard and navy, and nine boats from the fisheries ministry and private owners, Lee said.

North Korea said on Sunday it was conducting its own search for the man's body, and said it was considering ways to hand it over to the South if found. — Reuters



## International

# Bombshell report claims Trump avoided federal income taxes for years

## Trump dismissed accusations as 'totally fake news'

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Sunday faced allegations that he paid little or no federal income tax for years before he came to power, as his cloudy financial past stoked controversy ahead of the first election debate.

The New York Times alleged the billionaire president paid just \$750 federal income taxes in 2016 — the year he won the White House — and 2017, and no federal income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he reported losing more money than he made.

Trump, who immediately dismissed the accusations as "totally fake news," is readying to come face to face with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden at a pivotal live debate today.

The Republican leader has broken with presidential tradition by refusing to release his tax returns, fighting a long battle in the courts and triggering speculation about what they might contain.

"First of all, I paid a lot and I paid a lot of state income taxes too... It'll all be revealed," Trump said as he shrugged off the Times story that cited tax data extending more than 20 years.

The Times said that Trump reduced his tax bill via a \$72.9 million tax refund that is the subject of an Internal Revenue Service audit. He also reportedly took tax deductions on residences, aircraft and \$70,000 in hairstyling for television appearances.

Meanwhile, his golf courses report losing large amounts of money, and hundreds of millions of dollars in loans he personally guaranteed will soon be due for repayment, according to The New York Times. Democrats jumped on the allegations, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying it showed "Trump's disdain for America's working families,"

and party colleague Chuck Schumer calling for everyone "who paid more in federal income tax" to raise their hand.

Massachusetts representative Richard Neal, the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee who has tried unsuccessfully to obtain Trump's tax records, said the Times report makes it even more essential for his committee to get the documents.

"It appears that the President has gamed the tax code to his advantage and used legal fights to delay or avoid paying what he owes," Neal said in a statement on his Facebook page.

"Now, Donald Trump is the boss of the agency he considers an adversary. It is essential that the IRS's presidential audit program remain free of interference." Biden's campaign team posted a tweet that simply stated how much federal income tax had been paid by teachers (\$7,239), firefighters (\$5,283) and nurses (\$10,216) — all groups that have been hit hard by the pandemic or the West Coast wildfires, two major topics ahead of the debate.

At Tuesday's election debate, millions of Americans will watch as the two antagonists — who depict each other as existential threats to the country — step into the ring live on television after months of shadow-boxing.

### Blunders and gaffes

Trump taunted Biden on Sunday with a fresh salvo on his mental acuity. "I will be strongly demanding a Drug Test of Sleepy Joe Biden prior to, or after, the Debate on Tuesday night," he tweeted, saying he would take one also. "His Debate performances have been record setting UNEVEN, to put it mildly. Only drugs could have



**CHARLOTTE:** In this file combination of pictures created on September 25, 2020 shows Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks at the Black Economic Summit at Camp North End in Charlotte, North Carolina and US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida. — AFP

caused this discrepancy???"

When asked by reporters about the demand, Biden laughed before declining to comment.

Both men are prone to blunders and gaffes when speaking — but the 74-year-old Trump has repeatedly depicted the 77-year-old Biden as senile.

On Saturday, Biden said he expects "personal

attacks and lies" from the president, likening Trump to Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels.

The former vice president has until recently stayed close to his Delaware home due the pandemic — while Trump has flouted his own government's social distancing guidelines, holding jam-packed rallies with few masks in sight. — AFP

## NY authorities worry over neighborhood coronavirus hotbeds

**NEW YORK:** Coronavirus infection rates have increased at "an alarming rate" in several New York neighborhoods, particularly among the Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn, city health authorities warned Sunday, threatening to sanction certain schools if they fail to comply with anti-virus regulations.

Although the Big Apple has touted that it kept its infection rate under one percent for more than a month, six neighborhoods in Brooklyn and two in Queens have seen their rates spike, surpassing five to six percent in Midwood and Gravesend.

The increase coincides with the Jewish High Holidays, the most holy days in the Jewish calendar, that culminate Monday with Yom Kippur. "These areas account for over 23 percent of new cases citywide... despite representing just under seven percent of the city's overall population," New York city health services said in a press release.

They added that the data showed an increase in hospitalized patients in two Brooklyn hospitals, and at least one hospital in Queens. The increase has raised fears of a second wave in New York, which reported a record 23,800 Covid-19 fatalities when the epidemic peaked in the spring. On Friday, health authorities organized a press conference in one of the most affected Brooklyn neighborhoods, Borough Park.

"This may be the most precarious position with Covid-19 we have experienced in months," said health commissioner Dave Chokshi, urging people to wear face masks and respect social distancing measures.

But he and his colleagues were booed by at least two people in the crowd, including an Orthodox Jewish radio host known for his anti-mask stance, Heshy Tischler, video from NBC showed. "There are people who refuse to believe the truth, this is a deadly virus and we have easy ways to avoid it," Mitchell Katz, the chief of New York's municipal healthcare system, told the news station.

### Back to school?

Health authorities announced a series of educational activities for neighborhood residents in the coming days. With the reopening of public schools scheduled for October 1, authorities also warned they would conduct inspections in non-public schools — including many yeshivas, or religion-focused Jewish schools — and would close facilities and impose fines if necessary.

But the restart of in-person learning has been a touchy subject and has already been postponed twice, as more parents of New York's some 1.1 million public school students opt instead for remote classes. The Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA) has called for management of the school system — traditionally the mayor's responsibility in the US — to be transferred to the New York state educational services during the pandemic.

New York mayor Bill de Blasio recently promised to hire some 4,500 additional teachers to facilitate both in-person and online learning.

But according to the CSA, a union that claims to represent about 6,400 officials for the city's 1,800 public schools, he and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza failed to hire enough teachers. It is unclear whether schools will reopen on October 1 as planned. — AFP

## With classroom time reduced, US students demand tuition cuts

**CHICAGO:** Full-time students at Chicago's Columbia College spend \$14,000 a year for professional, hands-on training in dance, film and music that the school normally offers in studios and classrooms scattered across the city's South Loop and Near South Side.

When the coronavirus pandemic led the school to move some coursework online this summer without reducing tuition, many students, including Isaiah Moore, cried foul. A television and cultural studies major, Moore now leads a group of students holding campus demonstrations, circulating a petition and meeting with school officials in the hopes of a tuition cut and more transparency in the college's finances.

"We want our tuition to reflect the way our education is being experienced now," said the 21-year-old from New Jersey. "This is the time we need more unprecedented solutions to unprecedented problems." Moore is one of a growing number of US college students pushing for their schools to cut tuition and fees because of reduced in-person classroom time and less access to on-campus resources.

The sky-rocketing cost of post-secondary education is a perennial issue in the United States. It intensified this spring when US colleges and universities, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, canceled classes and shut down campuses. Dozens of

students filed lawsuits asking courts to force schools to issue refunds. With two-thirds of American colleges moving at least some of their fall classes online, students have become more vocal in their objections, saying they are not getting the education they purchased.

Many colleges and universities, including Columbia College, have refused to reduce tuition, saying salary and maintenance costs have held steady, regardless of whether the institution is offering in-person or online classes or a hybrid model. "For all three instructional methods, the college will be delivering all expected learning outcomes for courses and credit towards graduation," Columbia College, which is not affiliated with New York's Columbia University, said in a statement. It said it was providing a "well-rounded and rigorous fall semester."

To be sure, some institutions have lowered tuition and fees, including Georgetown, Princeton and Northwestern University where fall tuition was slashed by 10 percent.

Even so, Northwestern's cut has failed to satisfy 175 students who have signed a letter threatening a tuition strike beginning Oct. 1. In the letter, to be sent to the school's president, the students demand officials reverse a 3.5 percent tuition hike implemented in June before the 10 percent cut was made, as well as further reduce tuition by at least 30 percent. "Withholding tuition en masse is quite a large move, but we believe it is warranted given the level of crisis," said one of the organizers of the protest, Alex Harrison, a 19-year-old sophomore who is studying journalism and political science.

The protesting students at the private university of 21,000 students in Evanston, Illinois, north of Chicago, are also demanding officials address

issues involving housing contracts, financial aid, work-study and support staff while calling on them to use some of the school's \$10.8 billion endowment to help students through the pandemic. Other college students have taken to online petitions to voice their frustration. Change.org says 1,500 petitions calling for college tuition reductions during the pandemic have been created on its site. The petitions have received closed to one million signatures since March, the platform said.

One of the petitions was started by Ava Yelton, a senior at the University of New Mexico, which is offering both in-person and online courses this school year.

Her petition, garnering 5,400 signatures, calls for a tuition and fees cut to match a "significantly" decreased amount of instruction, hands-on learning and opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities.

She said the Albuquerque school, which charges more than \$8,000 a year for an in-state student, raised tuition 2.6 percent this year. "It's an unethical choice to not only maintain tuition, but to increase (it) during such uncertain times," said the 20-year-old public health and psychology major.

David Vu, a 20-year-old student at the University of San Francisco, has led a movement on campus calling for a 4 percent cut to the annual \$50,000 tuition and elimination of fees for inaccessible services after the school moved online for the fall semester.

The management major said some of his fellow students have created social media accounts to call for a tuition payment boycott while others have taken the semester off or have transferred to less expensive schools. "It's like the school and students are trying to call each other's bluff right now," he said. — Reuters

## Wildfire erupts in California's Napa Valley wine country

**ST HELENA:** A wind-driven wildfire erupted on Sunday in the heart of northern California's Napa Valley wine country and spread across more than 1,000 acres (404 hectares), forcing the evacuation of several communities and a hospital, authorities said.

The blaze, dubbed the Glass Fire, broke out east of Calistoga, about 75 miles (120 km) north of San Francisco, and raced toward the adjacent towns of Deer Park and St. Helena, with flames advancing to within a mile of the Adventist Health St. Helena hospital.

All 55 patients who were at the hospital at the time were safely evacuated by ambulance and helicopter over the course of five hours, beginning around 7 a.m. in the morning, hospital spokeswoman Linda Williams told Reuters.

"We had ambulances lined up from all over the Bay area," she said, adding that while the facility was surrounded by smoke, the skies over the hospital itself remained clear enough for helicopters to land and take off with patients who needed to be evacuated by air.

She said it was the second wildfire-related evacuation of the 151-bed hospital in about a month, coming on the heels of a massive cluster of lightning-sparked blazes that swept several counties north of the San Francisco Bay region.

Evacuation orders also were posted on Sunday for several Napa County neighborhoods, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).

By 1:30 p.m., flames stoked by strong, gusty winds had scorched some 1,200 acres of rolling hillsides, CalFire said. There were no immediate reports of injuries, but a Reuters photographer in



**SAN BERNARDINO:** A photograph of fallen Big Bear Interagency Hotshot Charles Morton, a firefighter who was killed battling the El Dorado wildfire, is displayed at a memorial service for Morton on September 25, 2020 in San Bernardino, California. — AFP

St. Helena saw a number of structures that had been burned.

The Napa Valley, world renowned as one of California's premiere wine-producing regions, has been plagued by a series of wildfires outbreaks in and around the Bay area over the past several years.

The latest came as the Pacific Gas and Electric Company announced it was temporarily shutting off power to transmission lines in portions of 16 counties across northern and central California as

a precaution against heightened wildfire risks posed by hot, windy, dry conditions.

The public safety power shutoffs were expected to affect some 65,000 homes and businesses in the region, said PG&E, the state's largest electric utility. CalFire said a fire weather watch was due to go into effect on Monday across much of Southern California due to a forecast return of hot, gusty Santa Ana winds and low humidity from San Diego to Los Angeles and Ventura counties. — Reuters



# Business

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

## TikTok to keep ticking in US for now

### China says 'US abusing power' to squeeze TikTok

**SAN FRANCISCO/BEIJING:** A judge late Sunday stopped the US from banning downloads of TikTok, freeing the video snippet-sharing mobile app to keep winning new users here-for now.

District Judge Carl Nichols issued a temporary injunction at the request of TikTok, which the White House has called a national security threat, alleging that its Chinese parent firm is tied to Beijing. An order from US President Donald Trump sought to ban new downloads of the app at the end of Sunday, but allowed until November 12 for a second phase aimed at stopping TikTok from operating in the US entirely. The judge denied TikTok's request to also suspend the November 12 ban, but noted that his decision was "for now."

#### What about TikTok lovers?

TikTok lovers in the US woke up to life as usual, at least in regard to their enjoyment of the platform. That was going to be the case anyway, since the ban that had been poised to take effect Sunday only applied to new downloads and updates. However, getting access to updates means longtime TikTok users will be able to get security patches to keep them better protected while using the app.

It also means US users will be able to get any new features TikTok releases. Where from here? The judge's order tells TikTok and the US to work out a schedule to proceed, and that typically means the court wants opposing parties to find middle ground.

"My sense is that it is a pragmatic splitting of the baby for the short term, to give a little time for them

to resolve the disputes and come to a resolution," said University of Richmond law school professor Carl Tobias. Once lawyers get a chance to review the reasoning behind the judge's decision, the US could appeal the decision putting a hold on the download ban.

Legal analysts interviewed by AFP thought it unlikely the US would appeal, since lawyers typically



#### Mobile app to keep winning new users

don't want to make an enemy of a judge early in a case by attacking their judgment. Meanwhile, TikTok's overarching suit challenging the legality of Trump's executive orders continues through the court.

#### TikTok's tomorrow?

Outside of the courtroom, TikTok can continue trying to work out a sale or alliance to appease US concerns. A tentative deal would make Silicon Valley giant Oracle the technology partner for TikTok and a stakeholder in a new entity to be known as TikTok Global. Such a deal is expected to be dimly viewed

by Beijing, where some consider the US move an unjustified appropriation of Chinese technology.

Meanwhile, Beijing yesterday accused the Trump administration of abusing "national power" by trying to ban TikTok, as a federal court gave the video app's US operations a stay of execution.

President Donald Trump claims the popular app poses a national security threat and harvests data for Beijing via its Chinese parent company ByteDance-allegations the firm vehemently denies.

Describing the order as "bullying behavior", Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said it was evidence of "abusing national power to unreasonably suppress other countries' enterprises".

Instead, the US should "provide a fair, just, open, and non-discriminatory business environment for companies around the world investing and operating in the country", Wang added. China says Trump is strong-arming the company into giving up full ownership of a lucrative app-with 100 million US subscribers-to an American rival.

But late on Sunday a US federal court issued a temporary block on the order after TikTok's lawyers successfully argued it was a "punitive" ban motivated by politics rather than genuine security fears. Details of the injunction remain sealed for now by the court in Washington.

The US squeeze on TikTok is one of a litany of issues souring relations between the rival powers, spanning tech, defence, human rights and contested seas. US tech giants have also raised concerns over the precedent a ban could set for a free internet-and the prospect of reprisals against American firms



operating in China's vast market.

ByteDance has begun discussing a complex transfer of ownership to Silicon Valley giant Oracle. A tentative deal unveiled last weekend would make Oracle the technology partner for TikTok and a stakeholder in a new entity to be known as TikTok Global. TikTok said Sunday it would "maintain our ongoing dialogue with the government" on the plan, which has received preliminary approval from Trump. But it was still unclear whether the deal would be approved by Beijing, where some consider the US move an unjustified appropriation of Chinese technology. — AFP

## Caught in pandemic's net, fish sellers struggle to stay afloat in India

**CHENNAI:** In 35 years of selling the village catch, Jennet Cleetus said business has never been so bad for her and other women who make ends meet by hawking seafood along the palm-fringed coast of Kerala in southern India.

India - one of the countries worst-hit by COVID-19 - has eased most lockdown restrictions and sought to reopen its battered economy, but some curbs on informal vendors remain and many customers are too scared to go out shopping. "First, our men couldn't go fishing. When they did go and brought fish in, we couldn't go and buy it. Now if we buy it, we can't sell it outside our villages," said Cleetus, 60, from her home in Valiya Veli in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Additional pandemic requirements are adding to their woes, she added. "The government wants us to get an antigen test, produce the certificate and get permission from the police before we can enter the markets. The test is expensive but we have to do it now or we may die of hunger."

Cleetus is among the tens of thousands of women fish vendors living

along India's 7,500-kilometre (4,660-mile) coastline who are battling to regain livelihoods hit by wary buyers, online sales and persistent curbs on movement and access to markets. An estimated 25 million people make a living from fishing and related activities in India, government data states. Women make up nearly half of the workforce, taking a lead in the procuring, processing and marketing of fish, said S Velvizhi, who heads the Fish for All research and training centre at Poompuhar in Tamil Nadu state.

Traditionally, women known as head-loaders sell fish door-to-door, carrying sardines, shrimps and other local fish in bamboo baskets or aluminum vessels. Others sit on pavements or operate out of fish markets. "Many of them are single women and most of them use their income for the everyday running of their households," said Velvizhi. "The pandemic has increased the debt burden on these women and pushed their families to the brink of poverty."

**Rising debts**  
In the middle of the lockdown, the



An estimated 25 million people make a living from fishing and related activities in India, government data states.

Indian government announced broad plans to modernise the nation's fishing industry. "One of the thrust areas of the new plan is to empower women in fisheries," Shankar Laxman, joint commissioner in India's Ministry of Fisheries, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We are aware that the pandemic has hit women fishworkers badly. The new scheme will benefit them. We are not encouraging roadside vendors anymore and will support them to set-up modern

kiosks with freezers and display cabinets to sell hygienically."

Lakshmi Kowada, president of the Traditional Fish Workers' Union in Andhra Pradesh state, said he was not impressed by the government blueprint. "Today's ground reality is that women are not able to enter apartment blocks or housing colonies to sell fish," said Kowada, who has been in the business for 20 years, demanding immediate financial assistance for the fish sellers. — Reuters

## Sudan foreign aid deal to give cash to poor families

**KHARTOUM:** The EU, several member states and the World Bank have signed a deal for almost \$190 million in direct financial aid to poor families in Sudan, official news agency SUNA said.

The Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP) aims to give some 32 million people, or around 80 percent of the population, 500 Sudanese pounds (nine dollars at the official rate, or just over two dollars on the black market) per person per month for a year, according to the World Bank. Direct aid payments to half a million people across several of Sudan's states will start in October, SUNA said, and the program will be gradually expanded over two years, for a total cost of \$1.9 billion. EU-World Bank financing announced Sunday accounts for \$110 million, while contributions from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden amount to a total of \$78.2 million, according to an EU statement.

The deal was signed in Khartoum in the presence of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Acting finance minister Heba Mohamed Ali Ahmed called the SFSP "an important part of the transitional government's reform agenda." "It will alleviate some of the economic challenges currently facing Sudanese throughout the country, including in rural areas, especially women and the most vulnerable," she said, according to the EU statement.



**KHARTOUM:** Mohammed Abdulhamid, Director General of the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), speaks during an interview with AFP at his office in Khartoum. — AFP

Experts say the move aims to ease the impact on the population as the government progressively cuts fuel subsidies in response to a huge budget deficit and an economic crisis aggravated by the novel coronavirus pandemic. Sudan declared a state of economic emergency earlier this month to avert a downturn due to the dramatic fall of its local currency against the US dollar and soaring inflation.

In July, Sudan recorded a year-on-year inflation rate of almost 150 percent, according to the central bank. Economic hardship, which triggered protests in December 2018 that led to the ouster of long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir, remains a pressing challenge in Sudan.

Hamdok has said his government needs \$8 billion to rescue the ailing economy, while in June, international donors pledged just \$1.8 billion in aid to Sudan's transitional authorities. — AFP

## EU-UK trade talks resume under Brexit bill cloud

**BRUSSELS:** Negotiators for the EU and Britain are hoping for a breakthrough in trade talks this week, despite feuding over a controversial UK bill that threatens to scupper a post-Brexit deal.

Scores of officials were to assemble in Brussels from yesterday in efforts to forge a compromise on negotiating positions that have not budged on key areas since the talks on future relations began six months ago. Both London and Brussels say a deal on a free trade agreement must be struck by mid-October to allow time for it to be ratified before coming into force from January 1 next year.

Failure to do so would see trade conducted on World Trade Organization rules, with higher tariffs and quotas and almost certain economic chaos for Britain and Europe.

Chief negotiators Michel Barnier and the UK's David Frost met last week to prepare the round of talks, in meetings that London characterized as "constructive". European diplomats remained cautious that a breakthrough was possible, seeing this round of meetings as laying the necessary groundwork for a final push later in October. "Next week, a path to a deal should be identified," an EU source said. "If we have zero movement, the process will be in big trouble."

#### 'Rough patch'

Also on Monday senior EU and UK officials will meet in Brussels to try to find an understanding on the highly contentious issue of the withdrawal bill. EU Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic will meet his British counterpart Michel Gove as joint chair of an EU-UK coordination committee overseeing the implementation of the divorce agreement. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, whose country has more to lose than most if talks break down, said Brussels will not rubberstamp a trade agreement if London keeps threatening to breach its divorce. EU capitals were incensed by Johnson's decision to push an Internal Markets Bill in his own parliament that his own government admits would break international law by overwriting the withdrawal treaty. — AFP

## Qatar Airways gets \$2.0bn state aid after huge loss

**DOHA:** Qatar Airways said Sunday it received \$2.0 billion in state aid to weather the coronavirus crisis, as it posted huge annual losses after enduring one of its "most difficult years". The firm said that the combination of the coronavirus pandemic, a boycott by Gulf neighbors and the liquidation of 49 percent-owned Air Italy—which announced its bankruptcy in February—had resulted in a near doubling of losses.

This brought the carrier's net loss for the year to end-March to 7.0 billion riyals (\$1.92 billion). "Qatar Airways is familiar with facing exceptional challenges; however, 2019-20 has been one of the most difficult years in the airline's history," the carrier said in a statement. The airline confirmed that Qatar had joined a list of governments that have stepped in to support their national carriers through the coronavirus shutdown, which has pummeled global travel and the aviation industry.

The carrier will issue 730 million shares to the government after receiving "an advance of 7.3 billion riyals" (\$2.0 billion) after annual losses exceeded 50 percent of share capital, it said in its annual report. "If not for the exceptional circumstances of fiscal year 2020, our results would have been better than the year before," said the airline's chief executive, Akbar al-Baker.

The report also said that over the 12 months, revenue increased 6.5 percent to 51.1 billion riyals, seat capacity increased by 3.2 percent, and freight handled rose by 2.8 percent. The pandemic compounded an already difficult environment for Qatar Airways. The United Arab Emirates, which was a key market for the Gulf carrier, along with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt, have enforced a boycott of Qatar since June 2017.

They accuse Doha of links to extremist groups and being too close to Iran, Riyadh's regional arch-rival-charges Qatar denies-and have closed their airspace, borders and markets to Doha. Qatar Airways is the second largest airline in the Middle East after Dubai-based Emirates, operating a modern fleet of 250 aircraft—although some remain grounded during the pandemic.

Qatar in July won a ruling at the International Court of Justice in its fight against airspace restrictions by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt. It said it will seek \$5.0 billion in compensation from the other Arab states for closing their airspace to the flag carrier. — AFP



Business

# Air France leads tax pushback in climate vs recovery fight

## France mulls tax hike after 'Green Wave' election

PARIS/BRUSSELS: Air France-KLM is battling new green taxes on top of the coronavirus crisis - in a test of growing policy tensions between righting Europe's crippled airlines and delivering on climate goals. The Franco-Dutch group, sustained by 10.4 billion euros (\$12.2 billion) in state-backed loans, faces higher duties in both home markets as well as EU plans to hike airlines' carbon costs.

The struggle unfolding around Air France-KLM is part of a larger reckoning for carbon-intensive industries as efforts to tackle global warming spawn more taxes and regulation. While campaigners say those are long overdue, crisis-hit airlines warn their timing and severity will cost thousands more jobs and hurt development of lower-carbon technologies.

New taxes "do not support emissions reductions", said Air France-KLM Chief Executive Ben Smith in response to proposed increases to French passenger duties. "In fact it's counterproductive and would deprive us of finances that could otherwise be invested in environmental projects," he told an online industry forum this month.

Tensions can only rise as emissions goals are toughened to slow dangerous climate change. The European Union's executive now wants to cut greenhouse gas output by 55 percent in the next decade rather than the previous 40 percent, from a 1990 baseline. While the pandemic has dampened climate protests led by Extinction Rebellion and Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, their political

legacy must be squared with the economic emergency.

### Green wave

French municipal elections saw the ecologist EELV party take Lyon, Bordeaux and Strasbourg in a June 28 "Green Wave". The next day, President Emmanuel Macron promised to advance 146 proposals from a "citizens' climate convention". Those include an airline duty increase to 30 euros per short-haul econ-

who had called for "taxation or similar policies" to curb emissions by raising air fares. From Jan 1, the Netherlands is introducing passenger duties worth 220 million euros at pre-crisis traffic. A Greenpeace legal challenge is also demanding steeper emissions cuts in return for KLM's 3.4 billion-euro aid package.

### Offsets upset

Airline emissions account for 2.5 percent of the global total but are set to triple by 2050. Under a UN-brokered program, CORSIA, the industry aims to counter emissions growth from international flights with carbon offsets, whose effects are contested.

Airbus has given itself until 2035 to put a "zero-emission" plane into service, but many are skeptical about that deadline. Synthetic fuels are also too scarce and expensive to offer a near-term solution. For intra-European flights, airlines would face a higher bill for European carbon credits under plans outlined this month to reduce free permits for the sector.

EU officials have also signalled likely moves to end a tax exemption for jet fuel enshrined in international treaties, a process that could take several years. Germany, which has pushed ahead with an airline tax increase to fund cheaper rail travel, plans binding minimum quotas for carbon-neutral alternative jet fuel. Far from giving struggling airlines a break, campaign groups are urging governments to use bailouts to force faster progress.

"Airlines' reliance on governments



strengthens the case for acting to cut their emissions," said Andrew Murphy of Brussels-based Transport & Environment. Assuming a slow recovery, the group says CORSIA's market mechanism would price emissions as low as 17 cents per long-haul flight, leaving little incentive to curb greenhouse gases. ICAO, the UN aviation agency that developed the program, said it was "grossly misrepresented" by the research.

### Not fare

Other emissions-cutting proposals may divide the industry. Air France-KLM's Smith called on French ministers to consider a minimum fare instead of taxes, citing the 40-euro minimum recently introduced in Austria. "Let's discuss that," he said in a newspaper interview. While minimum fares can curb overall traffic and emissions without hurting

traditional airlines' profits or jobs, they punish budget carriers and their customers. "This is another mad idea from a high-fare airline that can only survive with over 10 billion euros of illegal state subsidies," Ryanair said. The low-cost giant is challenging rivals' EU-approved bailouts in court.

"Ordinary consumers all over Europe have benefited from and will continue to demand low fares, choice and competition," it said. However these tensions play out, airlines face a rising tide of carbon costs on top of their current woes. Maintaining fuel tax exemptions would present a "flagrant inconsistency" with EU climate goals, said Christian Egenhofer of Brussels-based think tank CEPS.

Taxing fuel would be an important step even if rates started low, Egenhofer said. "You know what happens with taxes - they always go up." — Reuters



### CEO pushes minimum-fare alternative

omy passenger and 400 euros for long-haul business, from their current 1.50-18 euro range. At 2019 traffic, officials say the sector would pay 4.2 billion euros.

Key members of the government, which underwrote 7 billion euros for Air France, are backing away from the pledge as officials draft legislation in response to the convention. "It would be grotesque to take back with one hand what we'd given the sector with the other," Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told daily Les Echos.

Le Maire and his Dutch counterpart were among nine EU finance ministers

## Every cup of Nespresso coffee will be carbon neutral by 2022

KUWAIT: Nespresso today commits that every cup of Nespresso coffee, both for at-home and for professional customers, will be carbon neutral by 2022. This new ambition builds on more than 10 years of work during which Nespresso has reduced its carbon emissions and compensated the remainder through agroforestry.

"Climate change is a reality, and our future depends on going further and faster on our sustainability commitments. That is why we are accelerating our commitments to offer our consumers a way to drink a carbon neutral cup of coffee by 2022. A coffee, made from the finest and rarest beans, sustainably sourced. I truly believe that both our business and the coffee industry can be a force for good in the world by tackling this pressing issue," said Guillaume Le Cunff, CEO of Nespresso.

Having already achieved carbon neutrality in its business operations (scopes 1 & 2) since 2017, the company's new commitment will tackle emissions that occur in its supply chain and product life cycle (scope 3). Nespresso will achieve carbon neutrality through the following initiatives: the reduction of carbon emission; the planting of trees in and around coffee farms where Nespresso sources its coffee (insetting); and through support and investment in high quality offsetting projects.

1. Carbon emission reduction: A crucial element of Nespresso's vision is to decarbonize its value chain. These immediate initiatives include:

- Sustainable energy usage within Nespresso's operations: Driving towards 100 percent renewable energy in all Nespresso boutiques and increasing the use of biogas within the manufacturing process.
- Expanded circularity of Nespresso products and packaging:

Increasing the use of recycled plastic within Nespresso machines, as well as of recycled and low carbon virgin aluminium within coffee capsules.

2. Planting trees in coffee farms and the surrounding landscapes (insetting): Trees are the best way to capture carbon from the atmosphere while investing in nature and building a regenerative agricultural system. Planting trees provides the shade needed to improve the quality and quantity of a coffee harvest. The roots also help protect against soil erosion and landslides and promote soil regeneration. With its partner Pur Projet, Nespresso will triple the capacity of planting trees (with insetting) in coffee producing countries such as Colombia, Guatemala, Ethiopia and Costa Rica.

3. Accelerate to make an immediate positive impact (offsetting initiatives): Nespresso will also invest in projects to support forest conservation and restoration as well as implement clean energy solutions within farming communities.

This carbon neutral commitment is part of a broader sustainability ambition that will be further communicated later this year: to preserve exceptional coffees, build a resilient and regenerative coffee agriculture system, drive sustainable livelihoods for farmers and build a circular business.

The 2022 carbon neutrality roadmap has been endorsed by the



Nespresso Sustainability Advisory Board (NSAB) members.

### George Clooney, Nespresso Brand Ambassador

"Climate change is happening now, which means that we must all take responsibility and action, quickly," said George Clooney, actor, Nespresso Global Brand Ambassador and member of the Nespresso Sustainability Advisory Board. "It's clear that Nespresso understands this urgency and is putting our planet and people front and centre of the choices it makes. These ambitions and vision build on a commitment to sustainability that I have been privileged to have been involved in over the last seven years. I've seen how far we've come in

that time, and I'm excited to see the good that Nespresso can deliver in the next 10 years."

### Tristan Lecomte, Co-founder, Pur Projet

"The pressure is on for all businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and Nespresso is clearly showing a strong will to tackle its own carbon emissions via this ambitious and qualitative carbon neutral program. While we all search for the technical innovations that will reduce carbon, it is urgent that businesses invest as well in the sequestration of their emissions to balance their books as quickly as possible," said Tristan Lecomte, Founder, Pur Projet, member of the Nespresso Sustainability Advisory Board. "We've been proud to support Nespresso in doing this, planting millions of trees across the globe within coffee regions in Colombia, Guatemala and Ethiopia to take carbon dioxide out of the air since 2014. We will continue working together and triple the capacity of the carbon in setting program and regenerating the ecosystems we all depend upon."

Nespresso has been carbon neutral across its business operations since 2017 and now commits to achieving full carbon neutrality across its supply chain and product life cycle

## China's leaders to ratify lower growth target for 2021-25

BEIJING: China's leaders are poised to endorse a lower economic growth target for Beijing's next five-year plan compared with 2016-2020, as authorities navigate growing challenges fuelled by a deepening rift with the United States, policy sources said. President Xi Jinping and other leaders are expected to discuss and approve China's economic and social development blueprint for 2021-2025 at a key Communist Party conclave in October, the sources told Reuters.

State news agency Xinhua said yesterday the meeting will be held from Oct. 26-29. Policymakers believe that setting a five-year growth target is vital for steering the world's second-largest economy past

the 'middle income trap', the sources said, after internal debate over whether it should abandon such targets to enable more flexibility.

The target also keeps local governments focused on development goals at a time of a deepening rift between China and the United States over a broad range of issues, they said. "There will be an economic target. Where is the direction of development if there is no such anchor?" said one source who is involved in the debate. Government think tanks and economists have made recommendations for average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth targets including "around 5 percent", 5-5.5 percent to 5-6 percent, the sources said. China is targeting average annual growth of over 6.5 percent for the 13th five-year plan that ends this year.

China's State Council Information Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Some government advisers have argued that China should do away with official growth targets - a legacy of decades of central economic planning - to reduce reliance on debt-fueled stimulus and encourage more



BEIJING: A visitor looks at an Audi e-tron car at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing on Sunday. — AFP

productive investment. Reform advocates hope President Xi's proposed "dual circulation" strategy, expected to be the centerpiece at the conclave, is an opportunity to quicken reforms to spur domestic demand and unleash fresh growth engines. — Reuters

## 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 240 million for six months with a rate of return at 1.375 percent.

## TikTok will survive Donald Trump, say US users

WASHINGTON: "I never thought I would have a voice, but this app has given me one and people have been listening," said Rebecca Fisher-Tringale, explaining her love for social network TikTok, adding, "I never thought it would be possible." The aspiring political scientist said she has no doubt TikTok will survive despite the Sword of Damocles that President Donald Trump has been dangling above the social network.

Under her screen name @theprogressivepolicy, Fisher-Tringale comments on current events several times a day in short videos lambasting Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic or his immigration policies. In early August, the president signed an executive order to force China's ByteDance group to sell or spin off the platform to an American company in the name of an alleged threat to "national security" by TikTok.

Trump has claimed, without giving evidence, that Beijing can use the hugely popular app to spy on Americans. But Fisher-Tringale shrugs this off; she is not overly worried about TikTok's survival, despite its importance in her life.

"I joined the app kind of as a joke in 2019 to watch videos and be entertained," she said. "Then I started to make videos about my dog, then I made one about Trump, and it blew up," she told AFP from her house-share in Boone, North Carolina. With more than 80,000 followers, the 21-year-old college student said she hopes to bring "different perspectives" to young people of all backgrounds, many of them not yet of voting age. "So many people have texted me saying we wouldn't be involved in politics if it wasn't for you," she added.

In one of her most viral episodes, Fisher-Tringale posted an ironic quiz for those who push back against anti-racist "Black Lives Matter" protesters by insisting that "All Lives Matter." "Who was brought to America in chains at the bottom of ships?" she asked, before offering these options: "A. Black Lives; B. All Lives." In June, she joined thousands of other TikTok users in registering online to attend a Trump rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma-while planning all along not to go. The rows of empty seats seen in the televised event represented a humiliating setback for the Republican candidate's campaign, but a source of pride for young TikTok'ers. — AFP



## Business

# stc launches reliable internet connectivity backup solution

## Solution helps avoid delays in business operations due to disruptions

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the launch of its dedicated backup access solution, in a step to further enhance the series of exceptional offers and services introduced by the Company to its enterprise customers.



Customers can control the quota they need

The new solution aims to prevent any disruptions in primary internet connectivity that may lead to interruptions in business functions, while keeping in mind the current challenges companies and SMEs are facing in their return to normal business operations. In a statement, the Company highlighted that the backup connection serves as an alternative support connectivity to primary fiber, DSL or other connections. Upon detecting any connectivity malfunctions, the system engages the backup connection, ensuring a seamless transition and smooth operation of all required business activities.

Commenting on the new solution, General Manager of Sales & Account Management at stc, Meshari Al-Hamad, said, "We launched this technology as an added enterprise solution to serve as a support system to primary internet connections. This



Meshari Al-Hamad

solution enables us to meet the current demand for such products in the market and assist Companies in preventing any unwanted disruptions in service due to unstable networks." Explaining how the system works, Al-Hamad said, "When primary internet connections experience a drop in connectivity, they temporarily halt access to online services, data exchange processes, and branch management tools, causing Companies delays in offering their high-quality services, as well as lose valuable time and effort. With the back-up connection we equipped with a dedicated access feature, Companies can resume their business functions as usual with the support of a strong network, preventing any unexpected disruptions in their activities."

He added, "Through our revolutionary 5G network, stc offers a self-management tool through selfcare, where the customer can control the quota they need to manage the disruption period until the primary connection is running at full capacity once again." stc is deploying this innovative dedicated access solution over its 5G network across Kuwait at competitive prices. This initiative builds on the important role of the fifth-generation technology in shaping and accelerating the enablement of digital transformation across various industries.

stc business aims to provide innovative state-of-the-art solutions and exceptional user experience not only for customers, but enterprises as well, spe-

## Chinese chip giant SMIC shares sink on US export curbs

HONG KONG: Shares in China's biggest chipmaker tumbled yesterday on reports that the United States had imposed export controls on the company, the latest salvo in the countries' battle for technological dominance. In a new blow for China's advanced tech ambitions, the US Commerce Department reportedly ordered companies to seek permission before selling equipment to Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC).

Equipment sold to the Chinese company posed an "unacceptable risk" of being diverted to "military end use", according to a letter sent to major US computer chip firms that was seen by The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times.

News of the letter, which was first reported Saturday, sent SMIC's shares plunging in both Shanghai and Hong Kong on Monday, closing down seven and 3.9 percent respectively.

Asked about the new controls at a daily press conference Monday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said Beijing opposed Washington "abusing export controls and other restrictive measures to unreasonably suppress Chinese companies". Advanced tech has become one of the many battlefronts that have opened up in the past few years as relations between Beijing and Washington plummet to their lowest levels since diplomatic relations were restarted in 1979.

SMIC is China's biggest contract manufacturer of chipsets and a key pillar of Beijing's plans to achieve semiconductor self-reliance. Analysts say China's dependence on foreign-including US-made-chips hinders that national goal. Backed by several state-owned entities, SMIC has made strides at improving China's chip capabilities but it remains heavily reliant on imported equipment and software.

Under the new rules announced by the Commerce Department, US companies that want to sell equipment to SMIC will have to apply for a license. "The restriction, once implemented, will severely damage SMIC's existing and future manufacturing capabilities, and customer trust," Bernstein analysts led by Mark Li wrote in a note.

"Without steady supply and service from the US,

## Siemens energy unit spinoff falls short of expectations

FRANKFURT: German industrial giant Siemens yesterday spun off its energy division, with a below-expectations valuation of 16 billion euros, in one of the largest stock market debuts in Europe this year. Shares in Siemens Energy traded at 22.01 euros (\$23.27) at open, before sliding back to 21.68 euros at 0834 GMT.

The valuation lagged expectations, with analysts having predicted the new company's market cap to reach between 17 billion and 24 billion euros. In March, Siemens said the energy unit had equity of about 17.3 billion euros. "As an independent company, we now have the entrepreneurial flexibility we need to help shape the global transformation of the energy markets in a sustainable and economically successful manner," said Siemens Energy's chief executive Christian Bruch.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic pending business plans worldwide, Siemens pressed ahead with the spinoff first announced in May 2019. Siemens Energy, with its oil and gas, turbines, power transmission and related services businesses, joins medical devices arm Healthineers and lightbulb unit Osram on the stock market, which debuted in 2018 and 2013 respectively, as Siemens slims down to become more agile.



SHANGHAI: An investor stands in front of an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage house in Shanghai. — AFP

the yield and quality of SMIC's capacity will degrade, as early as in a few months for more advanced nodes."

### Tit-for-tat tech tensions

SMIC said yesterday it had yet to receive any notification of the new restrictions from the Commerce Department. "The company has no relationship with the Chinese military and does not manufacture for any military end-users or end-uses," it said in a statement. The export restrictions for SMIC come after a similar US campaign to hobble Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which Washington fears could allow Beijing to tap into global telecoms networks.

The Commerce Department in May announced plans to cut off Huawei's access to global semiconductor supplies, which the company said would threaten its survival. The move against SMIC is less severe than placing Huawei on its so-called entity list—a de facto blacklisting—but it will probably further anger Beijing.

Donald Trump has become increasingly hawkish towards China as he battles for re-election in November. His administration has also announced plans to ban Chinese social media apps TikTok and WeChat on national security grounds.

Those advocating a more hawkish stance towards Beijing have long warned of a symbiotic relationship between Chinese companies and the country's military and security apparatus.

They have also complained of unfair trade practices such as intellectual property theft and state-sponsored cyber espionage. But many analysts argue that Trump's actions could backfire on the US tech sector and other American businesses by encouraging China and other countries to respond in kind. — AFP



FRANKFURT: A bell to ring out the initial public offer of Siemens Energy stands in front of the company's logo yesterday at the stock exchange in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

### Fleet of ships

Siemens chief executive Joe Kaeser in 2017 said he wanted the company to become a "fleet of ships" rather than an awkward tanker, as it seeks to chart a course through a more challenging time for industrial companies. Other sprawling German conglomerates such as Thyssenkrupp, Bayer and Continental have similarly spun off units to face a fast-changing trade climate, digitalization, and cheaper metal imports from China.

The energy unit, which employs 91,000 people, has struggled in recent years and last year announced 2,700 job cuts worldwide. It generated revenue of 28.8 billion euros in fiscal year 2019. The conglomerate has, however, proved broadly resilient to the coronavirus pandemic, beating expectations with net profit of 539

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The diagram illustrates the backup solution. A customer's primary connection to the cloud is shown. When there is a "Primary connectivity interruption", the system automatically switches to a backup connection through a branch office, ensuring "active backup connectivity" is maintained.

cially focusing on faster ICT deployment. This enables the Company to assist local businesses in digitizing and enhancing their operations throughout this difficult period and prepare for new market conditions shaped by the current pandemic.

The Company's 5G DA service is one of the best ICT solutions for SMEs, given the sector's demand for faster deployment timeframes with minimal

cabling. Complemented by a stable experience and professional services, the 5G DA will provide SMEs with fast GTM connectivity. stc's 5G DA is also the better choice for larger enterprises due to its capability to serve as a primary link and fiber backup. The Company has offered these services to several customers in various sectors to enhance their operations with success.

## Sept 30 last day to enter Gulf Bank's KD 1.5m prize draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the last chance for customers to deposit into their Al-Danah accounts, and therefore be eligible to win the KD 1.5 million annual grand prize, is September 30, 2020. Last year, Gulf Bank increased the Al-Danah account's annual grand prize from KD 1 million to KD 1.5 million, becoming one of the largest prizes associated with a bank account worldwide. This year's annual draw ceremony to announce the grand prize winner is scheduled to take place on January 14, 2021.

Mohammad Al-Qattan, General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, encouraged Gulf Bank customers residing in Kuwait to take advantage of this opportunity, saying: "Last year, we announced that the Al-Danah account's grand prize is now bigger than ever, and we are now counting down the last chance for our clients to deposit into their accounts and be eligible for the annual draw. I would also like to remind all our clients that opening an Al-Danah account is simpler than ever when using the Gulf Bank mobile app, which makes it easy to open and deposit into an Al-Danah account online."

The Al-Danah account is one of the best savings accounts in Kuwait, with its periodic draws that award valuable prizes and its many advantages for account holders. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account offers weekly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to five lucky winners, in addition to three quarterly draws with KD 250,000 prizes each, and a grand prize of KD 1,500,000.

### Numerous benefits

The Al-Danah account is the only account that rewards customers for their loyalty by providing loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances gained at the end of the previous year, which are then transferred to the current year to reward the customer for their loyalty to the Bank. In that way, all chances for existing Al-Danah customers from 2019 (from January 1 to December 31, 2019) have been transferred to the 2020 draws, provided that customers qualify for the draw and that their balances do not drop below KD 200 at any time during the year 2020. It is also worth noting that all account draws are attended by a representative from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, with

million euros in the three months to the end of June.

As part of the spinoff, Siemens will give 55 percent of shares in Siemens Energy to its current shareholders at a ratio of one Siemens Energy share for every two shares in the main company. The company's pension fund will get 9.9 percent, with the parent company holding on to 35.1 percent.

After anticipating the share price to suffer a little at first, "in two to three weeks we will see the share price stabilize and towards December we will see the first fair valuation," Siemens chief financial officer Ralf Thomas told AFP. The shares had a "bumpy start" to trading, but the industry had "a promising future", Comdirect analyst Andreas Lipkow said.

Siemens intends to reduce its shareholding significantly within 12 to 18 months after the completion of the spinoff, it said. Siemens Energy will own two-thirds of Spanish-based renewables arm Siemens Gamesa, as the company also pivots to more sustainable energy sources.

However, Siemens Group, which aims to be carbon neutral by 2030, recently came under fire for signing a contract in December to provide rail signalling services for the Carmichael coal mine project in Australia.

Luisa Neubauer, Germany's answer to Greta Thunberg and the leader of the country's Fridays for Future environmental protest, had turned down an offer to sit on the board of Siemens Energy after calling the Australia decision "disastrous". In a peculiar quirk, the spinoff will temporarily raise Germany's blue-chip stock index to 31 names from its normal 30. —AFP

the quarterly and annual draws also reviewed by Ernst & Young.

Customers can deposit to win Al-Danah cash prizes throughout the year in the draws listed in the following table:

To increase their chances of winning, account holders must either keep their account with a minimum deposit amount of KD 200, or increase their Al-Danah savings - the more deposits into an account, the more chances accumulated over time. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account holders also have the opportunity to enter and win cash prizes all year long through weekly, quarterly and annual draws.

### Opening an Al-Danah Account

To enter the upcoming draws, Gulf Bank customers can open an Al-Danah account today with only KD 200. To open an Al-Danah account, existing Gulf Bank customers can apply through Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services, or book an appointment at their nearest branch by using the new "Visit Gulf Bank" app for a faster and more convenient branch visit. New customers can also open an Al-Danah account by visiting their nearest Gulf Bank branch or by scheduling an appointment through the app.

Deposit More for More Chances to Win! With Gulf Bank, depositing into an Al-Danah account is easier and more secure than ever, as clients can deposit into their accounts through the following channels: Online/Mobile Banking App which includes the ePay service, ATMs and ITMs, the Customer Contact Center at 1805805 which is available 24/7, in addition to the free standing order service from other Gulf Bank accounts.

### Additional Features

- All Al-Danah account holders will receive a special Al-Danah ATM card for deposits, ideal for depositing money anytime.
- Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center is available on WhatsApp around the clock for any inquiries at 65805805.
- Al-Danah account holders are eligible for free SMS alerts for all transactions.
- Customers can now calculate their chances using the Al-Danah Calculator, available at Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking App.

## Sterling jupms as traders see hope of avoiding Brexit

LONDON: The British pound rose to a 19-day high versus the euro and gained 0.7 percent against the US dollar yesterday on hopes that Britain could secure a Brexit trade deal with the European Union by October or at least avoid a cliff-edge exit from the bloc.

A final agreement must be reached by the end of December but both sides have set a preliminary deadline for next month as it would take some time to sign off any deal.

The Bank of England and the European Union's securities watchdog said yesterday they have agreed on the information-sharing arrangements needed for the bloc's banks to continue using clearing houses in London from January. "There's hope that no matter what they will avoid the extremes and even if there is no deal, they will make sure that we don't get any disruptions in the market," said Athanasios Vamvakidis, global head of GIO FX strategy at BAML.

"Just a couple of weeks ago, everything was falling apart. There was the internal market bill and the chances for a deal had collapsed," said Vamvakidis.—Reuters



# Classifieds

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

**Kuwait Times**  
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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

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

## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north westerly wind with speed of 12 - 42 km/h.

**BY NIGHT:** Rather hot to fair with light to moderate north westerly wind with speed of 10 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 28/09/2020 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	40 °C	31 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	41 °C	31 °C			
ABDALY	41 °C	27 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	42 °C	29 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	37 °C	32 °C			
AHMADI	- °C	- °C			
NUWAISIB	40 °C	29 °C			
WAFRA	42 °C	29 °C			
SALMY	41 °C	25 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	09/29	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	25 °C	NW-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	09/30	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	40 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	10/01	Hot and Humid with a chance for fog forming at night and visibility will decrease over some	39 °C	24 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 38 km/h
Friday	10/02	Hot and Humid with a chance for fog forming at night	39 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 38 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:20
Sunrise	05:40
Zuhr	11:39
Asr	15:04
Sunset	17:39
Isha	18:55

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	27 °C
MAX. RH	35 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	N 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

**Wrong name:** Kondisetty Subramanyam S/o Chinniah. **Correct Name:** Kondisetty Mani S/o Kondisetty Subramaiah, D.No. 3/57, Mairipalli Village, Adapur, Nandalur Mandal, Kadapa Dist., A.P. 516150. (C5760) 29-9-2020

**Passport no.** L1407205, **Name:** Saifuddin Adnan Mohammed, **Mother's Name:** Seema Jaweed changed/corrected to **Name:** Mohammed Saifuddin Adnan, **Mother's Name:** Seema Ruksana. (C5803) 28-9-2020

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

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 Email: knisha@global-freight.net

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- Immediate joining will be highly appreciated.

Email: [Mrccareers@mrc.com.kw](mailto:Mrccareers@mrc.com.kw)

Telephone: 24577773/4/5 - Ext: 222, 103, 102

Mobile: 98967350

## Word Search



Gamble	Resort
Golden Nugget	Restaurant
Hotel	Roulette
Las Vegas	Show
Lights	Slot Machine
Mirage	Strip
Neon	Sun
Nevada	Tropicana
Poker	Vacation

J F R E M O N T S T R E E T D G Q N K  
 Q I D V S E V O S L B H H F M M N E C  
 G Q B T L H I C E X O X L L C B X N A  
 A N A C I P O R T N H T R A U A T O J  
 G A M B L E O W J N E M M F Q D D I K  
 E B J U T B E M E S I P F A U C W T C  
 Y Y C D O Y Q V R R M E U K C Z Q N A  
 T D C B D W A E A A T L T N G H F E L  
 N O T Z Q D K G T S K N I R D Y I V B  
 U I N L A O E Z M E T K E G E D H N H  
 O G A E P D L G P A C Z H U H S E O E  
 C A R P D H D I P C V N E B X T E C O  
 K L U A W O R D M P A A R O R Y S D T  
 R L A H L T R U B I L A C X E D D V O  
 A E T C S E Q S D P E O I A P G X M N  
 L B S N F L U E X U F I Z Y T G T F I  
 C Q E O E N M R O U L E T T E I L J S  
 T R R G R O M L A S V E G A S H O C A  
 N V I J C T E G G U N N E D L O G N C

Bellagio  
 Blackjack  
 Buffet  
 Caesars  
 Casino  
 Chapel  
 Clark County  
 Comedian  
 Convention  
 Desert  
 Drinks  
 Excalibur  
 Fremont Street

## Join the Dots



## STAR TRACK

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**  
 This is a good day to reflect on the past weeks and get some perspective, Aries. You've probably been working too hard and neglecting other priorities in your life. Give yourself this day to relax and talk with friends and relatives. Spend the day chatting, laughing, and unwinding. Don't obsess about tasks that wait for you at the office. They aren't going anywhere.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
 This is a good day for financial matters, Cancer. With your credit cards maxed out, you may be thinking that your bank account isn't as healthy as it could be. But today you're likely to receive some news that indicates otherwise. You may get a windfall or discover that your portfolio is generating healthy returns. It's a good day for paperwork.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**  
 You will probably encounter a bit of opposition along with today's planetary energies, Libra. Even those who are usually right behind you will seem uncooperative. Try not to let this faze you too much. Resolve to follow your own instincts and work alone if need be. Once you've had a chance to advance your ideas further along on your own, you can present them again.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**  
 You've been so busy these past few weeks that you may have inadvertently neglected the special person in your life, Capricorn. It's been fun to be out and about together, but that has left little time for closeness and snuggling. Try to rectify that today. In fact, a midafternoon nap might be called for. Why not invite your honey to join you?

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
 Don't plunge headfirst into work mode, Taurus. The cleaning and tidying up can surely wait for another day. Today's energies indicate that talking with friends and family should be your main priority. Consider spending the afternoon doing activities with your kids. Hire a babysitter for the evening. It would do you good to go out with your partner - just the two of you - if possible.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**  
 Perhaps you spent quite a bit of money lately and you're holding your breath waiting for the bills to roll in. Some quick reckoning of receipts today likely yields some wonderful news. Wonder of wonders, it appears you've stayed within your budget, Leo! Try not to overreact to the news that you have more money than you thought. Give your wallet and checkbook some time off.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**  
 Your thoughts today are likely to turn to setting goals for the future, particularly concerning your career. While you've made a lot of progress in recent months, you'd like to see even more forward movement. This would be a great day to start thinking of concrete ways to make that happen, Scorpio. Why not have a family brainstorming session? It's likely to yield some great advice.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**  
 It's possible that a big change is in store for you in the near future, Aquarius. It may be that you've come to realize that your current home and neighborhood are no longer a good fit. If you've been toying with the idea of moving, today you may get some news that motivates you to make your fantasy a reality. This is a good day to peruse the real estate listings. You might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**  
 You've been so busy these past few weeks that you may have inadvertently neglected the special person in your life, Gemini. It's been fun to be out and about together, but that has left little time for closeness and snuggling. Try to rectify that today. In fact, a midafternoon nap might be called for. Why not invite your honey to join you?

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**  
 You think of yourself as a practical person, Virgo, but today your thoughts may turn to the mystical and spiritual. Your intuition is strong now, letting you tune in to the feelings of your loved ones. This allows you to be empathetic and understanding, which your partner especially appreciates. Your intuition may inspire you to approach a problem in a new way. Let your mind wander and see what develops.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**  
 This is a good day for financial matters, Sagittarius. With your credit cards maxed out, you may be thinking that your bank account isn't as healthy as it could be. But today you're likely to receive some news that indicates otherwise. You may get a windfall or discover that your portfolio is generating healthy returns. It's a good day for paperwork.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**  
 Perhaps you spent quite a bit of money lately and you're holding your breath waiting for the bills to roll in. Some quick reckoning of receipts today likely yields some wonderful news. Wonder of wonders, it appears you've stayed within your budget, Pisces! Try not to overreact to the news that you have more money than you thought. Give your wallet and checkbook some time off.



## Lifestyle | Feature



This file photo shows the Ilisu Dam separating the newly government built Hasankeyf town (foreground) and the remains of the ancient town of the same name and its archaeological sites which were flooded as part of the Ilisu Dam project located along the Tigris River in the Batman Province in southeastern Turkey. — AFP photos

# TURKEY SEEKS NEW LIFE FOR SUBMERGED TOURIST TOWN



A woman prepares a bed on a roof at sunset in the village of Zewik, 54 km southeast of Hasankeyf, near Dargecit, in southeastern Turkey.

Just two roofs poke through the vast expanse of an artificial lake that has swallowed a Turkish town whose caves and pre-Ottoman ruins once drew in global tourists. The dust settling from the hammering of construction sites around the Tigris River lake outlines the makings of a brand new city, with an unfinished bazaar and roads that are all works in progress. But trader Abdurrahman Gundogdu worries whether the new version of Hasankeyf in Turkey's mostly Kurdish southeast will ever recapture the magic it had before the Ilisu Dam erased the original town that stood here for 12,000 years. "I'm making one percent of what I used to earn before in the old town," the 48-year-old complained, outside his empty shop filled with jewelry but no people. "There



Cetin Yildirim (center), a 29-year-old former tour guide in the ancient town of Hasankeyf, sits with his new wife Zilan during their wedding ceremony in bride's village outside the city of Batman, southeastern Turkey.



Cetin Yildirim (center right), a 29-year-old former tour guide in the ancient town of Hasankeyf, stands with his new wife Zilan during their wedding ceremony.



Cetin Yildirim (second left), a 29-year-old former tour guide, and his new wife Zilan (center) take a boat tour during their wedding ceremony on a lake which has submerged the ancient town of Hasankeyf.

And some of the town's 3,000 residents lament the 500 or so graves that had to be exhumed and urgently moved to higher ground last September. Some families were left devastated after failing to finish all the paperwork in time and seeing their dead submerged. The much-photographed pillars of the town's old bridge have also vanished, as have most of the myriad caves that humans carved out of the river's limestone cliffs through the millennia. "It's a very tragic event," said Ridvan Ayhan, an activist in a group which opposes the dam project. "It isn't something people can stomach. All of a sudden, all your ancestors, your whole past, the history are under water."

### 'No reason to come'

Turkish officials want to turn the artificial lake into a tourist attraction featuring boat rides, jet skiing and paragliding. The area is rich with natural wonders such as a "weeping" cave that exudes moisture, waterfalls and valleys. Some of the town's original monuments, including the 1,600-tonne Artuklu Hamam bathhouse and remnants of a 14th-century Ayyubid mosque, were moved before the water rushed in. There is also a new museum. Yet the region struggled even before the coronavirus grounded world travel and crimped Turkey's ability to follow through on big projects. And some of the new construction work is off to a creaky start.

Residents said three new floating

docks around the lake broke soon after completion, and mentioned problems with the town's water and electricity. Authorities hope the tourism season will get off to a better start next year, when the pandemic might possibly ease. "Officials tell us, 'this will be the east's Bodrum, Marmaris'," trader Bulent Basaran, 50, said, referring to popular tourism resorts on Turkey's west coast.

"At present, I cannot see the light because there are serious problems," Ayhan, the anti-dam activist, said grimly it was "foolishness" to expect tourists to return. "If there is no history left, it makes no sense to come here," he told AFP. "The only people who come, mainly come out of curiosity, to see how it disappeared. They come once, with that purpose."

### Something different

Yet trader Basaran was less pessimistic about Hasankeyf's long-term prospects, expecting things to turn around within five years. For many local tourists, the new lake offers a chance to do something different. Asiye Sahin, who was visiting with her husband and four children from the town of Midyat, south of Hasankeyf, sounded elated before setting off on a boat tour. "We're really excited. I've seen the sea before, but never got on a boat," she said. There are also offshoots of optimism among some locals.

Cetin Yildirim, a 29-year-old former



People dance on a boat during the wedding ceremony of Cetin Yildirim, a 29-year-old former tour guide, and his new wife Zilan, as they tour a lake which has submerged the ancient town of Hasankeyf.

tour guide, celebrated on a boat with his new wife before the couple move into one of the homes built for the original town's residents. He questioned whether visitors would "find what they are looking for" now that the old town is submerged, but insisted tourists would "absolutely come if there was no pandemic". "The old order has completely gone," he said, "and so now we're looking ahead." — AFP



A boy sits on a school bench after his village and school were flooded by the Ilisu Dam.

are local tourists but they have no money to spend."

### 'Magnificent project'

The dam, completed and filling with water since last year, is meant to bring electricity to an underdeveloped region that officials hope to revive with jobs and long-needed investment. "This is such a magnificent project," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan enthused, when he was still prime minister in 2009, promising to build "a very modern" town in place of the old one. Yet his dream has already created tensions with neighboring Iraq by limiting its access to water.



In this file photo one of last residents of historical caves overlooking the Hasankeyf valley sits at his house in Hasankeyf, in Turkey's Kurdish-majority southeast.



Boys open parasols at a cafe in the Tigris River as the 12,000-year-old ancient city is seen next to the newly built stone wall in Hasankeyf.



In this file photo Mehmet Ali (left) and Halil (right) play on the huge concrete construction which covers the historical Koc mosque (not visible) to protect it from the coming waters, in the center of Hasankeyf, on the banks of the Tigris in southeastern Turkey.



In this file photo a shepherd walks his flock away from the newly constructed Hasankeyf town, part of the Ilisu Dam project located along the Tigris River in the Batman Province in southeastern Turkey.



Lifestyle | Features

# In Paris, a fashion eco-system on edge as shows disappear

When Swedish fashion brand Acne Studios last hosted a catwalk show in Paris in January, it ordered dozens of vegan-friendly rice bowls from cafe owner and caterer Pearlyn Lee for models and crew to pick on backstage. Those types of orders have all but dried up since the pandemic forced most luxury labels to cancel parties and presentations. Even as some of the world's biggest brands return to Paris yesterday, few are planning physical shows, a blow for make-up artists, lighting specialists, caterers and hundreds of other businesses in fashion's eco-system. "Basically catering is gone for us. And I'm not sure when it's coming back,"

said Lee, who only last year expanded her kitchen through a crowdfunding campaign.

From yesterday, 85 brands will showcase womenswear looks during Paris Fashion Week. Only 19 - among them Chanel and LVMH owned Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton - are pressing ahead with socially-distanced front rows. Others are holding small presentations by appointment, or streaming videos. Fledgling designers cannot afford to hire big venues for tiny audiences or risk a last-minute cancellation, said Stephane Vienne, from production and press firm Mephistopheles. None of Mephistopheles' 14 most regular customers are staging full events

next week. In a normal year, each event would have cost at least 30,000 to 40,000 euros. "We used to do four shows a day, our whole budget comes from these events," Vienne told Reuters.

### Film sets and photo shoots

Still, he said he was optimistic revenues would pick up again in the longer run, as brands try to reach shoppers virtually. His company is producing a fashion film, rather than a traditional show with an audience, inside the 19th century Hotel Le Marois for Polish label La Metamorphose. The palatial venue has also been reinventing itself, upgrading its systems to lure companies wanting to

livestream events from its ornate rooms, site manager Valerie Taieb said. But even small parties are getting complicated as coronavirus cases in France rise and restrictions on gatherings tighten. "The fashion sector and the events industry have really been forgotten in this crisis," Taieb said. Her team of around 20 have only returned to work part-time, and are still relying on the state's partial unemployment aid.

At the shoot for La Metamorphose at Hotel Le Marois, 25-year-old model Tiffany Fournier said some of her work had dried up too, although she still does magazine and advertising campaigns. "I haven't done a catwalk show since February," Fournier said. Some

big brands have pushed to hold physical events where possible in part to support suppliers and other businesses. Designers also want to keep up connections with professional buyers and media. "There's an energy and an excitement, there's music, the first model to appear on the catwalk, applause at the end," said Alexandre Mattiussi, creator of French brand AMI. "That doesn't exist in a digital format." AMI is planning to hold a show on Oct 3, with fewer than 150 guests rather than the usual 600 to 700. "It will be like a very nice wedding," Mattiussi said. — AFP

# Top trends from MILAN FASHION WEEK



Face masks may have been the standout accessory at Milan fashion week, but designers who defied the coronavirus pandemic to put on shows dispelled gloom with love letters to Italy and sunnier times. The week ended Sunday with Valentino, which had moved its catwalk from Paris this season as a show of support for an Italy devastated by the virus earlier this year. Here is a round-up of the top three Spring-Summer 2021 trends:

### Italy my love

Whether or not people will be permitted to travel to Italy next summer, they can be transported there through their wardrobes. Dolce&Gabbana paid homage to the designers' beloved Sicily, with a patchwork collection evoking the island's warmth and colours, while Etro was inspired by the picturesque Amalfi coast. "I started the collection during the lockdown," designer Veronica Etro said before her show. "Like everyone else, I was at home doing housework. And my mother and I restored an old record player and started listening to old Neapolitan songs, and we were bewitched by the serenity, timelessness and elegance. "Then I started thinking about a trip I made in 2019 to Ischia, Capri, Naples and Positano, and-maybe because we were feeling so patriotic then-I thought, okay, let's do the collection on Italy," she said.

Silky caftans in sorbet colours, patterned bikini tops and straw hats sug-



Models present collections for Valentino's Spring/Summer 2021 women's and men's collection during the Milan Fashion Week on Sunday in Milan.



Former students of the Marangoni Fashion Institute, designer Nora Bourelly (right) poses with friends with her creations in a street outside Valentino's Spring/Summer 2021 women's and men's show, during the Milan Fashion Week on Sunday in Milan, during the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus. — AFP photos

gested walks on the beach before enjoying chic aperitifs. Pucci instead headed for the island of Capri, distilling the fashion house's signature prints and '60s silhouettes-including its famous Canzone del Mare pattern-in pastel sheer silks and organzas. Max Mara's creative director Ian Griffiths thought not of seaside pleasures but summer in Italy's art cities and the Renaissance, with hexagonal motifs mimicking the mosaic floors of the country's cathedrals.

### Retrospection, reinterpretation

The nationwide lockdown also appears to have prompted Italy's luxury brands to dust off their archives and reinterpret key pieces from the past. Versace led the way, with Donatella Versace building on Gianni Versace's "tesoro de la mer" collection for Spring 1992, with its starfish, coral and seashell motifs. At Fendi, the collection was inspired by the finely embroidered household linen owned by designer Silvia Venturini Fendi's family. Over at Marni, coats made from up-cycled pieces from previous collections were then hand-painted with words that designer Francesco Risso collected from exchanges he had with friends and his team during lockdown. Dolce&Gabbana used remnants of fabric from previous seasons to lower the environmental impact of their show.

### Lockdown lazing

It was an oft-heard debate of lockdown: does not leaving the house mean you can stay in your pyjamas all day? Italy's designers gave an out to those reluctant to suit up: Armani proposed silk sweatpants, while Fendi paired outfits with slippers. Etro encouraged lounging

in caftans and nightgowns, while Max Mara indulged slouchers with hooded sweatshirts. And Valentino provided the cherry on the home-comfort cake with a surprise collaboration with Levi's that produced a coed model of the 517 boot cut jean. — AFP



Models wearing protective masks are pictured during the rehearsal prior Fendi's Spring/Summer 2021 women's and men collection during the Milan Fashion Week. — AFP photos

# GEORGIAN FILM SWEEPS SAN SEBASTIAN FESTIVAL AWARDS

Georgian film "Beginning" dominated awards at Spain's San Sebastian film festival, taking the top Golden shell prize for best movie while Dea Kulumbegashvili won best director for her debut film. The Franco-Georgian production centres on a community of Jehovah's Witnesses in remote rural Georgia, and tracks the growing psychological torment of its leader's wife-played by Ia Sukhitashvili who picked up the best actress award in the wake of an extremist attack on their place of worship. The movie, which had been set to premiere at the Cannes films festival earlier this year, which was called off due to the pandemic, also won the best screenplay prize at an awards ceremony late on Saturday. "I want to thank the jury for this fantastic, incredible day. It means a lot to me, it's a great honour," said Kulumbegashvili, 34, at the ceremony.

The 68th edition of the festival held in the northern Spanish seaside resort, the biggest such event in the Spanish-speaking world, saw 13 films in compe-



Georgian director Dea Kulumbegashvili receives the "Concha de Plata" (Silver Shell) to the best director award for the film "Dasatskisi / Beginning" during the 68th San Sebastian Film Festival closing ceremony in the northern Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian. — AFP

dition, fewer than usual. With Covid-19 cases rising again in Spain, a strict safety protocol was put in place requiring the use of face masks and limiting screenings to 40 percent to 60 percent of seating capacity. The festival was originally intended to honor Spanish language films but has established itself as one of the most important film festivals in the world. It hosted the world premiere of Alfred Hitchcock's spy thriller "North by Northwest" in 1959 and Woody Allen's "Melinda and Melinda" in 2004. — AFP

# JAPAN GOVERNMENT WARNS ON SUICIDE AFTER DEATH OF ACTRESS

Japan's government yesterday urged people to seek help if they were struggling to cope, following the death at the weekend of a popular actress. The death of "Miss Sherlock" star Yuko Takeuchi, 40, shocked the nation and follows other recent cases of Japanese celebrities taking their lives, with figures showing a recent rise in suicides. Takeuchi was a household name in Japan and had given birth to her second child in January. Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato did not mention a particular case, but noted some people were struggling to cope during the coronavirus crisis. "There has been an uptick in the number of suicide cases since July. We have to acknowledge the fact that so many people are ending their precious lives," said Kato, who was health minister until earlier this month.

He urged the public to use suicide-prevention hotlines and other services. Takeuchi played the lead in the 2018 Hulu-HBO Asia series "Miss Sherlock", and also had a minor part in the 1998 Japanese horror classic "Ring". Earlier in

September, popular Japanese actress Sei Ashina died in an apparent suicide, and actor Haruma Miura is also thought to have taken his own life in July. Reality TV show star Hana Kimura, 22, from the Netflix show "Terrace House", also apparently died in May following online abuse, making international headlines. In August, Japan saw nearly 1,900 suicides, up 15.3 percent from a year earlier. In the first half of the year, there was a drop in the number of suicides and in 2019 the figure fell to a record low, which non-governmental groups attributed to increasing efforts on the issue.—AFP



In this file photo Japanese actress Yuko Takeuchi poses for photographers during the photocall for the film "Creepy" in the Berlinale Special category of the 66th Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin. — AFP



## Sports

Photo of the day



Lenn Colderhoff of The Netherlands competes during the FIM MXGP Motocross World Championship in Italy. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

## Out at last! Chinese football teams exit 70-day virus 'bubble'

SHANGHAI: Chinese Super League teams yesterday began filtering out of sealed-off hotels where they have been confined for the past 10 weeks as part of strict measures to thwart the coronavirus. Players, coaches and backroom staff have not seen their families since mid-July, and were only allowed to leave the hotels to play matches and train. During the virus-hit season, eight of the 16 teams were at a single hotel in Suzhou, near Shanghai. The other eight were at a hotel in the northeastern city of Dalian. Players will now return to their families at last, before the second stage of the CSL campaign begins on October 16, again in Suzhou and Dalian. There were no reported infections during the first phase, after which Fabio Cannavaro's reigning champions Guangzhou Evergrande were top in Dalian and Shanghai SIPG led in Suzhou.

"When you're here before the season starts (and you know that) you have 10 weeks in a hotel here in Dalian, your first thought is: it's going to be very hard, it's hard for everyone," Giovanni van Bronckhorst, the former Barcelona star now in charge of Guangzhou R&F, said. "But now after 10 weeks the time went really fast, even though we are all in the hotel no matter who-players, coaches, CFA (Chinese Football Association) staff, media." Moises Lima, of Shandong Luneng, on Sunday posted a picture on Twitter of his fellow Brazilians in Dalian, including Evergrande's international midfielder Paulinho.

"We talk about serious things, we share jokes, we know more about each other's stories, we learn from each other, we laugh a lot, we created new friendships," the 32-year-old Moises wrote. "They gave me the strength to make the time go faster and take away some of the anxiety about being so far from our families. "We face each other on the pitch, each one defending their club in the best way, and regardless of the result we continue respecting each other. "Without a doubt, five, 10, 20 years from now we will remember some stories from this period." —AFP

## Brewers, Astros in playoffs with losing records as Dodgers overpower Angels

## Nats rout Mets as Soto wins batting title

SAN DIEGO: Harrison Bader powered the playoff-bound St. Louis Cardinals to a 5-2 win Sunday over visiting Milwaukee, but the Brewers were still the big winners as they grabbed the last spot in the National League postseason. Bader hit a triple, blasted a solo homer and scored twice as the fifth-seeded Cardinals will head on the road to face the fourth-seeded San Diego Padres in a National League wild-card series.

With the Philadelphia Phillies and San Francisco Giants also losing Sunday, the Brewers grabbed the No. 8 seed in the NL. Milwaukee and the American League's Houston Astros are the first teams ever to make the playoffs with a losing record. The Brewers will face the top-seeded Los Angeles Dodgers. Cardinals starting pitcher Austin Gomber allowed one run on one hit, two walks and a hit batter in four innings. Reliever Giovanni Gallegos (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings to earn the victory and Alex Reyes closed out the game to earn his first save.

## Rangers 8, Astros 4

Rougned Odor hit a pair of home runs and host Texas parlayed a five-run fourth inning into a victory over Houston, giving the Rangers the four-game series win in Arlington, Texas. Texas trailed 3-1 before Odor smacked a three-run home run to right field off Astros right-hander Chase De Jong (0-1) with one out in the fourth. Odor clubbed his 10th homer an inning later off right-hander Nivaldo Rodriguez, who entered in relief of De Jong with the bases loaded and two outs in the fourth. Odor finished 2-for-3 with four RBIs, two runs and a walk. The Astros, who finished 9-23 on the road, will open their American League wild-card series at Minnesota today as the sixth seed. Houston posted its first losing season since 2014 and joined the Milwaukee Brewers in becoming the first teams in baseball history to make the postseason with records below .500.

## Padres 5, Giants 4

San Diego ended host San Francisco's playoff hopes as Wil Myers doubled, homered and drove in two runs, and the Padres held off the Giants' comeback bid on the final day of the regular season. While the Padres were already locked into the National League's No. 4 playoff position, the Giants needed a win and a Milwaukee Brewers loss at St. Louis to claim a wild-card spot. The Cardinals did their part for the Giants, beating the Brewers 5-2, but San Francisco couldn't complete a rally from a 5-1 deficit. The Padres will take a three-game winning streak into their best-of-three home series against the fifth-seeded Cardinals, beginning on Wednesday.

## Dodgers 5, Angels 0

Six pitchers combined to throw a three-hit shutout to lead the playoff-bound Dodgers to the victory over the Angels at Dodger Stadium. AJ Pollock homered twice to propel the Dodgers, and also singled, drove in three runs and scored twice as the Dodgers finished 43-17, the best record in the

major leagues. The Dodgers have qualified for the playoffs in seven consecutive seasons, while the Angels finished 26-34 and out of the postseason for the sixth year in a row. Billy Eppler, the Angels' general manager for five of those seasons, was fired by the club on Sunday.

## Nationals 15, Mets 5

Trea Turner hit a grand slam and finished with seven RBIs, and 21-year-old Juan Soto became the youngest National League batting champion as host Washington routed New York. The Nationals won the final three games of the four-game series to officially move past the Mets in the National League East and avoid becoming just the third reigning World Series champion to finish last. Washington finished fourth by virtue of winning the season series 6-4. Soto finished the regular season with a .351 batting average, ahead of runner-up Freddie Freeman (.341) and No. 3 Marcell Ozuna (.338), both of the Braves.

## Marlins 5, Yankees 0

New York's DJ LeMahieu wrapped up the American League batting title, but the Yankees were dealt a shutout loss by visiting Miami in the regular-season finale for both teams. LeMahieu finished with a .364 batting average to win the AL batting title, and became the first player to win batting titles in both leagues after winning the 2016 crown with Colorado in 2016. Jazz Chisholm hit a two-run double and homered for the Marlins, who secured their first winning record since 2009 but also lost outfielder Starling Marte (ear contusion) and starting pitcher Jose Urena (hand) in the opening three innings.

## Red Sox 9, Braves 1

Boston concluded a disappointing season with a power surge, belting four home runs to defeat host Atlanta, which had already won the NL East and secured the No. 2 seed for the playoffs. The Red Sox got solo home runs from Jackie Bradley Jr., Xander Bogaerts and Jonathan Arauz, the first of his career. JD Martinez hit a two-run opposite-field homer to start a five-run uprising in the seventh that put the game out of reach. Nick Pivetta (2-0) worked five innings and allowed one run on four hits, two walks and five strikeouts. Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna fell short in his bid to become the first National League player to win the Triple Crown since Joe "Ducky" Medwick in 1937. Ozuna hit a solo homer, his 18th, and finished with 56 RBIs—both NL league-leading totals. His average of .338 fell short of the .351 posted by Washington's Juan Soto.

## Orioles 7, Blue Jays 5

Cedric Mullins had two triples and two RBIs to help Baltimore salvage the finale of a regular season-ending three-game series with a win over Toronto in Buffalo. The Blue Jays, who will enter the playoffs as the No. 8 seed in

the American League, still won eight of their 10 meetings with the Orioles this season. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. was 4-for-4 with a two-run homer and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added a solo shot for Toronto. Orioles starter Keegan Akin allowed four runs on five hits in three innings. Travis Lakins Sr. (3-2) relieved Akin and permitted a walk and struck out two in two scoreless innings. Cesar Valdez pitched a perfect ninth to earn his third save.

## Reds 5, Twins 3

Eugenio Suarez had two hits and drove in two runs, including one during a three-run 10th inning, as Cincinnati defeated Minnesota in Minneapolis in the final regular-season game for a pair of playoff teams. Joey Votto walked three times and drove in what proved to be the winning run with a bases-loaded free pass for Cincinnati. The Reds, who were locked into the No. 7 seed in the National League when the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 earlier on Sunday, will face the second-seeded Atlanta Braves in the National League wild-card round beginning Wednesday. Raisel Iglesias (4-3) picked up the win despite allowing an unearned run in his 1 1/3 innings. Caleb Thielbar (2-1) took the loss after pitching 1 1/3 innings and giving up one unearned run. Sergio Romo failed to retire any of the four batters he faced.

## Cubs 10, White Sox 8

Kris Bryant and David Bote homered as part of a six-run second inning and Billy Hamilton added a home run and a steal of home, helping the visiting Cubs send their cross-town rivals to an eighth loss in the last 10 games. The Cubs led 10-1 entering the eighth inning, but the White Sox scored five runs in the eighth and two in the ninth to bring the tying run to the plate with one out remaining. Andrew Chafin entered and struck out Nomar Mazara to end the game and earn his first save in three chances. The Cubs, who clinched the National League Central on Saturday, finished as the No. 3 seed in the eight-team NL playoff field and will host the Miami Marlins in a best-of-three wild-card round series beginning Wednesday. The White Sox will be the No. 7 seed in the AL playoffs, visiting the Oakland Athletics in the wild-card round beginning Tuesday.

## Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 3

Kole Calhoun homered and finished with two hits, Madison Bumgarner tossed five scoreless innings, and Arizona beat Colorado in Phoenix. Tim Lincecum, Ketel Marte, Eduardo Escobar, Nick Ahmed, Wyatt Mathisen and Carson Kelly all finished with two hits for the Diamondbacks. Raimel Tapia and Tony Wolters had two hits each for Colorado. Bumgarner (1-4) didn't allow a run for the second straight game to earn his first win of the season. The lefty allowed just two hits and struck out four to end his first year with Arizona.

## Indians 8, Pirates 6

Carlos Santana and Frammil Reyes each homered and drove in four runs as Cleveland erased a four-run deficit against visiting Pittsburgh and earned the fourth seed in the AL playoffs, hosting the New York Yankees. Reyes hit a three-run homer, and Santana, who entered the game in a 4-for-41 funk, hit a two-run homer and two-run double. The Indians scored three runs in the sixth and three more in the seventh for their largest comeback win of the season. Jose Osuna hit a solo homer and an RBI single, Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a solo homer and Adam Frazier added a two-run double for Pittsburgh.

## Rays 5, Phillies 0

Rookie Josh Fleming spun six scoreless innings as Tampa Bay Rays put an end to Philadelphia's playoff hopes, finishing their three-game sweep in St. Petersburg, Fla. In a career-long start, Fleming (5-0) recorded five strikeouts and allowed four hits and a walk. Relievers Oliver Drake, Aaron Loup and Ryan Sherriff each tossed a scoreless frame in the six-hit shutout for Tampa Bay, which finished the regular season by winning nine of its last 11 games. Kevan Smith, Mike Brosseau and Nate Lowe all added two hits. The Rays open the postseason against Toronto on Tuesday. Phillies right-hander Aaron Nola (5-5) took the loss after giving up six hits and three runs in 3 2/3 innings. Bryce Harper had two hits. Philadelphia ended the regular season by losing seven of its final eight games.

## A's 6, Mariners 2

Jake Lamb homered leading off the bottom of the seventh inning, sparking a three-run rally as Oakland defeated visiting Seattle. Lamb's homer to left-center field came on a 2-1 count against Seattle right-hander Yoshihisa Hirano (0-1) and broke a 2-2 tie. Sean Murphy followed by drawing a walk, and an out later, Tony Kemp doubled to right. Chad Pinder walked to load the bases before Mark Canha doubled to center to bring home two runs. Canha drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the eighth for his fourth RBI of the day. A's right-hander Yusmeiro Petit (2-1) got the victory with a scoreless inning of relief for the American League West champs.

## Royals 3, Tigers 1

Brady Singer allowed one run over seven innings to lead host Kansas City past Detroit in the regular-season finale for both teams. Singer scattered three hits and struck out five without walking a batter to finish off a solid rookie season at 4-5. The Royals won three of the four games in the series between the two worst teams in the American League Central. Adalberto Mondesi had three hits and drove in two runs. The Tigers were limited to just three hits and scored in the first on a two-out, RBI double by Brandon Dixon. Rookie left-hander Tarik Skubal (1-4) took the loss despite allowing just two runs on two hits with six strikeouts and one walk in five innings. —Reuters

## Philadelphia Union spoil Higuain debut

PHILADELPHIA: Gonzalo Higuain's Major League Soccer debut ended in embarrassment on Sunday night as the former Juventus striker hopelessly missed a penalty to compound yet another defeat for struggling Inter Miami. The former Juventus and Argentina striker, who was only cleared to play on Saturday following the completion of his move from Turin earlier this month, showed in flashes why David Beckham's American franchise decided to make him one of the league's highest paid players. But with his side 2-0 down, Higuain skied a 75th minute spot-kick before clashing with Philadelphia Union players who goaded the Inter Miami striker following his horror miss from the spot. Higuain, of Argentina, last played for Juventus in their surprise Champions League defeat to Lyon back in August and even though he worked hard despite not being 100 percent match-fit, nothing could stop Philadelphia running away with a comprehensive 3-0 win.

These are desperate times for Inter Miami's manager Diego Alonso who badly needs some world-class firepower to boost a faltering team who arrived at a sodden Subaru Park with just three wins from 13 matches, scoring just 12 times in the process. "He showed he was in good condition but will need more games and then he will feel more comfortable," Alonso said. "He was very keen to play but the penalty miss could happen to

anyone. He will keep working hard. "We had chances but no luck. We need to continue working hard so we can be more lethal." And with 20 minutes on the clock, former Real Madrid star Higuain almost capped a dream start when his acrobatic overhead kick from Nicolas Figue's cross clipped the post. It was an encouraging start for Higuain, a player the front office are hoping produces the goods for Beckham's Inter Miami both on and off the pitch as their inaugural season remains mired in coronavirus uncertainty and difficulty. The hope, however, was deflated on 24 minutes when the Union stormed ahead thanks to some less than impressive Inter defending, something which is consistently proving to be Alonso's downfall this season. Sloppy play saw the home side quickly regain possession from a throw-in and Anthony Fontana showed great composure before firing clinically past Luis Robles for his fourth goal of the campaign. Higuain, though, was working hard in the absence of any further opportunities and some excellent hold up play almost saw Lewis Morgan draw the visitors level.

Alonso threw on rookie striker Robbie Robinson at the interval to partner Higuain in the hope of giving Miami's attack extra impetus although the better chances were presenting themselves at the other end. Robles superbly keeping his side in the game. Inter Miami full-back Ben Sweat almost levelled on 57 minutes and was denied brilliantly by Union keeper Andre Blake soon after yet Alonso needed more from other Designated Players Blaise Matuidi, the former Juventus and French World Cup winning midfielder, and Mexican international Rodolfo Pizarro if they were to return to south Florida with some reward for their endeavour. —AFP



CHESTER: Gonzalo Higuain #9 of Inter Miami CF controls the ball against the Philadelphia Union in the second half at Subaru Park on September 27, 2020. —AFP

## Tewatia blitz powers Royals to record IPL chase of 224

DUBAI: India's Rahul Tewatia smashed five sixes in one over as Rajasthan Royals completed the Indian Premier League's highest-ever run chase against Kings XI Punjab on Sunday. Tewatia, a leg-spin bowler and left-hand batsman, hit the ball over the fence seven times as he made 53 off 31 balls as Steve Smith's Royals, set 224 to win, reached 226 with four wickets and three balls to spare in Sharjah.

Smith hit a quickfire 50 and Sanju Samson top-scored with 85 before Tewatia took the Royals to within one run of Kings XI's 223 for two. "I was not hitting the ball well initially, I saw in the dug-out, everybody was curious as they know that I can hit the ball long," said Tewatia, who was promoted to number four but struggled at first, scoring eight from 19 balls before he cut loose.

"It was a matter of one six. After that, I got going. I hit five in an over and it was amazing," Tewatia, who has played seven first-class matches, hit West Indies quick Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes - four in a row - in the 18th over to turn the tables at the Sharjah cricket ground, which has short boundaries. Tewatia finally fell to paceman Mohammed Shami on the last ball of the 19th over but Jofra Archer, unbeaten on 13, and Tom Curran, who hit the winning boundary, saw the Royals home. The previous best chase of 215 was also by the Royals, against the Deccan Chargers in 2008. —AFP



## Sports

# Bears go to 3-0 as Falcons fold again; Rodgers powers Packers

## Bills blow big lead but beat Rams

**CHICAGO:** Nick Foles came off the bench and tossed three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter to rally the Chicago Bears, who sent the host Atlanta Falcons to another stunning, second-half collapse on Sunday. Foles replaced an ineffective Mitchell Trubisky and completed the rally with a go-ahead, 28-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Miller with 1:53 left. Bears safety Tashaun Gipson intercepted Matt Ryan on the Falcons' next drive to seal the victory.

Chicago (3-0) remained unbeaten after three weeks for the first time since 2013. Off to its worst start since 2007, Atlanta (0-3) led 26-10 entering the fourth quarter one week after blowing a 19-point halftime lead against the Dallas Cowboys. Foles finished 16-of-29 passing for 188 yards with the three scores and one interception. Allen Robinson had 10 receptions for 123 yards for Chicago, which lost running back Tarik Cohen to a knee injury. Matt Ryan completed 19 of 38 passes for 238 yards with one touchdown and the late interception, and Calvin Ridley had five receptions for 110 yards for Atlanta.

### Seahawks 38, Cowboys 13

Russell Wilson threw five touchdown passes for the second consecutive week, including a go-ahead 29-yarder to DK Metcalf with 1:47 remaining, as Seattle edged visiting Dallas. Ryan Neal intercepted a Dak Prescott pass in the end zone with six seconds remaining to clinch the victory for Seattle (3-0). The Cowboys fell to 1-2. Wilson completed 27 of 40 passes for 315 yards, setting a pair of early season passing marks in the process. He became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw at least four touchdown passes in each of his team's first three games, and his 14 touchdown passes are the most by any player through Week 3 in NFL history. Three of his touchdowns went to Tyler Lockett, who had nine receptions for 100 yards. Metcalf caught four passes for 110 yards, and Chris Carson rushed for a game-high 64 rushing yards on 14 carries.

### Bills 35, Rams 32

Josh Allen threw four touchdown passes, including a scoring strike to Tyler Kroft with 15 seconds remaining, as Buffalo (3-0) remained undefeated by thwarting Los Angeles' comeback attempt in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Rams (2-1) overcame a 25-point, third-quarter deficit and took a late 32-28 lead before Allen drove the Bills 75 yards in the final four minutes for the game-winner. After the Bills' offense was kept in check for much of the second half, Allen still was able to rally his team to cap a day when he was 24 of 33 for 311 yards with one interception. Los Angeles appeared set to match the third-largest comeback in NFL history and the longest in franchise history when they scored 29 unanswered points, all in the second half. Their four consecutive TD drives came on a 1-yard run from quarterback Jared Goff, two Goff TD passes and a 1-yard, go-ahead score on the ground by Darrell Henderson Jr. Goff completed 23 of 32 passes for 321 yards and two touchdowns. Henderson rushed for 114 yards.

### Steelers 28, Texans 21

James Conner rushed for 109 yards and the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter as host Pittsburgh pounded out a win over Houston. Conner played in for a 12-yard touchdown with 6:24 remaining to cap a 12-play, 79-yard drive that chewed 7:03 off the clock and provided the Steelers (3-0) a 26-21 lead. Ben Roethlisberger completed a two-point conversion pass to Juju Smith-Schuster that

extended the lead to seven. Pittsburgh rushed for 169 yards and ran 76 plays compared to just 47 for the Texans (0-3). Houston had little success running the football, totaling 29 yards on 15 attempts.

### Patriots 36, Raiders 20

Rex Burkhead scored a career-high three touchdowns and Sony Michel rushed for 117 yards on nine carries to lead New England over Las Vegas in Foxborough, Mass. Burkhead ran for two scores and also caught a TD pass for the Patriots (2-1), who rushed for a season-best 250 yards. Cam Newton passed for 162 yards, with one touchdown and one interception, Nick Folk added three field goals and the Patriots defeated the Raiders for the sixth straight time. Derek Carr was 24 of 32 passing for 261 yards and two touchdowns for Las Vegas (2-1). Hunter Renfrow and Foster Moreau caught touchdowns, and Josh Jacobs totaled 83 yards (71 rushing, 12 receiving) for the Raiders.

### Titans 31, Vikings 30

Stephen Gostkowski drilled a career-best six field goals including a game-winning 55-yarder with 1:48 left and Derrick Henry ran for 119 yards and his first two touchdowns of the season as Tennessee remained unbeaten by defeating winless Minnesota in Minneapolis. Gostkowski kicked field goals of 39, 31, 30, 51, 54 and 55 yards without a miss, and he has hit game-winners in each of the first three weeks for the 3-0 Titans. Ryan Tannehill completed 23 of 37 passes for 321 yards and an interception for Tennessee. Kirk Cousins passed for 251 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Dalvin Cook rushed for a career-high 181 yards and a touchdown and rookie Justin Jefferson had seven receptions for 175 yards and a score to keep Minnesota (0-3) close.

### Browns 34, Washington 20

Nick Chubb rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns to spur Cleveland to a double-digit win over visiting Washington. Baker Mayfield completed 16 of 23 passes for 156 yards and two touchdowns, and the Browns cashed in four Dwayne Haskins Jr. turnovers for 24 points to move to 2-1 for the first time since 2011. Cleveland will play next week with a record above .500 for the first time since Dec 14, 2014. Haskins completed 21 of 37 passes for 224 yards for Washington (1-2), but his third pick-snagged by Browns linebacker BJ Goodson-set up Cleveland's clinching touchdown.

### 49ers 36, Giants 9

San Francisco completed a New York/New York sweep, riding a stingy defense and 343 passing yards from backup quarterback Nick Mullens for the victory at East Rutherford, N.J. One week after the 49ers (2-1) beat the New York Jets, Mullens passed for one touchdown while backup running back Jeff Wilson Jr. scored on a run and a catch as San Francisco rolled up a 420-231 advantage in total yards despite missing more than a half-dozen key players, including quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, tight end George Kittle, defensive end Nick Bosa and cornerback Richard Sherman. Wilson's two fourth-quarter scores iced the win, one coming on a 19-yard pass from Mullens and the second on a 2-yard run with 3:35 to play. Mullens finished 25 of 36 with no interceptions. Quarterback Daniel Jones led the Giants in rushing with five carries for 49 yards, but he struggled in the passing game, going 17 of 32 for 179 yards with one interception.

"This group, more than anything, they just love to compete," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said as the Eastern Conference trophy was presented. Herro contributed two baskets in a 9-0 scoring run that put the Heat up by 10 with 3:31 to play and Adebayo's pass set Butler up for a layup that made it 116-102 with 2:40 remaining. Fittingly, it was Adebayo who capped the scoring when he jammed in a reverse two-hander. Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 26 points, Jayson Tatum had 24 along with a career-high 11 assists, and Marcus Smart and Kemba Walker both scored 20 points for Boston.

But it's the fifth-seeded Heat headed to the finals, the lowest seeded team to reach the championship series since the eighth-seeded New York Knicks lost to the San Antonio Spurs in 1999. The Heat had emerged from a close first quarter with a 33-27 lead. Tatum missed his first seven shots but warmed up with 12 points in the second quarter. His driving layup with 1:56 left in the first half put Boston up 56-55 - their first lead since the first quarter.

Both teams were clicking offensively and they traded baskets and the lead to the break with Miami leading 62-60 at halftime. Two days after the Celtics seized control of game five with a 41-point third quarter, it stayed close in the third. The Heat led by as many as eight in a quarter that featured two lead changes. Brown was fouled on a layup and converted the free throw to pull the Celtics within 86-84 with one minute remaining. Smart powered to the rim for a dunk that tied it at 86-86 but Dragic's reverse layup put Miami up 88-86 heading into the fourth.

### 'Bam made sure'

The Celtics started strong in the final period, despite a scare when Brown landed from a dunk hard on his left leg and came up limping. He stayed in the game, and it wasn't long before he stripped

Suzanne Lenglen after just three games.

"I don't see the point of sitting on the court when it's eight degrees," fumed two-time major winner Azarenka. On court she complained: "We are sitting like ducks. It's too cold, it's eight degrees, I live in Florida. This is getting a little ridiculous. I'm not waiting," she said before storming off to seek shelter. She returned to complete a 6-1, 6-2 win, playing in black leggings and a tracksuit top.

"Does it increase the risk of players getting injured? Absolutely. I think that it does," she added ahead of a week in which the cold, wet conditions are forecast to continue. That echoed fears expressed by 12-time champion Rafael Nadal who said the conditions combined with a new heavier ball could cause elbow and shoulder problems for players. On Court Simonne Mathieu, Belgian 16th seed Elise Mertens and Russia's Margarita Gasparyan twice left the arena after also halting play due



PHILADELPHIA: Cornerback Cre'von LeBlanc #34 of the Philadelphia Eagles tackles wide receiver AJ Green #18 of the Cincinnati Bengals after a pass reception at Lincoln Financial Field on September 27, 2020. — AFP

### Bengals 23, Eagles 23

Neither Philadelphia nor visiting Cincinnati scored in a 10-minute overtime as they played to a tie. Eagles kicker Jake Elliott lined up for a potential game-winning 59-yard field with 19 seconds remaining, but guard Matt Pryor was whistled for a false start. The Eagles opted to punt instead of attempting a 64-yard field goal. Quarterback Carson Wentz completed 29 of 47 passes for 225 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions for Philadelphia (0-2-1). Wentz scored on a 7-yard run with 21 seconds left to send the game into OT. The Bengals (0-2-1) were led by rookie quarterback Joe Burrow, who finished 31 of 44 for 312 yards and two touchdowns. Tee Higgins caught both TDs, and Tyler Boyd had 10 receptions for 125 yards.

### Colts 36, Jets 7

Philip Rivers threw his 400th career touchdown pass and also went over the 60,000-yard mark as Indianapolis crushed visiting New York. Rivers reached the 400-touchdown mark with a 1-yard scoring pass to Mo Alie-Cox in the second quarter and passed the 60,000-yardage mark just before halftime. Rivers ranks sixth in NFL history in both categories. He completed 17 of 21 passes for 217 yards and one touchdown for the Colts (2-1). Xavier Rhodes (two interceptions) and T.J. Carrie each returned interceptions for scores for Indianapolis. The Jets (0-3) had just 260 total yards and quarterback Sam Darnold finished 17 of 29 passing for 168 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions.

### Buccaneers 28, Broncos 10

Tom Brady completed 25 of 38 passes for 297 yards and three touchdowns, Mike Evans caught two TD passes, and



FLORIDA: The Miami Heat celebrate with the trophy after they win the Eastern Finals Champions against the Boston Celtics in Game Six of the Eastern Conference Finals during the 2020 NBA Playoffs on September 27, 2020. —AFP

Herro of the ball and raced for a layup that put the Celtics up 96-90 - but the Heat wouldn't go away. "Bam made sure that we won the game tonight," Butler said. Celtics coach Brad Stevens said the 23-year-old Adebayo's determination and the Heat's physicality were simply too much at the end.

"They're strong, they're physical, they're tough and (Adebayo) in particular dominated that fourth quarter," Stevens said. "Even the plays he didn't score his presence was so impactful." Spoelstra said he hoped his players would take a night to savor their achievement in winning the conference before turning their attention to the challenge of the Lakers. "I feel like we've still yet to play our absolute best basketball," Butler said. "But we're on the way. We realize what we have to do going forward. We have to be near-perfect to beat the Lakers. We are capable of it." —AFP

to the slippery conditions.

At least the rain had cleared by the time 2015 champion Wawrinka and Murray walked out on to Court Philippe Chatrier with the retractable roof opened for the first time in the day. Murray, playing his first clay court match since losing a five-set semi-final to the Swiss star in 2017, may have wished it had remained shut as 16th seed Wawrinka swept to a 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 win.

The 35-year-old fired 42 winners past wildcard Murray, now ranked at 111 in the world after being pushed to the brink of retirement by his lengthy battle with a hip injury. "I should be analysing that hard and trying to understand why the performance was like that," said 33-year-old Murray after his joint-worst defeat at a Slam. Wawrinka added: "I was really focused with a champion like Andy, even if the scoreboard is only one side like today, you have to keep focus. You never know what can happen." —AFP

## Heat scorch Celtics to reach NBA Finals clash with Lakers

**MIAMI:** The Miami Heat poured it on in the fourth quarter to beat the Boston Celtics 125-113 on Sunday and book a NBA Finals showdown with the Los Angeles Lakers. The Heat, NBA champions in 2006, 2012 and 2013, reached the championship series for the sixth time in club history with a four games to two victory over the Celtics in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

When the finals start on Wednesday they'll be up against a Lakers team led by LeBron James—who reached the title series four times with Miami and won two titles before departing as a free agent in 2014. Bam Adebayo scored 32 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by six with 9:18 remaining. Midway through the fourth quarter Adebayo was fouled on a layup and made the free throw put the Heat up 101-100 and they wouldn't trail again.

It was a vindication for the player who blamed himself for the team's failure to clinch the series at their first opportunity in game five. "I couldn't let my teammates down like I did in the game before," Adebayo said. "I just went out there and tried to execute and make plays and I did that tonight." Jimmy Butler added 22 points and eight assists and rookie Tyler Herro scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter for the Heat. Duncan Robinson and Andre Iguodala scored 15 points apiece and Goran Dragic added 13 for Miami.

## 'Ridiculous' cold sparks French Open revolt as Wawrinka stuns Murray

**PARIS:** Roland Garros got underway in the "ridiculous" chill and damp of Paris on Sunday with Victoria Azarenka walking off court, complaining that it was "too cold" to play, before Stan Wawrinka brushed aside fellow three-time major winner Andy Murray in the day's marquee clash. The French Open, which was pushed back from its traditional May-June slot due to the coronavirus, began in steady drizzle and temperatures struggling to reach 10 degrees (50F). It was all too much for Azarenka, 31, who left the almost deserted Court

### News in brief

#### Persepolis, Pakhtakor draw

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Iran's Persepolis were drawn against Uzbek team Pakhtakor in the AFC Champions League quarter-finals yesterday after their shock win over Al Sadd, who are coached by Barcelona legend Xavi. Issa Alekasis's brilliant late header ousted Al Sadd on Sunday, leaving Xavi furious as the Qatari team were denied a second-half penalty. "In my humble opinion, it's a big shame that this competition, the best in Asia, does not have VAR. It's a big shame," Xavi said. Persepolis's reward was a quarter-final on Wednesday against Pakhtakor, who beat Iran's Esteghal in the last 16. The other West Zone quarter-final will be a Saudi derby between Al Nassr and Al Ahli. The West Zone games are being held in a bio-secure hub in Qatar. East Zone fixtures are yet to resume since the Champions League was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic in March. —AFP

#### Women's golf events in Saudi

**JEDDAH:** Saudi Arabia will host professional golf tournaments for women for the first time ever in November at the Royal Greens Golf & Country Club in Jeddah. The Saudi Ladies International will be the first Ladies European Tour (LET) event to take place in the country and will run from Nov 12-15, with a purse of \$1 million, the third-highest paying event after the British and Scottish Open. It was originally scheduled for March but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is set to attract more than 100 participants, including Wales' Amy Boulden, who won her maiden LET event at this month's Swiss Open. It will be followed by the Nov 17-19 Saudi Ladies Team International, in which professionals will team up with amateurs and compete for a purse of \$500,000. The events will be Saudi Arabia's third and fourth professional tournaments in the past two years, having staged the Saudi International men's event in 2019 and 2020. — Reuters

#### Mainz sack coach Beierlorzer

**BERLIN:** The Bundesliga season, still only 10 days old, claimed its second coaching victim yesterday when Mainz 05 fired Achim Beierlorzer, one day after Schalke 04 dismissed David Wagner. Mainz's decision capped a turbulent week during which the players refused to train after forward Adam Szalai was suspended and told to look for a new club. That was followed by a 4-1 home defeat by promoted VfB Stuttgart on Saturday. The club said assistant coach Jan-Moritz Lichte would take charge of the side until further notice. "I am disappointed with the club's decision," Beierlorzer, 52, said in a statement. "Nevertheless, I wish Mainz 05 and the team all the best for the future." Beierlorzer, who had been in charge since November 2019. — Reuters



**14** Brewers, Astros in playoffs with losing records as Dodgers overpower Angels



**15** Bears go to 3-0 as Falcons fold again; Rodgers powers Packers



**15** Heat scorch Celtics to reach NBA Finals clash with Lakers



## Barcelona thump Villarreal 4-0

Suarez enjoying new lease of life after stunning Atletico debut



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi (center) runs with the ball during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona against Villarreal CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on September 27, 2020. — AFP

**MADRID:** Lionel Messi scored in his first game since trying to leave Barcelona as Ronald Koeman began his tenure as coach by overseeing a 4-0 Liga demolition of Villarreal on Sunday. Messi converted from the spot 10 minutes before half-time and then the Argentine's cross forced Pau Torres into an own-goal, after an early double from the 17-year-old Ansu Fati had already put Barca in charge.

It meant Barcelona's past, present and future were all among the goals on the same afternoon as Luis Suarez, whose departure was confirmed on Thursday, marked his Atletico Madrid debut by scoring twice in a 6-1 win over Granada. In a farewell message to his best friend and former neighbor last week, Messi took another swipe at the Barca board by saying he was not sur-

prised by the clumsy way Suarez's exit had been handled.

His complaints raised doubts about his state of mind heading into the season and at the end of a traumatic summer in which Barcelona's greatest ever player admitted he was being forced to stay against his will. Koeman insisted on Saturday that Messi had been "leading by example" in training and his confidence was repaid at Camp Nou, where the striker, and club-captain, delivered an excellent display. "It is always important to win games, you gain confidence," said Koeman. "This result helps us to improve and be clear about what we want."

Messi's anger over Suarez shows he is still at odds with Barcelona's president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his long-term future remains uncertain, but on the

pitch, he delivered. Victories and goals could encourage him to stay, not to mention the talented Fati, who on this evidence can be a huge asset for his captain's hopes of winning back the title. "Ansu is a young player who has to seek consistency in his game and in his performances," said Koeman. "He has shown that he has a great future at Barca and I am very happy with him."

Fati became Spain's youngest ever international scorer earlier this month and the teenager, deployed on the left of Barcelona's attacking trio, made an explosive start to the season for his club. He fired Jordi Alba's pull-back into the top corner and then drove a second inside the post after Philippe Coutinho was allowed to carry the ball forward and spread it wide. Fati then won the penalty, his feet too quick for Mario

Gaspar, and Messi slid in his first goal of the season before his cross, aimed for Sergio Busquets, was poked into Villarreal's net by Pau.

### 'One bites, one hits'

Messi might have been watching a few hours earlier as Suarez scored twice and set up another in a sensational 20-minute debut for Atletico. Suarez laid on a goal two minutes after coming on as a substitute, his sumptuous pass finished off by Marcos Llorente, before scoring himself with a powerful header at the back post.

He then added another in injury-time, following up his own shot to make it six for a rampant Atletico at the Wanda Metropolitano. "Sometimes it is important to have a change as a player," said Suarez. "I've come to a club that has giv-

ing me a spectacular welcome, it shows in the atmosphere, you get a good impression from the beginning, and you can see that on the pitch." Diego Costa said with a smile: "It's great. One of us bites, the other one hits."

Costa had earlier given Atletico the lead but it was the 31-year-old who made way for Suarez, and he raised doubts about his future after the match. "I leave my future up to the club. I spoke with the club, with the coach, I made it very clear what was happening, that if I am here, I will fight," said Costa. "If they see the possibility of me leaving, I'll accept it. I don't want to be a burden." Angel Correa and Joao Felix scored Atletico's second and third to put Granada out of sight. The 20-year-old Felix was the best player on the pitch before Suarez stole the show. — AFP

## Icardi ends goal drought, PSG win

**PARIS:** Mauro Icardi broke a long scoring drought by netting both goals in Paris Saint-Germain's comfortable 2-0 Ligue 1 win at Reims on Sunday night. Earlier, Monaco hung on desperately to beat Strasbourg 3-2 after having two players sent off and Lille moved into second place a more straightforward 2-0 win over Nantes. PSG, who opened the league season with two losses, won 2-0 for a third straight league game and are now seventh, four points behind leaders Rennes. "It's important for a striker to score goals," said Icardi after making the scoresheet for the first time since February. "Today we lacked the efficiency to kill the match earlier, but we are happy with the result."

For the first time since the French Cup final on July 24, PSG started their all their 'Fantastic Four', of Kylian Mbappe, Neymar, Angel di Maria and Icardi. The quartet have been kept apart by positive Covid-19 tests, an injury to Mbappe, a suspension



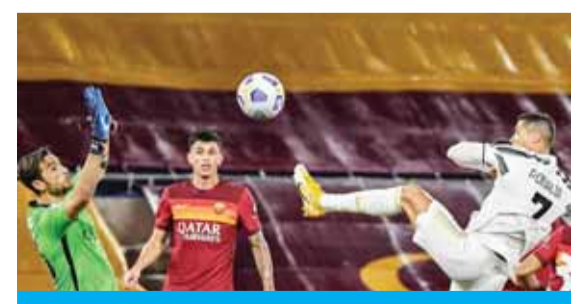
REIMS: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinean forward Mauro Icardi (left) and Reims' Austrian defender Dario Maresic jump for the ball during the French L1 football match between Reims (SR) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) on September 27, 2020. — AFP

to Neymar and coach Thomas Tuchel's decision to drop Icardi to the bench for the Champions League semi-final and final. Even so PSG exercised their option to turn Icardi's loan from Inter Milan into a permanent deal and the Argentine took over the number nine shirt from the departed Edinson Cavani. — AFP

## Ronaldo rescues a point for Juventus

**MILAN:** Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to salvage a point for 10-man Juventus in a 2-2 draw at Roma as Napoli hammered Genoa 6-0 in Serie A on Sunday. Champions Juventus were trailing 2-1 and a man down after an hour at the Stadio Olimpico after a Jordan Veretout brace for the hosts and Adrien Rabiot's sending off. But a towering Ronaldo header grabbed the equalizer in the 69th minute to avoid handing new Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo a first defeat.

Edin Dzeko was back on the Roma front line after his move to Juventus fell through, the Bosnian having missed last week's trip to Verona which ended in a forfeit defeat for the capital side for fielding an unregistered player. Instead new Juventus signing Alvaro Morata got his first start after his move from Atletico Madrid earlier this week. But the champions were pushed hard by the hosts with Veretout opening from the spot in



ROME: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (right) heads the ball to score an equalizer. — AFP

the 31st minute after a Rabiot handball. The French midfielder added a second shortly before the break just after Ronaldo had equalized for the first time. Another handball, this time Lorenzo Pellegrini's, resulted in Juventus being awarded a penalty allowing Ronaldo to slot in. The Portuguese got his second with 20 minutes to when his head met a Danilo cross seven minutes after Rabiot was sent off for a second yellow card. — AFP