



3 State departments told to address unpaid wages problem, visa trade



15 Real Madrid defeat Osasuna, Atletico scrape past Elche



MP files to grill 2 ministers, deepening political crisis

Lawyers Society demands probe into financial rewards to frontline workers

More aid lands in India; Canada, Brazil struggle

NEW DELHI: More international aid arrived in India yesterday as the daily COVID-19 death toll reached a new record in the South Asian nation. The country struggled to contain one of the world's worst coronavirus outbreaks with nearly 400,000 new infections reported. Surges in Brazil and Canada also highlighted the persistent threat of the pandemic, with the COVID-19 death toll approaching 3.2 million even as many nations ramp up vaccination drives. — AFP (See Page 7)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Leading opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri yesterday filed to grill the foreign and finance ministers for “failing to respect the constitution and law” in a move that is expected to deepen the political crisis in the country. Muwaizri said in a brief statement that he filed to grill Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah and Finance Minister Khalifa Hamada for failing to respect article 99 of the constitution and article 121 of the Assembly's internal charter.

Both articles emphasize the constitutional right of all members of parliament to ask questions to the prime minister and all Cabinet ministers, and their right to get replies and comment on them. The two grillings are perhaps the shortest in the history of Kuwait's parliament, since Muwaizri did not include any explanations, as is usual. Grillings in Kuwait are

normally made up of several pages.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said he received the two grillings, which will be added to the agenda of the next Assembly session. Assembly sessions have been suspended until after the Eid Al-Fitr holidays and the first session is not expected before May 25.

It was not immediately known if the move is a new tactic by the opposition, locked in a standoff with the government and the speaker over a decision to delay grillings of the prime minister for 18 months. The opposition says the delay is a violation of the constitution.

It seems the opposition has decided to grill ministers instead of insisting to grill the prime minister first, which has already caused the disruption of Assembly sessions. Grillings can lead to a vote of no-confidence against ministers, which requires just 25 votes to pass. The opposition has more than enough numbers to vote any minister out of office. Two opposition MPs had already

filed to grill Health Minister Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah for allegedly failing to manage the coronavirus crisis.

Unconfirmed reports state that other opposition MPs may file grillings against other ministers, effectively voting all Cabinet members out of office, which could lead to the dissolution of the National Assembly and fresh polls.

Meanwhile, the Lawyers Society in cooperation with the Public Funds Protection Society yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Authority to launch an investigation into financial rewards to frontline workers, saying the amount is highly inflated. Press reports showed that the government is proposing a financial reward of KD 586 million to as many as 214,000 employees who have contributed to the campaign to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The size of the amount has been strongly criticized, and several MPs have charged that the process of granting the rewards could involve corruption.

0% INTEREST.

Enjoy 0% interest when applying for car loan during Ramadan.



CALL US 2209 9999 • 9500 0000

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM IN AL RAI OR VOLVO STUDIO IN AL KHALEEJIA TOWER

VOLVO

Local

Amir receives senior state officials at Bayan Palace



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Roumi at Bayan Palace. Moreover, His Highness Sheikh Mishal received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Ramadan Kareem

Gloating over one's misfortune is prohibited in Islam

By Hassan T Bwambale

Among Islam's articles of belief is to believe in preordainment. Almighty Allah has predetermined what will happen and what will not happen. If someone is tested by a calamity or affliction or something else, there is wisdom behind it. It is prohibited for a believer to rejoice in a misfortune that strikes anyone whom he considers enemy or whom he doesn't like or whom he competes with. While he rejoices in the misfortunes and sufferings of others, what assurances does he have that a similar or worse catastrophe cannot strike him? Moreover, is he aware of Allah's plans? Whatever you regard as calamity may turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Almighty Allah told Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) what can be translated as: "If a blessing befalls you, it grieves them (ie your enemies), but if a calamity strikes you, they say, 'We took our precautions beforehand,' and they turn away rejoicing. Tell them that nothing will befall us except what Allah has decreed for us. For He is our guardian and protector, and on Him let the believers rely." (Al-Tawbah 9: 50 - 51)

* Among the things that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to seek refuge with Almighty Allah from was his enemies rejoicing in his predicament. Abu Huraira (ra) narrated, "The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to seek refuge with Allah from the difficult moment of a severe calamity, from being overwhelmed by destruction, from being destined to an evil end, and from the malicious gloating of enemies; rejoicing in his predicament." (Al-Bukhari # 6, 616)

* You might rejoice in a person's calamity and then God Almighty (Allah) responds by bestowing mercy on him. One of Prophet Muhammad's companions, Wa'thila bin Al-Asqa'a, narrated that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "Do not rejoice at your brother's misfortune lest Allah bestow mercy on him and afflict you with a calamity." (Al-Mun'dhirey graded it as Hasan (authentic) in Saheeh At-Targheeb 3/310)

* We deduce from the above prophetic narration that gloating over someone's grief or predicament may result in being afflicted with a similar or worse calamity. Let God Almighty deal with His servants whom He created because He is their creator and knows more about them than anyone else.

* Only Allah can judge His servants: If anyone, especially the one you dislike, gets afflicted with a calamity, do not conclude that it's because of his sins. Who gave you the moral authority to judge others? Jundub bin Abdilllah narrated that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) informed his companions about a man who quarreled with his friend-turned-adversary, saying, "I swear by Allah that He will not forgive so-and-so!" God Almighty responded, "Who is He who thinks he can control Me, claiming that I won't forgive so-and-so? For, I have, indeed, forgiven him and rendered your deeds null and void." (Saheeh Muslim # 2, 621)

* Even if someone rejoices in your calamity or predicament, do not retaliate by doing the same when he suffers: 'two wrongs cannot make a right.' Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) advised Ja'ber bin Saleem in a long prophetic narration, saying, "... and if a person insults and humiliates you, do not retaliate in the same manner, because he will bear the evil consequences of that." (Al-Albani rated it authentic in Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 2, 722).

Therefore, if anyone rejoices at your misfortune or predicament, leave it up to Allah (the Almighty and Majestic) to deal with him.

Finally, inasmuch as we yearn for God's forgiveness, especially during this auspicious month of Ramadan, let us learn to forgive and forget. "If you forgive someone for something they did to you, it doesn't mean you agree with what they did or believe it was right. Forgiving that person means you have chosen not to dwell on the matter anymore; you have moved on with your life."

Courtesy of TIES: TIES is among the projects funded and managed by Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue. TIES aims at empowering Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or 94079426 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

Hope and fear in Taleban bastion Kandahar

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: As the US military began formally withdrawing from Afghanistan Saturday, some residents in Kandahar-the former bastion of the Taleban-were optimistic the exit will bring peace to the violence-wracked country.

"The fighting will then be between two Muslim brothers (Afghan government forces and the Taleban) and the hope is that the two will reconcile and make peace," said Pacha Khan, a farmer from the southern Afghan province that was once a flash-point of fighting. US President Joe Biden had announced in April that the remaining 2,500 American troops will formally begin leaving Afghanistan from May 1 and complete their withdrawal by the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, bringing an end to America's longest war.

In reality, the withdrawal has been a work in progress for months. Fighting between US forces and the Taleban has stopped since a landmark deal between Biden's predecessor Donald Trump and the insurgents last year. But battles rage daily between Afghan government forces and the militants across Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taleban who ruled the country in the 1990s with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law.

Few shops were open in Kandahar city's main market on Saturday, while police set up checkpoints on roads leading to the airport-almost deserted as most American troops have left. In Kandahar's Bush Bazar-named for former US president who started the war in 2001 — shopkeepers sorted through used goods for sale from the former American base. "A few days ago there was a big blast outside the airport. We later came to know the Americans had destroyed equipment," said Esa Mohammad, the bazar's secretary.

"Now we get scrap from there to be sold in the market." Many ordinary Afghans remain bitter at US forces for the hardships over the years. Mohammad, a farmer who gave only one name, said the past 20 years had been worse than the 1980s, when Afghanistan was occupied by Soviet troops.

"The Russians did not inflict the kind of casualties the Americans did," said the father of eight. "The Americans killed my brother 10 years ago when they bombarded our village. These infidels have inflicted heavy losses and I'm happy they are



KANDAHAR: People make their way along a market area in Kandahar, as the US military pressed on May 1 withdrawing troops from Afghanistan. — AFP

leaving." His views were echoed by Agha Shireen, a trishaw driver from Arghandab on the outskirts of Kandahar city. "They have killed a lot of our people and brought only misery," he said. "If the Taliban return, the situation might turn better."

But Pari, 31, who works in Panjwai district believes that for lasting peace, the Taleban have to declare a ceasefire.

"I'm happy the US is withdrawing... but if the situation deteriorates in the absence of a ceasefire I might be unable to work," she said. One of the biggest achievements of the last two decades has been a boost to women's rights, with Afghan women working in almost every sector. Women were banned from work and girls from attending school during the Taleban regime. Even as the mood appeared optimistic in Kandahar, fear lurked in other cities over the US pullout. "I feel the Taleban will again be strong after the withdrawal of foreign troops," said Ghulam Nabi, a shopkeeper from the western city of Herat.

"I feel scared of another civil war and that we will be forced to leave the country." The departure of US forces will weaken the morale of Afghans, said Adila Kabiri, a professor at Herat University.

Her views were shared by Abdul Ahad Safi, a resident from the restive eastern city of Jalalabad, which has seen deadly attacks by Taleban and jihadists from the Islamic State. — AFP

Local

State departments told to address unpaid wages problem, visa trade

Around 215,000 expats left labor market in 2020

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower told state departments concerned with unpaid salaries due to workers on government contracts that the issue needs a quick solution, along with fighting residency trade, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday. Informed sources said the authority wrote to the Central Agency for Public Tenders to liquidate the financial guarantees of violating companies in order to pay workers their delayed salaries from these guarantees.

The sources pointed to the continuation of visa trade and violations of the labor law, adding grave violations were discovered lately. They said several guards must leave the country because they are in violation of residency laws for not renewing their work

permits due to the closure of their companies' files, while others were registered on bogus companies.

Meanwhile, as efforts are being made to balance the population structure, efforts to provide more jobs to Kuwaitis continue, along with the replacement policy in the government sector. A government report revealed 12,000 Kuwaitis were employed in the private sector in 2020.

The private sector suffered a large drop in the number of workers in 2020 due to the coronavirus crisis and suspension of new work visas for expats. The drop in worker numbers includes those who left the country permanently or transferred to family residency, as around 215,000 expats from three sectors left the marketplace.



Crimes

Man lost three fingers in fight with butcher

KUWAIT: A Sudanese man lost three fingers during a fight with an Egyptian in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. A security source said police received a call about the fight, so they rushed to the scene along with paramedics, but found the Sudanese had already gone to the hospital. Police went to the hospital and found the man was in the operation theater to reattach his fingers. The Egyptian, a butcher, was arrested, and faces legal action.

Body found

KUWAIT: Ahmadi detectives are investigating the death of an Egyptian man whose body was found in a Farwaniya apartment. Police and paramedics went to the flat and inspected the scene. Forensic personnel then removed the body of the 23-year-old. Detectives are investigating the case as a suspected felony after finding drug paraphernalia in the flat.

Swindling accusations

A Kuwaiti woman accused a contractor of swindling, after he agreed to do external repairs of her house. She gave him money to buy the necessary material, but he disappeared and switched off his phone. The woman told Farwaniya police station that the contractor did not return, nor did he call back. Police are looking for the contractor for questioning.

Car break in

A Kuwaiti man told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police that his vehicle's window was smashed and his personal belongings were taken. He said he suspects someone he knows with whom he has differences of committing the act. Detectives are investigating. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Burgan Bank concludes participation in 'KFAS Innovation Challenge'

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing efforts to empower its employees and promote an innovative culture across its workplace, Burgan Bank announced that it has concluded its participation in the 'KFAS Innovation Challenge 2020', organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in collaboration with the Executive Education Center at Wharton School - University of Pennsylvania.

The Burgan Bank team, who were carefully nominated by the Learning and Development Department of the Human Resources Group, consisted of five members from "Ro2ya" training program. The team members were Omar Al-Halabi, Ahmed Al-Rbean, Shurrooq Al-Houly, Salem Al-Qenaei, and Mohammed Bualiyen. The team presented the idea of developing an "Innovation Lab" to serve as a hub for all staff to propose new ideas capable of creating an impact and adding value to the bank. The project was presented through a Digital Platform to the Bank's top senior executives in addition to representatives from KFAS top management. Following the presenta-

tion and discussion, the Innovation Challenge project was well received, approved by management, and will be implemented in the very near future.

Commenting on this program, Ghada El-Kadi, Senior Manager - Learning and Development at Burgan Bank, said: "I am delighted and proud of the Bank's team participation in the "Innovation Challenge 2020." At Burgan Bank, we always strive to develop our human capital by providing the best training programs to enhance their skills, foster a culture of innovation and ideation in our workplace, and turn their innovative ideas into useful services. This program combined educational materials with practical application, leading to state-of-the-art technology solutions, which reflect the Bank's focus and strategy to adopt the latest technologies. Burgan Bank will continue to invest in our people to build future leaders."

Bashar Al-Qattan, Manager - Learning and Development, said: "The level of resilience and commitment of our team in the latest Innovation Challenge program was exceptional, given the recent global health situation.



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Team Omar Al-Halabi, Ahmed Al-Rbean, Shurrooq Al-Houly, Salem Al-Qenaei, and Mohammed Bualiyen.

The team overcame all obstacles faced and came up with a remarkable innovative solution that will add great value to Burgan Bank. As HR-L&D, we will provide them with our fullest support to implement their innovative solution and apply all skills learned from the program".

KFAS Innovation Challenge, first launched in 2015, is an annual executive training program aimed at developing innovation capabilities in the private sector by exposing teams of professionals to the combined resources of world-class academic institutions, in order to develop their business capabilities. Topics and activities tackled

this year included business model innovation, innovative delivery models, in addition to team coaching by trained Wharton coaches and faculty. Furthermore, the program offered participants the chance to attend remote learning workshops organized by University of California Los Angeles' (UCLA) experts. Aimed at elevating employee performance, Burgan Bank's participation comes as part of its ongoing efforts to provide its employees with world-class training and development programs to help improve their knowledge and skills, and maintain the bank's position as a regional financial powerhouse.

NCCAL, Association sign cooperation agreement

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and Kuwait Writers Association signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation to organize cultural events and activities. In a press statement yesterday, NCCAL's Secretary General Kamel Al-Abduljaleel said he was pleased with signing the memorandum which will boost cooperation with the writers association. The memorandum involves protecting writers' rights and cultural cooperation, he added. Meanwhile, The association's Secretary General Dr Khaled Ramadan said the two sides have been cooperating for years and taking part in joint events. Meanwhile, NCCAL's spokesperson and assistant secretary general for culture affairs Dr Essa Al-Ansari said that the two sides will form a committee



KUWAIT: NCCAL's Secretary General Kamel Al-Abduljaleel (left) and Kuwait Writers Association's Secretary General Dr Khaled Ramadan sign the agreement. —KUNA

to execute the memorandum's articles and goals. The three-year memorandum includes launching training courses and cultural projects, as well as organizing cultural workshops. — AFP

Kuwait curfew: What you need to know

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am until the end of Ramadan to help curb an increase in COVID-19 cases. During the curfew hours, pharmacies, medical stores, co-operative societies and supermarkets are allowed to continue operation only through delivery services, while restaurants and cafes are allowed to deliver food from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am every day. Also during the curfew, people are allowed to go to prayers at mosques only by walking, and the government allowed people to practice walking and jogging from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The government meanwhile allowed salons and health clubs to reopen during the day but kept restaurants and cafes closed except for drive-through and delivery services. Meanwhile, taxis are allowed to carry only a maximum of two passengers.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a booking service, allowing people to shop from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am during the curfew hours. The service is valid for all co-ops and supermarkets around Kuwait. To book an appointment, a shopper should visit www.moci.shop, enter the required information (civil ID number and serial number, contact number and email address), the reason for appointment (food supply center) and the time and date of the appointment. The shopper would then receive a barcode to show once

they reach the shopping center.

Where to obtain a curfew pass?

Citizens and residents that need a pass during the curfew hours to leave their homes can apply for a pass at <https://www.paci.gov.kw/>. The pass is available for those in need of emergency medical treatment, doctor's visits, blood donation, COVID-19 swabs and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Co-op delivery during curfew hours

During curfew hours, co-ops, grocery stores and other markets will be allowed to offer delivery services. Most co-ops will accept orders via delivery. Here is an incomplete list of co-op WhatsApp numbers. Each co-op will be responsible for deciding if and when they provide delivery services and not all may be providing.

Omariya Co-op
WhatsApp 6041-0067

Farwaniya Co-op
WhatsApp 6767-8211

Qairawan Co-op
WhatsApp 9000-3749

Jahra Co-op
WhatsApp 5160-2458

Abdulla Al-Mubarak Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-6338

Nuzha Co-op
WhatsApp 9784-5531

Khaitan Co-op
WhatsApp 6777-9745

Ardhiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6902-0779

Rabiya Co-op
WhatsApp 2438-8316

Wafra Farm Co-op
Tel: 9883-5245 / 5170-0085

Salmiya Co-op
Tel: 22253225

Jabriya Co-op
Tel: 1805-353
WhatsApp 6566-6084

Rawdha & Hawally
WhatsApp 9662-2883

Shaab Co-op
WhatsApp 9090-4455

Wafra Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-0539

Keifan Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-1719

Rehab Co-op
WhatsApp 9222-2358

Mishref Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-9900

Faiha Co-op
Tel: 1861-000
WhatsApp 9098-6000

Rumaihiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-0045

Bayan Co-op
WhatsApp 9004-2500

Fahaheel Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-9951

Adan & Qusour Co-op
Tel: 5034-3111 / 6593-3975

Salam Co-op
WhatsApp 9788-7832

• Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**

• Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**

• Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Information Ministry encourages creativity: Minister Mutairi

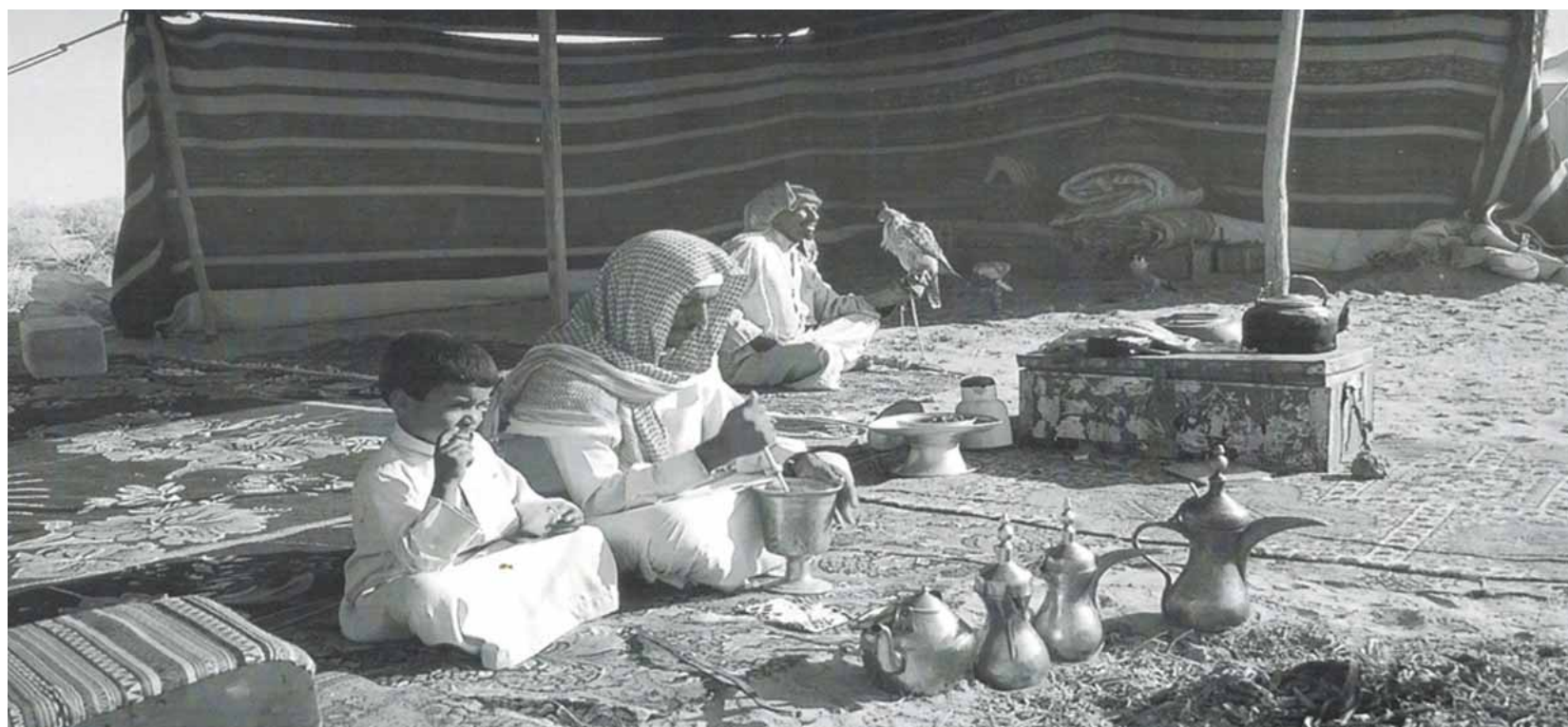
KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said yesterday that encouraging creativity and innovators, supporting ministry workers' competencies and promoting values would be among the ministry's strategy for the next five years, to be launched soon. In a statement, Mutairi, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said that a team has been formed to coordinate between the Ministry of Information and local production institutions to ensure creativity that contribute to the advancement of society.



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

The ministry pays great attention in supporting the distinguished employees to promote Kuwaiti media as the ministry is keen to provide continuous and fruitful training for the ministry's employees to keep pace with the rapid media developments, he said. "The ministry is continuing to develop the new unified visual identity according to the highest technical and creative standards," Mutairi added. He also stressed the official Kuwaiti media discourse with its various platforms to focus on promoting values "in society stemming from our genuine Islamic religion and Kuwaiti traditions." The ministry aims through this comprehensive strategy to build a media system that seek to develop performance that contributed in the development of the country, he said. — KUNA

Kuwait Heritage



KUWAIT: The classic Bedouin tent. The sadu fabric, the traditional clothes, the pots of coffee and tea, the charcoal and the falconer all serve as elements of the Bedouin life of the past. (Source: A collection of commemorative printed images by the ministry of information. Prepared by: Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, researcher in heritage, ministry of information)

Kuwait embassy starts iftar project in Shanghai



KUWAIT: Kuwait's embassy in Beijing announced yesterday that it started an iftar project under the auspices of Kuwait Awqaf Secretariat in Shanghai, northwest China. The embassy stated that this project was paid in full by philanthropists in Kuwait and implemented under



embassy's supervision. During this week, more than 717 food baskets will be distributed to Muslim families and individuals in a city in Shanghai, the embassy added. It also explained that each basket contains rice, flour, oil, tea, and sugar. — KUNA

Gulf Bank helps distribute electrical appliances to disadvantaged families

KUWAIT: As part of Gulf Bank's ongoing commitment to sustainability, and its dedication to the various initiatives it spearheads, Gulf Bank participated in a humanitarian campaign led by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to distribute electrical devices to disadvantaged families in Kuwait. As part of the initiative, which took place last Wednesday, several Gulf Bank employees volunteered to support the KRCS team's efforts to distribute the appliances to local families residing in Kuwait.

Regarding this initiative, Gulf Bank's Assistant Manager for Corporate Communications, Lujain Al-Qenaei, said: "We were honored to join the Kuwait Red Crescent Society's generous initiative to extend a helping hand to needy families. We were more than happy to participate in this initiative to distribute various essential electrical devices to several families in Kuwait, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, and with summer just around the corner. For the past sixty years, Gulf Bank has proudly been an integral part of Kuwait's economic and social history, seizing every available opportunity to support disadvantaged segments of society and ensure our community's sustainability in health, security and peace."

The KRCS performs various community roles in Kuwait, targeting all those in need of support, aid and assistance to overcome various difficulties as part of the organization's humanitarian and social efforts. The KRCS endeavors to treat needy patients residing in Kuwait in order to preserve their safety and provide medicine, medical needs, wheelchairs and other medical matters. The KRCS

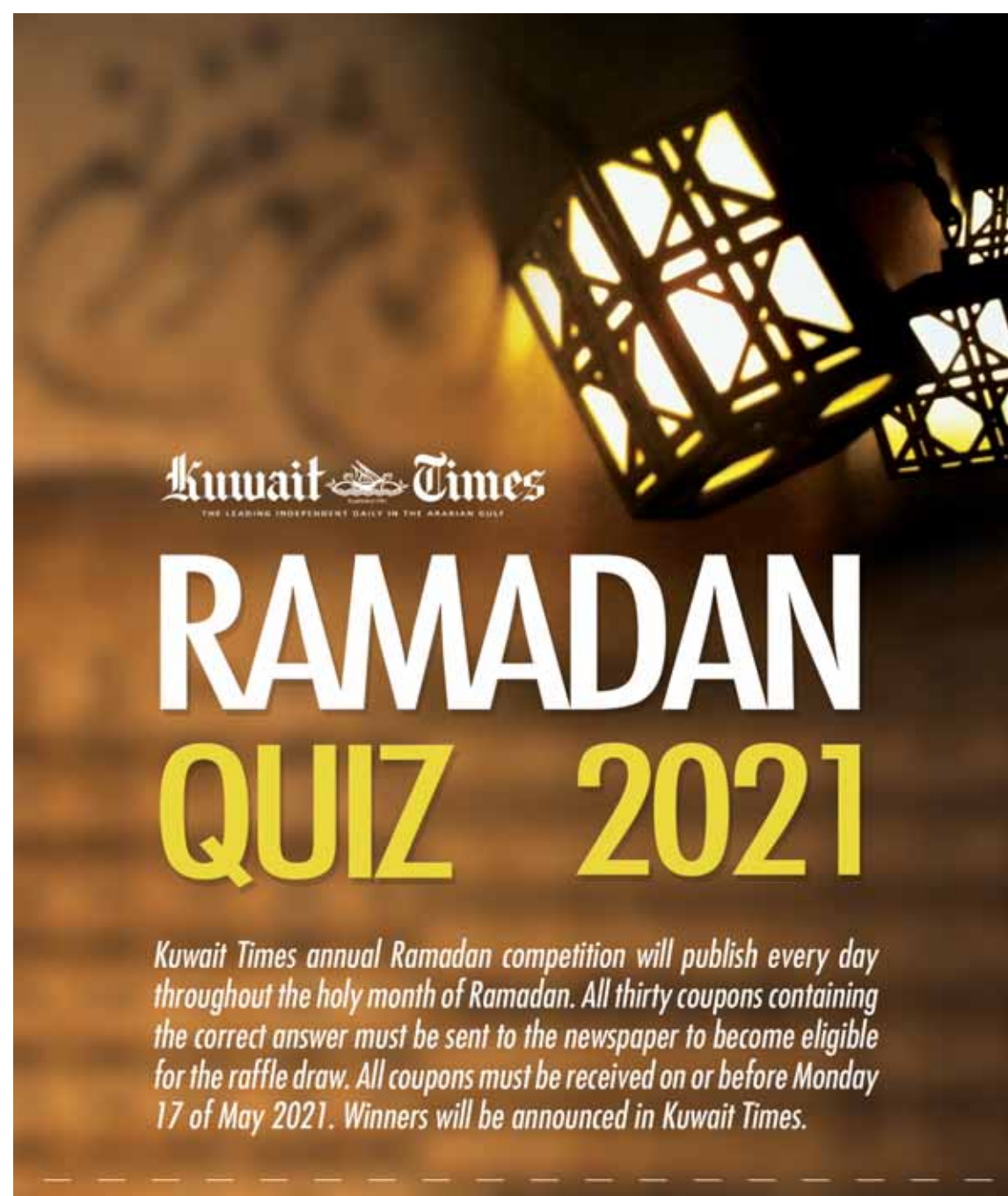
is keen to provide all types of assistance to various segments of society in Kuwait. The organization focuses on: the welfare of needy families, engaging with social welfare houses' guests, and visiting hospital patients in the hopes of providing social, psychological and community welfare to the community, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. In addition, the KRCS's Prisons Office continues to provide humanitarian services to prisoners, including following up on their conditions and psychological well-being, and providing moral and material support to them and their families.

Gulf Bank's latest initiative with the KRCS is one of many sustainability initiatives that the Bank organizes and participates in at the community level, with various initiatives taking place during Ramadan. Throughout the holy month, Gulf Bank has also organized several recreational activities and events that have taken place during walking hours in several residential areas, as part of its social responsibility to engage with, and cater to, the local community.

Throughout the year, Gulf Bank has remained committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the Bank. Gulf Bank's social responsibility initiatives go hand in hand with international efforts, aligning with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also known as the Global Goals, the SDGs were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



Lujain Al-Qenaei



KUWAIT TIMES
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

RAMADAN QUIZ 2021

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan competition will publish every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons containing the correct answer must be sent to the newspaper to become eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be received on or before Monday 17 of May 2021. Winners will be announced in Kuwait Times.

ISSUE NO: 18425 RAMADAN 21, 1442 AH

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz

21- Who is the companion at whose death it is said the Throne of Allah the Almighty shook?

- ☐ A. Abu Bakr
☐ B. Hamzah
☐ C. Sa'd ibn Mu'aath

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz

Date :
Name :
Civil ID :
Tel :
Email :

Strategic Partner



Sponsored by



Enjoy Peace Of Mind In Ramadan



Periodic Maintenance
for 1 year or 20,000 km



Window Tinting



5 Years Warranty
or 100,000 km



OUTLANDER

Starting from

5,999 KD

ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5 Liter

Starting from

4,999 KD

MONTERO SPORT 4x4

Starting from

6,999 KD

PAJERO

Starting from

7,999 KD

ASX

Starting from

4,499 KD



220 55 888



**MITSUBISHI
MOTORS**
Drive your Ambition



AL MULLA MOTORS
MASEELAH TRADING COMPANY S.P.C.

International

Petrol bombs, police patrols as N Ireland ‘celebrates’ 100th year

Deep divisions overshadow the province’s centenary landmark

BELFAST, UK: Two weeks before Northern Ireland’s 100th anniversary, black smoke from a burning roadblock billowed into the Belfast sky, signaling the deep divisions overshadowing the province’s centenary landmark.

As hooded youths hurled masonry, weary riot police poured out of rusty armored Land Rovers to form ranks. All sides know their roles in this well-versed piece of street theatre, which provides the backdrop to the 100 years of the divided British province. Scenes of unrest returned last month to the streets of Northern Ireland, the former battleground of “The Troubles” where tempers are fraying over Brexit and other tectonic political shifts.

At least 88 officers have been injured in clashes emanating from pro-UK loyalist enclaves, angry with a post-Brexit “protocol” they feel is casting them adrift from mainland Britain. “All generations are angry and frustrated at what’s going on,” said David McNarry, of the Loyalist Communities Council (LCC).

“This damn protocol is a European invention (to) take away my Britishness,” he told AFP in central Belfast, a heavy trace of emotion in his voice.

Communities facing off

Violence has been focused at “interfaces”—where loyalist and pro-Ireland nationalist areas butt up

against one another. Towering “peace walls” separate the communities, crisscrossing the Belfast landscape, a reminder of the divisions that remain even after “The Troubles” ended in 1998.

The latest violence saw loyalist youths face off with police who were preventing their advance towards a gate in the barrier. In the early evening on April 19, teens covered their faces and scrambled for bricks and stones to throw. A mother pushing a pram scooted her child out of the way as a small gang charged a police Land Rover, climbing on the bonnet, prying off a wing mirror and pulling at locked door handles. Police on the frontline remained inside their vehicles—their windscreens and sirens covered in metal grid-work that parried the worst of the debris.

Early in the evening, a switch pressed by an unseen hand slammed shut the gates in the “peace walls”, completely sealing the neighborhoods off from each other. A convoy of police vehicles pulled in from a side street, parking in practiced formation to block the road to the gates. The ranks of riot police wielding batons and shields quelled the worst of the violence, for one night at least.

The unrest paled in comparison to clashes earlier in the month, when water cannon and dog units waged a running battle with gangs throwing petrol bombs and fireworks.



In this file photo taken on November 29, 1999 Sinn Féin’s President Gerry Adams (left) and chief negotiator Martin McGuinness take a brief walk outside Stormont Parliament Buildings in Belfast. — AFP

Loyalist and nationalist youths faced off in a night of violence that shocked the UK and left the area by the peace gates charred and pockmarked. A teddy bear has since been hung on the gates with a hopeful handwritten dedication: “Peace for our chil-

dren’s future.” Against this backdrop, it is hard to imagine a “happy birthday” for Northern Ireland. Unionists and nationalists fervently disagree about the legitimacy of the region, both contest its future, and both feel under siege. — AFP

News in brief

Madrid poll puts PM on defensive

MADRID: Madrid votes tomorrow in a closely watched regional election which surveys suggest will deliver a serious drubbing to Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez’s Socialist Party. In a country still divided over its 1936-39 civil war and the dictatorship of Francisco Franco that followed, echoes of the past have entered campaign rhetoric with parties labeling each other “reds” and “fascists”. The polarization has drowned out debate over the Madrid regional government’s handling of the pandemic and the policies of the conservative Popular Party (PP), which has governed Spain’s richest region since 1995. —AFP

21 prisoners escape Iraqi jail

BAGHDAD: Iraqi police were questioned yesterday after 21 prisoners escaped jail, the latest breakout to highlight failings in the country’s security system. Ten of the escaped prisoners, all convicted on drug and terrorism charges, had been recaptured by Sunday afternoon after a manhunt was launched at dawn. The interior minister immediately “ordered the confinement to the barracks of all officers and police” at Hilal district prison in Mouthanna province 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of the capital Baghdad, while an investigation into the escape was carried out. —AFP

Pope embarks on prayer ‘marathon’

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Saturday launched a month-long prayer marathon to hasten the end of the coronavirus pandemic with a prayer at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican before some 150 believers. The Argentinian pontiff gave the inaugural rosary prayer to kick off a series which will be streamed live each day this month at 1600 GMT from different Catholic shrines across the world. They range from Fatima in Portugal and Lourdes in France to shrines in Poland, Nigeria, Cuba and South Korea as well as the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. —AFP

Hope, uncertainty in DR Congo

KINSHASA: The Democratic Republic of Congo’s move to impose a “state of siege” on two violence-wracked eastern provinces brought praise on Saturday from local leaders but also sparked concern in a country where the army faces allegations of rights abuses. President Felix Tshisekedi had said Thursday he was preparing “radical measures” for the mineral-rich east, where an estimated 122 armed groups operate as a legacy of a spate of 1990s conflicts. —AFP

Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan truce holds

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan said a ceasefire with Tajikistan was holding yesterday, as it accused citizens from its Central Asian neighbor of crimes during the pair’s worst clashes at their contested border in decades. The Kyrgyz interior ministry said that casualties on its side had risen to over 160 with 34 deaths, 31 of whom were civilians. The ministry also said it had opened 11 criminal cases targeting citizens of Tajikistan in connection with the violence, including investigations into murder and illegal border crossings. Clashes between communities over land and water along the long-contested border are regular occurrences, with border guards often getting involved. — AFP

US Republicans grapple with way out of limbo

WASHINGTON: Shut out of the White House and desperate to reclaim power in Congress next year, Republicans are locked in an internal battle over their party’s direction, and whether to embrace or jettison the divisive politics of Donald Trump. One hundred days after Trump’s turbulent term gave way to Democratic rule in Washington, Republican lawmakers spent part of the last week in closed-door soul searching at their annual retreat in Florida, struggling to tamp down their conference’s extremist personalities and highlight conservative policies they believe will resonate with voters.

The party of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan is scrambling to forge a path out of political limbo in the run up to the 2022 midterm elections and ultimately the next presidential race in 2024. Even if there is GOP appetite for ditching the rhetoric of nativist grievance and moving on from Trump,

many Republicans still see him as their party’s de facto leader—although an NBC News poll this week showed Trump’s support among Republican voters is slipping. Trump himself told Fox News last week he is “beyond seriously” considering another White House bid to challenge President Joe Biden, or another Democrat, in 2024.

Such statements are likely to freeze the primary field until Trump announces his political plans, denying the party opportunities to vet and debate the candidates who would otherwise step forward to challenge Democrats for the White House. Republican strategists and lawmakers themselves acknowledge the party is grappling with how much distance they need to take from Trump and who can lead them back to power. “Any party that loses a presidential election goes into the wilderness for a while,” Matt Mackowiak, a Republican consultant in Texas, told AFP in a Friday interview.

“When you’re in the wilderness you don’t have one unified leader,” he explained. “But the difference with us is we do have one leader, and it’s Trump.” The ex-president however is weighed down with baggage. His approval ratings have slid, he faces

As US vaccine demand falls, states look to new solutions

PASADENA, US: It’s official: America’s COVID-19 immunization campaign is stalling. While vaccination programs are lagging badly in many countries—if they’ve begun at all—mass vaccine sites across the US are closing due to dwindling demand, leaving the authorities exploring new ways to reach people who haven’t yet gotten a shot.

The national vaccination rate peaked around April 11, according to official data, and although 55 percent of US adults now have had one or more doses, there’s still a long way to go to achieve population immunity. The people most eager to get their shots have, for the most part, already rolled up their sleeves and done so. The challenge is reaching the rest.

In Texas, as in much of the coun-

try, vaccinations are in freefall. A huge federal site in Arlington, between Dallas and Fort Worth, shut its doors in mid-April because of insufficient numbers. Two other federal sites, the NRG Stadium in Houston and Fair Park in Dallas, have ended their appointments system and now take walk-ups.

The NRG Stadium, seeking to ease the process, is now remaining open until nine o’clock in the evening rather than five, and vaccinating people in their cars.

‘Too far’

Even so, that site is only running at half capacity. “We have the capacity to see about 6,000 people and at one point we saw up to 7,000 people. And now, it’s dropped to 2,500 on average. So that is a huge drop,” said Martha Marquez, a spokeswoman for Harris County Public Health. Authorities are considering more targeted approaches to reach people who are geographically isolated or find it hard to reach vaccine sites.

Five mobile vaccination centers are now crisscrossing those areas of the county with the highest number of

and banned from leaving the country for a further 12 months. Her husband Richard Ratcliffe argues she is being held hostage as part of a diplomatic stratagem.

“I think it’s very difficult to argue against that characterization,” Raab said. “It is clear that she is subjected to a cat and mouse game that the Iranians, or certainly part of the Iranian system, engage with and they try and use her for leverage on the UK.” Richard Ratcliffe has linked his wife’s plight to a British debt dating back more than 40 years for army tanks paid for by the shah of Iran.

When the shah was ousted in the 1979 revolution, Britain refused to deliver the tanks to the new Islamic republic.

‘Bleak’

London admits it owes Iran several hundred million pounds, but is reportedly constrained by US sanctions in its ability to pay the debt back. “That is not actually the thing that’s holding us up at the moment, it’s the wider context,” Raab said of the



CLEVELAND: In this file photo taken on July 18, 2016, a woman walks past the elephant logo of the Republican Party on the first day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

mounting legal woes, and his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani is under federal investigation.

“But Trump’s agenda was successful,” Mackowiak said. “There’s an emerging consensus that Trumpism without Trump may give us the best opportunity to win in 2024.”

Eager to appear as the party of

inclusion, especially following the guilty verdict in the trial of the white ex-police officer charged with murdering George Floyd, Republicans appointed Senator Tim Scott, the chamber’s only Black Republican, to deliver the rebuttal to Biden’s Wednesday address to Congress. —AFP



PASADENA, Texas: A healthcare worker vaccinates a woman with the COVID-19 vaccine, as the Pasadena Public Library hosts a mobile vaccine clinic set up by the Harris County Public Health. — AFP

positive cases. “Next week, we’ll be increasing to 10 clinics,” Ashlei Dawson, the official in charge of one of the sites, told AFP, as she oversaw the training of new recruits.

Her own team had set up for the day at the public library in Pasadena, a mainly Hispanic suburb of Houston. Members of the public were only trickling in, and by midday just 27 people had received injections. One

of them, 55-year-old Jose Herrera, said, “I didn’t do it before because it was too far away.” He said he was also concerned about side effects.

Dozens of supermarkets and pharmacies around the city are now advertising vaccinations. But Herrera and his wife, Maria, were finally persuaded by their daughter, who works at the Pasadena library, to get theirs done. —AFP

debt, pointing to nuclear talks currently ongoing with Iran and its upcoming presidential elections.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 42, had appeared in court last month to face new charges of “propaganda against the system”, a week after she finished a five-year sentence for plotting to overthrow the regime, accusations she strenuously denies. Richard Ratcliffe said the family hoped she could at least serve any new sentence under house arrest, with her parents in Tehran. But the situation was “bleak”, he told AFP at the time. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was initially detained while on holiday in Iran in 2016, when she was working as a project manager for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the news agency and data firm’s philanthropic wing.

She has been under house arrest in recent months and had her ankle tag removed, giving her more freedom of movement and allowing her to visit other relatives in Tehran. In March, legal campaign group Redress handed a report to the UK government which it said “confirms the severity of the ill-treatment that Nazanin has suffered”. — AFP

Iran’s treatment of Zaghari-Ratcliffe is ‘torture’: UK

LONDON: Iran’s treatment of detained dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe amounts to “torture”, Britain said yesterday, after she was convicted anew and banned from leaving the Islamic republic.

“Nazanin is held unlawfully in my view as a matter of international law. I think she’s being treated in the most abusive, tortuous way,” Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told BBC television. “I think it amounts to torture the way she’s being treated, and there is a very clear, unequivocal obligation on the Iranians to release her,” he said. The British-Iranian woman has been held in Iran since 2016. In late April, she was sentenced to a year’s imprisonment

International

More COVID aid lands in India as Canada, Brazil grapple with surges

Virus toll approaching 3.2 million even as nations ramp up vaccination drives

NEW DELHI: India struggled to contain one of the world's worst coronavirus outbreaks with nearly 400,000 new infections reported yesterday, as more international aid arrived in the South Asian nation to help end the crisis.

Surges in Brazil and Canada also highlighted the persistent threat of the pandemic, with the COVID-19 death toll approaching 3.2 million even as many nations ramp up vaccination drives.

India expanded its vaccination program to all adults on Saturday, but many of its states are struggling with shortages despite an export freeze for shots produced in the country. Long queues were seen at vaccination centres in cities across the nation at the weekend, with people desperate to be inoculated against a disease that has overwhelmed the healthcare system and even crematoriums and graveyards.

"We are here early in the morning to get vaccinated... I left my three-year-old at home to get vaccinated," said Megha Srivastava, 35, at a private immunization center in the capital New Delhi.

"It is a necessity now. We are seeing so many people testing positive." Social media platforms have been flooded with desperate pleas from people looking for oxygen cylinders, medicines and hospital beds as the COVID-19 wave causes widespread shortages. India reported more than 392,000 new cases and nearly 3,700 COVID-19 deaths yesterday. The dire situation prompted many nations including the United States, Russia and Britain to send emergency supplies including oxygen generators, face masks, and vaccines. Aid from France reached India on Sunday, including eight oxygen generator plants and 28 ventilators, adding to the 120 ventilators from Germany that arrived a day earlier.

New Delhi, one of the hardest-hit parts of the country, extended its lockdown by a week on Saturday, and the eastern state of Odisha has also ordered a shutdown. Anthony Fauci, the top US pandemic advisor, said in comments published Saturday that the whole of India should go into

lockdown to fight this wave.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has resisted imposing a national shutdown but many states have imposed heavy restrictions. A growing list of countries have cut flights from India, with Nigeria on Sunday banning entry to all travellers who have been in the country in the last two weeks, though Nigerians and those transiting in India will be exempt.

Alarm bells are also ringing in other countries in densely populated South Asia. In Sri Lanka daily infections hit a record on Saturday, with authorities imposing further curbs on movement and activities in parts of the island nation. "We could face an India-type crisis very soon unless we arrest the current trend of infections," chief epidemiologist Sudath Samaraweera said.

'We're tired and exhausted'

Known global infections are approaching 152 million, and fresh waves have also shaken many countries in the Americas. Brazil, the worst-hit Latin American nation, has crossed 400,000 Covid-19 deaths-second only to the United States-with many of its hospitals pushed to the brink of collapse.

And in Canada, the epicenter is in the most populous province Ontario, where the surge has been so intense that the government sent in the military and the Red Cross to help care for critical patients.

Ontario's healthcare system is near breaking point, said intensive care nurse Fariel Faquary at Toronto's Humber River Hospital. "We're stretched thin," Faquary told AFP.

"We're tired and exhausted. Just exhausted." Many health professionals and caregivers are also frustrated with citizens who have not followed precautions. "I think we all feel we have been let down a little bit by society," said physician Jamie Spiegelman. Canada's vaccine roll-out has also stumbled because of supply issues, unlike its southern neighbor the United States which has given at least one dose to more than half its adult popula-

Local media reported that security forces were chasing protesters down and arresting them. "They are arresting every young person they see," a source in Yangon told AFP, adding that he was hiding at the time. "Now I am trapped." Bomb blasts also went off across different parts of Yangon yesterday. Explosions have been happening with increasing frequency in the former capital, and authorities have blamed it on "instigators".

Bloodshed across the country

So far, security forces have killed 759 civilians, according to local monitoring group the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. The junta-which has labelled the AAPP an unlawful organization-says 258 protesters have been killed, along with 17 policemen and seven soldiers. Violence erupted again on Sunday by 10 am in Shan state's Hsipaw township, when security forces opened fire on protesters, killing at least one.

"He was shot in the head and died immediately," said one protester, who said he rushed to hide his friend's body in case authorities tried to take it away. "They are asking for his dead body, but we will not give them... We will have his funeral today," he said.

In northern Kachin state, security forces also fired on protesters, even flinging grenades into the crowd. A 33-year-old man was shot in the head, a fellow

At a Toronto hospital, staff exhausted, angry

TORONTO: Intensive care nurse Fariel Faquary says the health care system in Canada's Ontario province is nearing the breaking point as it fights a fast-moving new wave of COVID-19 infections.

The 29-year-old caregiver at Toronto's Humber River Hospital is looking after two patients in their 60s who are on ventilators. "We're overwhelmed," Faquary told AFP, conveying the feelings of her peers who often say they feel powerless against a tidal wave of new cases, and angry at times-especially with the Ontario government's arguably slow response and with Ontarians who do not following public health orders to contain the coronavirus.

"We're stretched thin. We're tired and exhausted. Just exhausted." Ontario is now the epicenter of the outbreak in Canada, led by more virulent variants. The latest surge in the number of cases was so big that authorities this week despatched the military and the Red Cross to help care for critical patients.

"It's the worst wave I've ever seen," says head

Astronauts splash down off Florida on SpaceX craft

WASHINGTON: A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carrying four astronauts back to Earth splashed down off Florida early yesterday in NASA's first nighttime ocean landing in more than 50 years. The crew reported they were feeling well after their arrival back on Earth following a nearly six-month mission aboard the International Space Station, NASA said.

The capsule splashed down at 2.56 am (0656 GMT) in the dark in the Gulf of Mexico off Panama



MUMBAI: People sit in an observation area after getting inoculated with a dose of Covishield vaccine against the COVID-19 at the BKC Jumbo vaccination center in Mumbai yesterday on the second day of India's vaccination drive to all adults. —AFP

tion. But concerns are growing there too about the inoculation program hitting a wall-the people most eager to get their shots have already done so.

Protests against restrictions

Despite the COVID-19 threat in sharp focus because of the outbreaks in Brazil and India, populations in many parts of the world are growing weary of virus measures. Anti-restriction protesters gathered in several European countries on Saturday, including Finland, Sweden, Belgium and Germany.

Many protesters are worried about the effect of



YANGON: Protesters making the three-finger salute as they take part in a flash mob as part of demonstrations against the military coup on "Global Myanmar Spring Revolution Day" in Yangon yesterday. —AFP

demonstrator told AFP, adding that many others were wounded in the attack.

"They all had to be treated at a hidden area. They could not go to the hospital for treatment or they would have been arrested," the protester said. Urban centers have become hotspots for unrest, especially in Yangon, where residents share videos of security forces beating up civilians on the streets. —AFP



TOTONTO: Respiratory Therapist Flor Guevara adjusts ventilator tubes as healthcare workers reposition a patient suffering from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at Humber River Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, in Toronto, Canada, Saturday. —AFP

nurse Kimisha Marshall. "We have younger patients coming in, sicker and lots more patients coming in." "We're short of nurses. We had some nurses that left, but also we have nurses that are getting sick, too," she adds. At the week's end, there were more than 2,200 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the province of 14 million. Nearly 900 patients were listed in critical condition. —AFP

City after a six-and-a-half-hour flight from the ISS, night-vision images relayed by NASA's WB-57 high-altitude research aircraft showed. Teams aboard the Go Navigator recovery ship retrieved the capsule and hoisted it onto the deck about half an hour later.

It was the first nighttime splashdown for NASA since the crew of Apollo 8 arrived in the Pacific Ocean on December 27, 1968. Commander Michael Hopkins was the first to emerge after the hatch was opened, doing a little jig as he set foot on deck, followed shortly after by fellow NASA astronaut Victor Glover.

"On behalf of Crew-1 and our families, we just want to say thank you ... It's amazing what can be accomplished when people come together. Y'all are changing the world. Congratulations. It's great to be back," Hopkins said in a NASA tweet. NASA astronaut Shannon Walker and Japan's Soichi Noguchi were the other two aboard. —AFP

News in brief

Gunman kills two at US casino

WASHINGTON: A gunman killed two people and seriously wounded another at a casino in the northern US state of Wisconsin on Saturday night before being shot dead by police, authorities said. Police said they first received a call at 7:28 pm about a shooting at a restaurant at the Oneida Casino/Radisson Hotel and Conference Center complex near Green Bay, which is operated by the Oneida Nation. "The suspect is deceased, the police have shot the suspect so there's no threat to the public," Lieutenant Kevin Pawlak of the Brown County Sheriff's office told reporters after midnight. Pawlak said it appeared to be a "targeted event not a random shooting." The intended target was an employee who was not there at the time but the gunman decided to shoot some of their friends or acquaintances, he said. —AFP

Berlin police slam May Day violence

BERLIN: Berlin police yesterday said they had arrested more than 250 people after May Day rallies descended into "unacceptable" violence that saw protesters pelt officers with stones and bottles and set fire to bins. Around 30,000 people from across the political spectrum took part in several marches in the German capital on Saturday as part of the traditional Labor Day workers' rights demonstrations. Most of the demonstrations passed off peacefully, police said. —AFP

Brussels police arrest 132 in crackdown

BRUSSELS: Belgian police arrested 132 people as they used tear gas and water cannon to break up a banned anti-lockdown party in a Brussels park on the weekend, an official report said yesterday. One partygoer was knocked out by a water cannon and 14 others were slightly injured-including one struck by a police horse-as riot police brutally dispersed the party on Saturday in scenes echoing a similar gathering in the park a month before. Five of those arrested were taken into police custody, the police said. Three officers were hospitalized and a dozen slightly injured during clashes with the protesters. —AFP

Burundi president sacks minister

NAIROBI: Burundi's President Evariste Ndayishimiye has sacked his commerce minister because she risked "compromising the country's economy," as sources in the ruling regime alleged she had embezzled airline funds. "Considering the acts of the person concerned risk compromising the country's economy and the image of Burundi... the honourable Immaculee Ndobaneze is dismissed from her functions as minister of commerce, transport, industry and tourism," the presidency said in a statement posted Saturday on the state house's official Twitter account. The statement did not provide further details. —AFP

Nigeria restricts air passengers

ABUJA: Nigeria will ban entry to non-Nigerian passengers who have been in Brazil, India or Turkey in the last fortnight due to concerns over the spread of coronavirus in those three nations, health authorities said yesterday. The travel ban does not apply to passengers who have transited through those countries, the presidential steering committee on COVID-19 said in a statement. "These precautionary measures are a necessary step to minimize the risk of a surge in COVID-19 cases introduced to Nigeria from other countries," the statement said. —AFP

Thousands call for 'spring revolution' in Myanmar

YANGON: Thousands of anti-coup protesters marched in Myanmar yesterday, calling for a "spring revolution" with the country in its fourth month under a military regime. Cities, rural areas, remote mountainous regions and even rebel-controlled border territories have been in uproar since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a February 1 coup.

The junta has aimed to suppress dissent through a brutal crackdown involving mass arrests and an escalating death toll. Demonstrations kicked off early in commercial hub Yangon as activists called for a show of force and a "spring revolution". Youths gathered on a street corner before marching swiftly down the streets in a flash mob-dispersing soon after to avoid clashing with authorities.

"To bring down the military dictatorship is our cause!" they chanted, waving a three-finger salute of resistance. In eastern Shan state, youths carried a banner that read: "We cannot be ruled at all."

N Korea says Biden has a 'hostile policy'

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday accused US President Joe Biden of pursuing a hostile policy, dismissing "spurious" American diplomacy and warning of a response. Biden had said Wednesday that his administration would deal with the threat posed by Pyongyang's nuclear program "through diplomacy as well as stern deterrence".

The White House said Friday that the president was open to negotiations with North Korea on denuclearization following the completion of a policy review, but Pyongyang said Biden had made a "big blunder". "His statement clearly reflects his intent to keep enforcing the hostile policy toward the DPRK as it had been done by the US for over half a century," Kwon Jung Gun, a foreign ministry official, said in a statement released by the official KCNA news agency. "The US-claimed 'diplomacy' is a spurious signboard for covering up its hostile acts, and 'deterrence' touted by it is just a means for posing nuclear threats to the DPRK," Kwon added, using the official name of North Korea.

"Now that what the keynote of the US new DPRK policy has become clear, we will be compelled to press for corresponding measures." The White House said Friday that its goal remains "the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula". Biden's press secretary Jen Psaki gave little indication of what kind of diplomatic initiative this could entail, but suggested that the president had learned from the experience of his predecessors, who struggled to deal with North Korea's leadership and its nuclear weapons program.

But Psaki said Washington would not "focus on achieving a grand bargain", apparently referring to the kind of dramatic over-arching deal that former president Donald Trump initially suggested was possible when he met with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un. Neither would the White House follow the more stand-offish approach espoused by Barack Obama, she added.

In a separate statement through KCNA Sunday, North Korea also accused the United States of insulting its leadership and its anti-coronavirus measures, referring to a State Department press release on April 28. —AFP

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021

Business

Egos clash in Bezos, Musk space race

Companies compete for contracts with US military, space agencies

PARIS: Even the Milky Way seems too small to keep the egos of tech billionaires Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk from colliding as they vie to conquer space. Musk aimed low with a recent tweet saying “can’t get it up (to orbit)” in response to a post about Bezos-founded space company Blue Origin protesting NASA’s choice of Musk’s SpaceX team to build a module that will land the next US astronauts on the moon.

“This is more than just a battle for space,” said Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives. “There is some ego at play as well; this has become even more personal.” The tech entrepreneurs have each channeled some of their vast fortunes into private space exploration companies since early this century.

Bezos, 57, is founder of Blue Origin as well as of e-commerce colossus Amazon. Forbes ranks him the richest person on this planet, worth some \$202 billion. Musk, the colorful 49-year-old founder of Tesla and SpaceX as well as other companies, including one working to mesh human brains with computers, is in third place with a worth of \$173 billion, according to the ranking.

Satellite networks

Dreams of private companies taking to the stars – instead of leaving such wonders to governments – have developed into projects to deploy networks of satellites providing wireless Internet service and for space tourism. While SpaceX and Blue Origin have the benefit of founders with ample financial resources, they also compete for contracts with US military or space agencies.

Musk has a clear lead over Bezos. SpaceX has deployed hundreds of satellites into orbit, while a Kuiper satellite network remains Earth-bound despite Bezos pledging \$10 billion in backing. Musk even formed an alliance with Microsoft, which is Amazon’s biggest rival in the cloud computing market, to use its Azure platform to provide satellite-powered Internet service, the companies announced late last year. Microsoft said it will also work with SpaceX on a government contract to build satellites as part of a defense system capable of detecting and tracking ballistic, cruise and hypersonic missiles. Separately, the US Department of Defense last year awarded a \$10 billion “JEDI” cloud computing contract to Microsoft instead of

Amazon. Amazon has alleged it was shut out of the deal because of a vendetta against the company and Bezos by former US president Donald Trump.

Rocket to riches?

NASA has developed confidence in SpaceX, which has been trusted to shuttle supplies and astronauts to the International Space Station, according to Foundation for Strategic Research space specialist Xavier Pasco. Blue Origin, in contrast, hasn’t made that “important step”, Pasco noted. Bezos has been left to challenge SpaceX in court here on planet Earth.

He announced early this year that he is stepping down as chief executive of Amazon and planned to spend more time on other projects including Blue Origin. Bezos has cited the futuristic vision of late physicist and space advocate Gerard O’Neill, but has mocked Musk’s talk of colonizing Mars. Bezos has made it clear he thinks the red planet is not a spot for a home.

“Who want to move to Mars?” Bezos said at a conference in 2019. “Do me a favor, go live on the top of Mount Everest for a year first, and see if you



Elon Musk

Jeff Bezos

like it – because it’s a garden paradise compared to Mars.” The rivalry between Bezos and Musk comes with out-of-this-world financial stakes. Analyst Ives predicted that the “monetization” of space would launch in earnest soon, with trillions of dollars to be made. “Bezos and Musk know that the winner of the space battle will be crowned within the next one or two years,” Ives said. —AFP

Spaniard first ‘but not last’ woman CEO of German blue-chip

FRANKFURT: Belen Garijo has taken over as CEO at German pharmaceuticals giant Merck – the first woman to singlehandedly run a DAX 30-listed company – as Europe’s top economy debates quotas for greater boardroom equality. Spanish-born Garijo, 60, who started in the new role on May 1, says she’s not content to be a one-off. “It’s more important to me not to be the last woman at the top of a company than to be the only one,” the trained doctor recently told the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Garijo previously served as the group’s deputy chief executive officer and head of its healthcare unit. Her immediate focus will be on Merck’s frontline role in the fight against COVID-19, with Garijo announcing that the firm will scale up deliveries in the months ahead of the lipids used in vaccine production for clients such as Pfizer-BioNTech. “We are turning the house upside down to do that,” Garijo told German news agency DPA.

She is replacing Stefan Oschmann, 63, whose term ended after five years at the helm of the Darmstadt-based, family-owned group, which had never had a female chief executive in its 350-year history. Garijo, a mother of two and a passionate Real Madrid supporter, is making history as the first solo female leader of a firm listed on Frankfurt’s blue-chip DAX 30 index.

German software group SAP made the first cracks in the glass ceiling in 2019 when it appointed Jennifer Morgan as co-CEO alongside a male executive. However she bowed out last year after just six months, as SAP decided to switch back to a sole chief executive – Christian Klein – to steer it through the pandemic upheaval.

‘Hard work’

Although Germany has been run by a woman chancellor for nearly 16 years and Christine Lagarde heads the Frankfurt-based European Central Bank, female top executives remain a rare sight in Europe’s leading economy. Germany’s gender pay gap is also one of the largest in Europe, with women earning about 21 percent less than men on average. But things are changing.

The German government introduced legislation in 2015 requiring women to make up 30 percent of supervisory board seats in large companies, and Chancellor Angela Merkel’s cabinet approved plans in January to introduce similar rules for executive boards. Garijo, who previously ran Sanofi’s European operations, joined Merck’s healthcare unit in 2011.

She has been credited with overhauling the department’s research and development and refocusing attention on fewer drugs with better prospects, boosting sales and profits, according to the Handelsblatt financial newspaper. Garijo for her part puts her success down to “hard work” and to having seized her chances “when they arose”. She is not, however, a fan of legal quotas to promote women, even in the face of middling results from voluntary measures by industry. “I am against all forms of discrimination, including positive discrimination,” she said.

Under the draft law approved by Merkel’s government earlier this year, listed companies with four executives or more must appoint at least one woman to their executive boards. Included in the new legislation, companies in which the government holds a majority stake – such as the rail group Deutsche Bahn – will have stricter rules, with at least one woman on management boards with more than two members, and a 30-percent quota to come in the future.

The legislation, the object of a political tug-of-war ahead of a general election to pick Merkel’s successor in September, must still pass parliament. Seventy-three groups would be impacted by the new rules, among which 32 currently have no female representation in the executive suite, according to government data. Merkel, in power since 2005, has spoken out at foot-dragging by business leaders, against the resistance of some in her own conservative bloc. —AFP

Costa Cruises sets sail again after four-month break

SAVONA, Italy: Italian cruise line Costa Cruises set sail on Saturday for the first time in more than four months, buoying an industry capsized by the COVID-19 pandemic. The flagship Costa Smeralda left the northwestern port of Savona at 6.15 pm after being landbound since December 20, when the Italian government banned cruises during the holiday season due to the coronavirus crisis.

An enthused Roberta Cappelletti, a 60-year-old singer, came all the way from northeastern Predappio to take the cruise. “It is a great emotion, I am moved to tears being able to cruise again – it’s like a renaissance for me,” she said before taking her coronavirus test so she could hop on board. Enrico Bergamini, a 35-year-old bank employee from Genoa, was also excited. “This cruise has a symbolic value for the recovery of Italy’s tourism sector, I absolutely had to be here,” he said with a smile.

The ship left port with around 1,500 passengers on board – a quarter of its full capacity. All passengers and crew were first tested for coronavirus and mask-wearing will mandatory throughout the trip. The 1,300 crew had first observed a 14-day quarantine before reporting for duty. The Mediterranean voyage will last from three to seven days, depending on where it stops on the Italian coast – La Spezia, Civitavecchia, Naples, Messina or Cagliari.

Raffaele d’Ambrosio, the head of the French arm of Costa Cruises, said the “desire to set off again is very strong among our customers”. “We receive several hundred bookings every day covering each month until the end of 2022,” he told AFP. “Cruising, like tourism in general, is one of the sectors most affected by the crisis: 2021 will be a year of recovery and by early 2022 we will be waiting for a return to normality.”

The cruise industry has been smashed by the pandemic, suffering a shortfall of \$77 billion and



SAVONA, Italy: Pedestrians waves the Costa Smeralda cruise ship as it leaves on Saturday. —AFP

shedding 518,000 jobs between just mid-March and September last year, according to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

Floating city

The Costa Smeralda – as long as three football pitches – is a floating city in miniature with its 11 restaurants, 19 bars, a spa, a theatre and several swimming pools. The vessel also boasts a vast staircase covering three decks atop which is a glass platform offering a birdseye view of the vessel and the ocean below.

Passengers boarded a little hesitantly at first after completing their battery of health tests before settling down in the knowledge that they could finally begin their holiday. “A year and a half without going anywhere is a long time. It was about time we set off again for the sea, the atmosphere, the views. We’ve been missing all that,” said Jean-Pierre Faux, a 74-year-old pensioner from Belgium holidaying with his wife Martine.

“The crew has so been looking forward to

plained that the reforms came at the worst possible time and were particularly harmful to the middle class.

Even some in Duque’s party opposed his plan. “I have given very clear instructions to the finance ministry for it to ... compose a new draft with congress,” Duque said. The measures had meant to raise some \$6.3 billion over 10 years for Colombia, which saw GDP drop 6.8 percent in 2020 – its worst performance in half a century.

Colombia, where almost one in five people are unemployed and the minimum wage is the equivalent of \$248 per month, is battling a deadly new wave of COVID-19. At 2.8 million, the country of 50 million inhabitants has the third-highest number of known coronavirus infections in Latin America, behind Brazil and Argentina. It has registered more than 73,200 deaths. While Duque has sought to portray the tax reform as a tool to mitigate the economic crisis unleashed by the pandemic, the initiative faced many obstacles in a legislature where the ruling party has no outright majority. —AFP

kilo of meat. Labor Minister Eduardo Pinate announced the raise to government supporters at a May Day rally in Caracas. The new monthly minimum wage is seven million bolívares, which is equivalent to \$2.50. A kilo of meat in Venezuela costs about \$3.75.

The once-wealthy oil producer is enduring its fourth year of hyperinflation and its eighth year of recession. Venezuela is now in the worst economic crisis of its modern history. Inflation is so bad that the everyday economy now works main-

this moment. Everyone was so enthusiastic at the thought of setting off once again. The ship is like a family to us,” said skipper Pietro Sinisi from his position on the bridge. “I’ve missed the passengers. A ship without them is a little sad,” he observed as he set about hosting his first cruise since March last year, when the world watched on aghast as cruisers tried in vain to dock at ports terrified to receive them in case they brought the virus ashore.

“Cruises were enjoying major growth before the COVID pandemic and I am convinced they will flourish again after this sad break,” insisted Costa Croisieres president Mario Zanetti. His firm, part of the US Carnival group, returned to the ocean again last September, limiting calls to Italian ports, only to suspend operations again in December. Rival MSC has carried some 60,000 passengers since it resumed some routes last August, breaking off over the Christmas period owing to Italian restrictions. —AFP



BOGOTA: Demonstrators clash with riot police during a protest against a tax reform bill outside Colombian President Ivan Duque’s house on Saturday. —AFP

Colombia president axes tax plan after angry protests

BOGOTA: Colombian President Ivan Duque caved in Friday to widespread anger and said he would overhaul a proposed tax reform that many said would leave them poorer during the pandemic. Duque announced he was shelving clauses that would lower the income tax threshold to broaden the tax base and raise value-added taxes on goods and services.

He acted two days after tens of thousands of Colombians took to the streets across the country to denounce the proposed tax changes. They were rejected across the board – by opposition parties, unions, students and civil society groups that com-

Venezuela triples wages but still not enough to buy food

CARACAS: Venezuela nearly tripled its minimum wage Saturday but inflation is so outrageous that that amount of money will not even buy a

ly in dollars. The leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro is under international sanctions championed by the United States, which is pushing for his ouster and does not recognize him as the country’s legitimate president.

Maduro has stopped announcing wage increases with much fanfare as was done in the days of his mentor and predecessor, the late socialist firebrand Hugo Chavez. In fact, this latest raise was not even published in the official government gazette. —AFP

Business

Fortnite maker girds for epic court clash with Apple

Witnesses to include chief executives of both companies

SAN FRANCISCO: In a court clash with potentially huge repercussions for the world of mobile tech, Fortnite maker Epic Games takes on Apple starting today aiming to break the grip of the iPhone maker on its online marketplace. The case opening in federal court comes with Apple feeling pressure from a wide range of app makers over its tight control of the App Store, which critics say represents monopolistic behavior.

The two firms will be debating whether Apple has the right to set ground rules, control payment systems and kick out apps from its marketplace that fail to comply. Also at stake will be Apple's slice of revenue from iPhone apps, as much as 30 percent. Apple contends that its commission is the industry norm, and is fair compensation for giving developers a global storefront and keeping it secure.

Epic, which is seeking to return to the App Store without being forced to use Apple's payment scheme, is not alone in its criticism. The European Union on Friday formally accused Apple of unfairly squeezing out music streaming rivals based on a complaint brought by Sweden-based Spotify and others which claim the California group sets rules that favor its own Apple Music. A recently formed Coalition for App Fairness, which includes both Spotify and Epic, have called for Apple to open up its marketplace, claiming its commission is a "tax" on rivals.

Off the platform

Apple booted Fortnite from its online mobile marketplace last year after Epic released an update that dodged revenue sharing with the iPhone maker. Apple does not allow users of its popular devices to download apps from anywhere but its App Store, and developers have to use Apple's payment system which takes its cut of up to 30 percent - a percentage which goes down after the first year and is waived for those with limited revenues. Due to the legal row, Fortnite fans using iPhones or other Apple devices no longer have access to the latest game updates.

Judge to hear case

After months of dueling legal filings, a trial before District Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers is to begin with Epic laying out its case in opening remarks. Apple is to counter with its position before witness testimony begins. The companies agreed to leave the verdict up to the judge instead of a jury. Some analyst say Apple appears on firm ground in defending its turf. Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives said, "The Street views the bark worse than the bite on this trial and when Apple wins we believe it will embolden the company's iron grip on its App Store and fee structure."

The trial is being held in a courtroom across the bay from San Francisco, and witnesses are to include the chief executives of Apple and Epic. Rogers has

tightly restricted access to the courtroom due to COVID-19 risks, allowing the public to listen to proceedings via a phone line or Zoom. The legal battle comes as Apple puts priority on selling digital content and subscription services to the one billion-plus people around the world using devices powered by its iOS mobile operating software.

"Who gets the money for Epic's games is what they are fighting for," said analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group. "I think Apple is in the wrong here when it comes to the good of the industry; you want to fund innovation not distribution."

Epic earlier this year lodged a complaint against Apple with EU antitrust authorities, deepening its bitter feud with the iPhone-maker over its app store. "We will not stand idly by and allow Apple to use its platform dominance to control what should be a level digital playing field," Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney said in a statement when the complaint was filed.

The company said the complaint "complements" legal proceedings it has launched in the United States, Australia and Britain. Epic has said it is seeking decisions by authorities to force Apple to amend its practices for all developers.

Escalating feud

As the battle over App Store control rages, Apple has not backed down. And it has ignited further complaints by implementing a new privacy pol-



ARLINGTON, Virginia: This illustration picture shows the logo from Epic Games displayed on a laptop and an Apple logo on an iPhone on April 30, 2021. —AFP

icy which limits the ability of third-party apps to track users - a feature critics say also favors Apple's in-house services. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has accused Apple of imposing rules for outside developers that it does not apply to its own services. Apple CEO Tim Cook said the change is about "giving the user the ability to make a decision about whether they want to be tracked or not. And so, it's putting the user in the control. Not Apple, not another company." —AFP

Fitch affirms KIB's long-term IDR at A+ with negative outlook

KUWAIT: Fitch Ratings, one of the leading global credit ratings agencies, has affirmed Kuwait International Bank (KIB)'s Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A+' and viability rating (VR) at 'bb-', with a negative outlook. This negative outlook on KIB's Long-term IDR reflects the outlook on the Kuwaiti sovereign rating (AA/Negative).

In its report issued on 29 April 2021, Fitch stated that KIB's Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) reflect an extremely high probability of support from the Kuwaiti authorities, if needed. This considers Kuwait's strong ability to provide support to domestic banks, as reflected by its sovereign rating (AA/Negative) and strong willingness to do so irrespective of the banks' size, franchise, funding structure and the level of government ownership.

Fitch also added that key rating drivers include stable funding, nominal domestic franchise, higher risk appetite, asset quality and profitability under pressure, adequate capitalization and general stable funding and liquidity. KIB successfully issued a USD 300 million perpetual Tier 1 sukuk in June 2019 and a USD 300 million Tier 2 sukuk in November 2020 to underpin its growth. Fitch mentioned that the Central Bank of Kuwait operates a strict regime with good oversight, sound supervision and active monitoring ensuring compliance with prudential limits. These include Basel III capital, leverage and liquidity requirements, as well as financing caps and best practice corporate governance requirements.

In assessing KIB's ratings, Fitch considered important

Fitch Ratings

differences between Islamic and conventional banks. These factors include closer analysis of regulatory oversight, disclosure, accounting standards and corporate governance. Islamic banks' ratings do not express an opinion on the bank's compliance with sharia. Fitch will assess noncompliance with sharia if it has credit implications. According to Fitch, a stronger franchise and better profitability, lower financing growth and concentrations, as well as a record of stable asset quality would be positive for the VR.

Commenting about the ratings, Sheikh Mohamed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of KIB, said: "This recently released credit rating reflects KIB's distinctive position and highlights our strong financial position, as well as our sound growth and investment strategy. This rating is also in line with Fitch's report on the Tier 2 Sukuk final 'A-' rating. Fitch has also assigned final A+/'F1' long- and short-term ratings, respectively, to the program, which will apply only to senior unsecured certificates to be issued under the umbrella of this issuance program."

Al-Jarrah stressed that these distinct ratings help KIB achieve its strategic objectives. "In addition to consolidating its position as a leading Islamic Bank over the long term, Fitch's ratings help boost the trust of our customers and shareholders and enhance the Bank's reputation in the market, which unlocks many growth opportunities in the near future," he said.

For his part, Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO of KIB, said: "The reality is that the global banking industry must evolve in a way that is compatible with the future. From our side, we are committed to



Sheikh Mohamed Jarrah Al-Sabah

Raed Bukhamseen

stay ahead of the curve and keeping up with the rapid pace of change in our industry, which is why we made major investments in upgrading our IT infrastructure, streamlining systems and processes, and restructuring our operational model to provide customers with an enhanced digital experience. We believe that this will eventually contribute towards expanding our customer-base, thereby promoting the Bank's long-term growth and stability."

Bukhamseen further added: "We have always been proud of our success and notable industry track record, in addition to having garnered numerous regional and international awards. For example, in 2020, we were honored to be recognized as the "Fastest Growing Islamic Bank MENA" and the "Best Shari'a Complaint Bank MENA" by CFI.co, for the fourth and fifth years respectively. We are also proud to have recently picked up the "Most Secure Bank in Kuwait" Award and the "Best Islamic Bank" Award from World Finance, the latter being an award we have now received for the seventh consecutive time."

topped \$10,000 a ton.

The gains have been driven by strong Chinese demand as well as labor protests in Chile, impacting mines and ports. The weak US dollar also means it takes more American greenbacks to buy the same amount of metal. The price of the red metal also benefits from a transition to clean energy technologies that use more copper, said Elijah Oliveros-Rosen of S&P Global Ratings.

"When you see strong expectations for growth, and that is driven by infrastructure and decarbonization, that's great for copper," he told AFP. Another factor is that investors see commodities futures contracts as an attractive alternative given the very low interest rates and modest profitability of Treasury bills, analysts say. "There is a lot of extra money floating around in the market place," said Michael Zuzolo of Global Commodity Analytics and Consulting. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve has made a "historic shift" in policy, making it clear it will not raise interest rates and will "allow inflation to build," he said. "That has attracted the investors (to commodities) between the tight supplies, the issues with the supply chains and pent up demand with the pandemic." —AFP

Dr Copper hits \$10,000

"US consumers are a major reason markets remain bullish," Bjornar Tonhaugen of Rystad Energy said in an analysis. The Chinese and US "locomotives" far outweigh the impact of the slowdown in India, which has been overwhelmed by a resurgence of COVID-19 infections, he said. "Dr Copper" - so called because its widespread use means it often offers an accurate diagnosis of the global economy - has grabbed headlines this week when it

containers and bottlenecks at ports are pushing prices up, while corn, soybeans and wheat are also experiencing delivery problems.

For oil, global demand is accelerating with the reopening of economies following the pandemic shutdowns. The price of gasoline at the pump in the United States has risen to \$2.89 a gallon from \$1.77 a year ago, according to the AAA, an automobile association. Bart Melek of TD Securities said the price of Brent crude "appears unstoppable" as the market is expecting demand to increase massively and stocks to be further reduced in the second half of the year."

Copper leads commodity price surge

WASHINGTON: Global prices for raw materials are soaring thanks to a boom in demand due to the recovery from the COVID-19 downturn, coupled with logistical bottlenecks. Copper in the past week hit a 10-year high. Bloomberg's agriculture Commodity Price Index has climbed 22 percent so far this year to its highest level since 2016, while crude oil has risen 30 percent in the past year. Lumber has tripled over the past 12 months, and the National Association of Homebuilders said that has added \$36,000 to the cost of a new house.

Tin, used in electronic circuits, automotive components and batteries, also hit its highest level since 2011, as the price doubled in the past year. The reasons for these increases are varied. For sugar, a shortage of shipping

Copper bonanza challenge for top producer Chile

SANTIAGO: Even as copper prices hit a ten-year high this week, political events in Chile - the world's main producer - have raised questions about whether the country will be able to continue meeting rising demand. A surge on infrastructure spending in industrialized countries, a weak dollar, and strong demand in China boosted the price of the metal to over \$10,000 per ton on Thursday.

As the global economy starts to shake off the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic and makers of electric cars and renewable energy systems clamor for the red metal, Chile stands to gain handsomely. But political uncertainties in the South American nation have some worried. "In recent days there has been more international awareness and more concern" about what is happening in Chile, Juan Carlos Guajardo, director of mining consultancy Plusmining, told AFP. "There is a conjunction of elements that are making investors adopt a more cautious position," he added.

Just two years after massive civil unrest over

income inequality triggered a project to rewrite Chile's constitution, the country has recently again seen widespread protests. This time, it was to force the government to allow people to make a partial withdrawal from pension funds to help them through pandemic-induced financial hardship. Santiago gave in - allowing the third withdrawal in nine months in a move that may alleviate short-term pain but observers say could threaten longer-term financial stability.

Port workers called a strike in support of the action with the backing of mining unions, raising supply fears which contributed to the price surge. Apart from social and labor unrest, investors are also concerned about a proposed new mining tax and possible regulatory changes in the process of drafting the new constitution. Chile's Congress is considering a leftist bill to impose an additional tax on mining to finance social plans.

If it passes "there would be two taxes (on mining), which would be a not insignificant burden" on investors, said Guajardo. "We would be entering difficult terrain for the mining industry." He added the pending constitutional change will "generate uncertainty, and will probably have an impact on investment" in Chile. Claudio Loser of the Centennial Group consultancy - a former boss of the IMF's Americas department - agreed the project to change Chile's founding law makes

it "very difficult to know what will happen" to the future of copper production. Adding to the uncertain outlook, Chile's state-owned Codelco - the world's largest copper-producing company - said Friday coronavirus infection control measures had slowed crucial structural expansion projects. Nineteen new public and private mining projects are scheduled to come online in Chile or begin construction in the coming two years, at a cost of some \$14 billion.

Not a boom

Copper accounts for about 10 percent of the country's GDP, half its exports, and employs eight percent of the workforce. Production for 2021 is forecast to rise to 5.9 million tons from last year's 5.7 million, and to six million by 2022, according to Mining and Energy Minister Juan Carlos Jobet. Codelco on Friday reported its best first quarter results in a decade due to higher production and increased prices driven in part by supply fears over strike action. The price surge has prompted the government to adjust its GDP growth forecast for 2021 from five to six percent, and to raise projected tax collection. Elijah Oliveros-Rosen, a senior economist at Latin America S&P Global Ratings, said growing demand for green energy "could cause a rise in copper prices for some time," a strong incentive for keeping production problems to a minimum. —AFP

Ooredoo collaborates with Nokia to boost home Internet service

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Telecom, the first to introduce innovative digital services in Kuwait, has announced its collaboration with Nokia, a trusted partner for critical networks, in which Nokia will be supplying Ooredoo Kuwait 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) equipment for the operator's customer premises. An early pioneer of FWA, Ooredoo is now offering the Nokia FastMile 5G Gateway as a premium internet device for residential and business customers.

Ooredoo Kuwait is using FWA to extend the reach of its fiber network to premises not easily connected with direct fiber lines. This will support the company to significantly increase its fixed broadband customer base across the country.

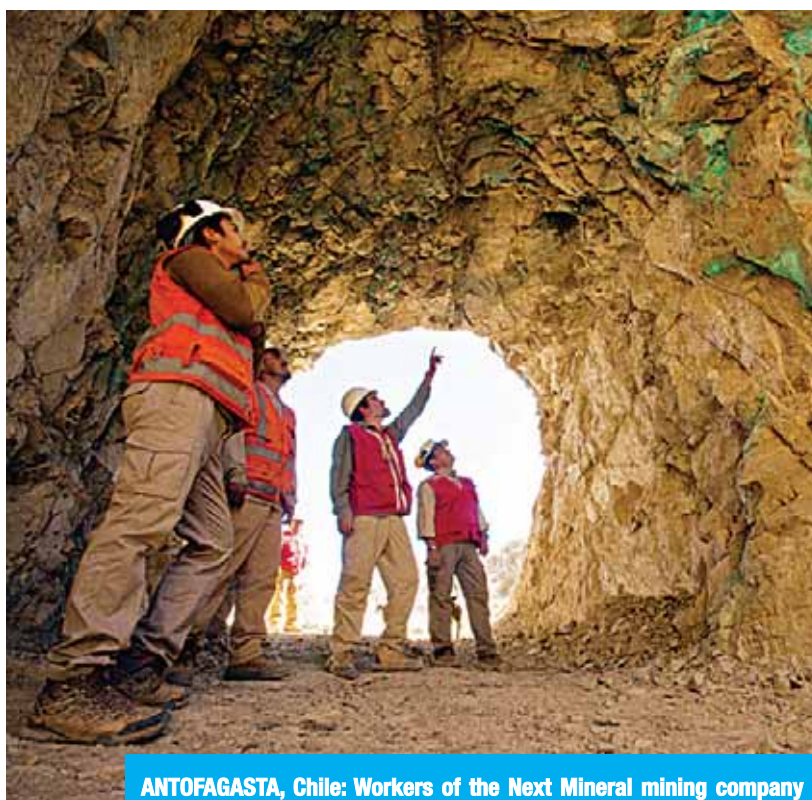
Nokia's self-installable 5G FWA gateway incorporates Wi-Fi 6 with self-optimizing mesh technology to optimize performance in real time and includes advanced antenna designs with higher throughput and better coverage resulting in improved customer experience and a lower operational cost for Ooredoo.

Essa Haider, Director of Network Planning and Design, Ooredoo Kuwait, said: "5G Fixed Wireless Access is essential for Kuwait's economic growth and diversification, and we're delighted to be partnering with Nokia for this."

Rima Manna, Head of the Middle East Market Unit, Nokia MEA, said: "We are extremely proud to have been selected by Ooredoo to offer our FWA FastMile solution to customers who want a great experience and easy installation. With this significant deal, we strengthen our partnership with Ooredoo Kuwait and looking forward to working with the operator more closely to deliver compelling 5G experiences to its customers."



Essa Al-Haider



ANTOFAGASTA, Chile: Workers of the Next Mineral mining company inspect the Comahue copper mine on March 1, 2021. —AFP

Business

NBK launches new updates for NBK Mobile Banking App

Customers can update their information and get a queue number digitally

KUWAIT: NBK Mobile Banking App comes at the forefront of services providing customers with a simple and convenient way to make their transactions quickly and easily from the comfort of their homes. Therefore, NBK is constantly developing this service, enabling customers to make various services by themselves; thus, minimizing the need to visit branches.



Hala Al-Shoaibi

To this end, the bank has recently launched a number of updates including enabling customers to update their information, including mobile number and e-mail using the NBK Mobile Banking App, without the need to visit the branch. It also launched eQmatic service for getting a queue number digitally through the App, as well as a campaign to reward the App users opting to NBK Push Notifications instead of SMS notifications.

Updating Information

Underscoring its care to provide the most advanced digital services to enable customers make all their transactions in an easy and convenient way, while ensuring their safety, NBK launched the enhanced information update feature through NBK Mobile Banking App, as part of the updates introduced in the new release of the app.

NBK Customers can now update their information, including mobile number and e-mail using the NBK Mobile Banking App, without the need to visit the branch. To ensure the security and confidentiality of customers' personal information, an NBK Contact Center Officer will call customers who updated their information via mobile within one business day from updating the information to verify their identity and the updated information.

eQmatic Service

NBK also launched eQmatic service via the NBK



Mobile Banking App. The new service helps to save customers' time spent inside the branch by making their transactions as quickly as possible, and contributes to minimizing crowding inside the branch. This comes in line with NBK's keenness to provide a more convenient experience to customers and maintain their safety, at the same time.

NBK also allows customers to easily book an appointment to visit any branches through the service page on the bank's website nbk.com or via NBK Mobile Banking, and successful booking is confirmed by e-mail sent to customer.

Opting to Push Notifications

In an effort to increase its customers' reliance on digital channels for their transactions and encourage them to use e-payment solutions, NBK launched a campaign that gives the chance to customers signing up to NBK Mobile Banking App or opting to NBK Push Notifications instead of SMS notifications to enter a draw on valuable prizes. This campaign comes in line with NBK's commitment to reward its customers all year round, through a variety of campaigns, draws and prizes that are tailored to meet their needs and expectations.



The campaign starts on 26 April, and lasts for three months until 8 July 2021. This campaign allows customers to enter a bimonthly draw on valuable Huawei prizes in case of one-time signing up to NBK Mobile Banking App or replacing SMS notifications with NBK Push Notifications. Additionally, the chance to enter the draw is also available for all customers who switched to NBK Push Notifications since it was launched in November 2020.

On this occasion, Hala Al Shoaibi, Head of Digital Service Quality Management, National Bank of Kuwait said: "We strive to enrich our customers' banking experience, and aim to provide them with all means ensuring their convenience and quick completion of their transactions. In this, we rely on the NBK Mobile Banking App, which we are constantly working to develop by introducing more services and upgrades."

"The new eQmatic service via the NBK Mobile Banking App will significantly improve branch visiting experience, which comes as part of our attempts to provide cutting-edge digital banking services to our customers and to take all precautions to ensure their safety," added Al Shoaibi. NBK is committed to maintain its customers' safety as well as the confidentiality



and security of their personal information, while offering them cutting-edge banking services and payment solutions, and updating their information is a key procedure in this regard, she emphasized.

Al Shoaibi highlighted that NBK is committed to reward its customers and encourage them to use digital services, especially the youth segment who are more reliant on e-payment solutions and digital banking services that suit their lifestyle.

It is worth mentioning that over the past period, NBK added many new services and updates to the NBK Mobile Banking App, which contributed to increase customers' satisfaction, as these updates enabled them to do their banking quickly and easily. Among the latest services introduced in the app were Bill Splitting, and NBK Push Notifications that keeps customers notified of all transactions made on their accounts.

NBK Mobile Banking enables customers to make their various banking transactions quickly and easily, with key services including: money transfer (locally and internationally), NBK Quick Pay, e-Payments, adding new beneficiaries, increasing monthly transfer limit, viewing account statement and paying credit card dues.

NBK Money Markets Report

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al Najma draws, Salary account campaign

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank conducted the weekly and monthly draws on Al Najma Account and Salary Transfer Campaign on Sunday May 2, 2021. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Ahmed Al-Basman. The results of the draws were as follows:

1- Al Najma monthly draw - the prize of 20,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars went to the winner Farah Saad Farhaan Hadi.

2- Al Najma weekly draw - the prize of 5,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars went to the winner Mohammad Hussin Al-Kazemi.

3- Salary account campaign - the prize of up to 1,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars went to the winner Halah Nahar Al-Ajmi.

The Bank stated that the salary campaign is aimed at customers who transfer their salaries of KD 500 or more to the Bank, especially Kuwaiti employees and residents working in the government, oil sectors and companies listed with the Bank as well as retirees, and take advantage of the benefits of this campaign and get an instant cash gift from KD 250 to KD 500 Kuwaiti Dinars or an interest-free loan of 5 times the salary and a maximum of KD 10,000. Kuwaiti pensioners, along with expatriate customers who transfer their debt amounting to KD 10,000 or above to the Bank will receive an instant cash gift of 1 percent from their transferred debt.

The Bank stated that Al Najma Account prizes are distinguished by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that the account offers weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000.

US dollar pressured; Fed offers little guidance

United States Federal Reserve

The US dollar continued to decline throughout last week as the Federal Reserve maintained their dovish policy stance despite acknowledging the robust US recovery at the start of this year. The combination of improving global growth and Fed's commitment to maintain loose monetary policy remains supportive for risk assets and encouraged the bearish dollar trend. The dollar did manage a rebound late on Friday however, after solid economic indicators showed healthy recovery in the US.

In the policy report, the committee acknowledged that activity and employment have "strengthened" driven by "progress on vaccinations and strong policy support". Inflation has also risen but "largely reflecting transitory factors." This is in-line with the Fed's strategy of tolerating a slight overshoot of inflation while focusing on the labor market for policy changes.

Markets however, were hoping for an update of the bank's forward guidance and tightening indications. Instead, the Fed remained vague saying it will "likely take some time for substantial further progress to be achieved" towards their goals to justify tapering quantitative easing. The result was a slight pull back in treasury yields, rebound in global equities, and US dollar downward pressure in general.

American Families Plan

At the same time, US President Biden had his first speech to Congress where he expressed his optimism over the outlook for the US economy. Vaccinations have been progressing well with the US population now 29.1 percent fully vaccinated and 42.7 percent with at least one dose. The COVID relief packages alongside re-openings helped accelerate growth this year. Biden however, claimed there was still more to be done and pitched a new USD 1.8 trillion social safety plan called the "American Families Plan" aimed at helping middle-income families. President Biden hopes to combine this is new fiscal package with his USD 2.3 trillion "American Jobs Plan," which was focused on improving infrastructure. Just like the "American Jobs Plan," the "American

Families Plan" is to be funded by taxes on the rich.

US GDP

The US economy expanded at an annual rate of 6.4 percent in the first quarter of 2021 up from 4.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020. The increase reflected the continued economic recovery, reopening of establishments, and continued government response related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robust demand for goods supported by two massive waves of fiscal stimulus saw consumer spending rise at a 10.7 percent annualized pace. The stimulus checks and growth in domestic demand did have a drawback as it lead to a widening in the US trade deficit to a record USD 90.6 billion. Exports of goods and services ticked down as the imports of goods and services jumped higher. This widening of the trade deficit is another weight that will pressure the US dollar as most importers sell their domestic currency to pay in exporter's currency.

Europe Eurozone GDP

The euro-area economy slid into a double-dip recession at the start of the year as strict coronavirus lockdowns across the region kept many businesses shuttered and consumers wary to spend. Reports from the bloc's biggest members show how far behind the EU was in recovering from the pandemic amid a slow vaccine rollout.

There is improvement however, as output in the 19-nation euro area was -0.6 percent in Q1 against an expected -0.8 percent helped by a modest increase in France. The reading was also markedly better than 2020 Q4's reading of -1.4 percent.

There is still optimism as vaccination rates start to pick up. The European Commission Economic Confidence Index jumped to its highest level since 2018 and Germany reached a new record of administering 1.1 million vaccine shots in a single day. These developments will limit the negative fallout from the Q1 GDP contraction for the Eurozone as a whole.

Asia Bank of Japan

The Bank of Japan kept its policies unchanged last week as widely expected but updated its economic projections. The projections revealed that inflation is expected to remain well below the BOJ's 2.0 percent target over the forecast horizon signaling that loose monetary policy will have to be maintained. The core inflation forecast for the current fiscal year was lowered to 0.1 percent from a previous forecast of 0.5 percent, and the forecast for 2023 was shown to be at just 1.0 percent.

While the BoJ presented a more subdued outlook for inflation, it did upgrade the outlook for growth in Japan. The BoJ now sees the economy expanding faster in the current and next fiscal year by 4.0 percent and 2.4 percent respectively before slowing back towards long-term potential growth in 2023 when GDP is expected to expand by 1.3 percent.

Commodities Demand Expected to Rise

OPEC, Russia and their allies said they will stick to plans for a phased easing of oil production restrictions from May to July amid upbeat forecasts for a recovery in global demand and despite surging coronavirus cases in India. The group maintained its forecast of a demand growth of 6 million barrels per day for 2021.

Reuters last week also published a survey that forecasted a revival in oil demand that would support prices. The survey said that Brent Crude would average \$64.17 in 2021, up from last month's consensus of \$63.12 per barrel and the current \$62.3 average for the benchmark so far this year. Both forecasts show that analysts believe that vaccine rollouts will outpace the recent surges seen across the globe.

Kuwait Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30100.

DHAMAN launches recruitment drive for hospitals

KUWAIT: Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) announced the launch of a recruitment campaign to attract and assign the main leadership positions in DHAMAN Ahmadi and Jahra hospitals, as part of the Company's preparations for the activation of its healthcare network in the coming year 2022.

On this occasion, DHAMAN Corporate Director of Human Resources Ahmad Bourisli said that the Company has developed an integrated recruitment plan to appoint the required medical, technical and administrative staff to operate the hospitals from various medical specializations and professional fields in the healthcare

sector. Bourisli noted: DHAMAN launched this recruitment campaign to attract the best qualified and competent workforce to occupy leadership positions in hospitals, due to their vital role in the ongoing preparations for operating hospitals through qualified medical, technical and administrative staff, which contributes to providing the top levels of service to patients, visitors and their families at DHAMAN'S hospitals and (Primary Healthcare Centers).

Bourisli added: With the commencement of the recruitment campaign, DHAMAN will apply the set of approved standards and guidelines related to examining the qualifications of all applicants and conducting interviews in the coming period, inviting those wishing to join DHAMAN to apply through the Company's employment website (careers.dhaman.co).

Bourisli said that DHAMAN, as one of the main strategic projects within the

National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035), continues to develop and support the growth of the healthcare sector in Kuwait to complement the various efforts made by the Ministry of Health, which requires experienced, capable, and competent medical, technical and administrative staff to achieve all goals.

Bourisli concluded by saying that DHAMAN is intensifying its efforts to complete all the necessary preparations and arrangements at its PHCs and hospitals to fulfill the requirements of the first stage of operations in preparation for commencing the transfer of the estimated 2 million beneficiaries.



Ahmad Bourisli

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners are:

1. FATEMAH ALI MAKHSEED
2. MALAK MOHAMMAD EFFAT
3. KHALED FAISAL ALSUBAIE
4. MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH ALI
5. MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH ALI

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the

chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date.

Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery

- Coloric Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- Laparoscopic mini bypass
- Transanal minimally invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

- American Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of American College of Surgery
- Canadian Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- American Board of Surgical Critical Care



Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad
Surgery Department
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon



مستشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tel: 1802 555

daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abu Ali
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck,
Facial Plastic Surgeon.

Fellowship of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.
10 years work experience in Ear Hospital MCH Kuwait.
Ex Head of ENT department in Farwaniya Hospital, MCH Kuwait.
10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.



- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery



1 888 883
www.qmc-kuwait.com

qmc Kuwait

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American
Board in Pediatrics-Canadian
Board in Pediatric Emergency



Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - SL1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

Dr. Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj

ENT Consultant, Laryngologist

- Kuwait Board of Otolaryngology.
- Laryngology Fellowship, McGill University- Canada.
- Fellow of the European Board of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck surgery.
- Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.
- Member of the British Laryngological Association.
- Member of the European Laryngological Society.
- Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.

Experienced In:

- Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Diagnosis and treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Myringotomy and ventilation tube insertion.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Diagnosis and treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Tympanoplasty.
- Diagnosis and treatment of vertigo.
- Thyroid surgery
- Diagnosis and treatment of snoring.



مستشفى رويال هايات
ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL

2536 0000
www.royalehayat.com

royalehayat royalehayat_ royalehayathospital

مستشفى السلام الدولي
Al Salam International Hospital
Telephone: 1830003 Ext: 2400

alsalam.int.hospital

DR KHALED ALMERRI

Consultant Interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2-Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3-Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5-Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6-Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring



مستشفى آل حبيب
AL HABIB HOSPITAL

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY

Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- Diagnosis/Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.



@Malhajry

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

IC
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
مستشفى السلام الدولي
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC



Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant

American Board Certified in General Surgery

Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)

Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation

Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- Day case surgeries
- Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Hernia repair
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

http://www.international-clinic.com

Tel: 1886677

ic_kwt

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist &
Hair Transplant, NY



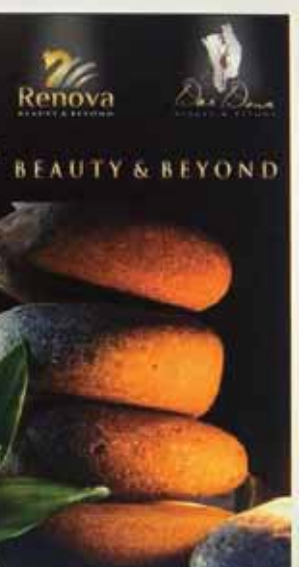
SHARQ, Ahmad Alaliber st., Building B8,
Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777
@Drbuhaimeed, @Renovabb, @dardonabb
Email: drbuhaimeed@beautybeyond.com.kw
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

- Dermatology board certified.
- Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- Laser Treatments.
- Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- Body & Face Contouring.
- Injectable Fillers & Botox.



DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery



Academic Certificates – Training

- Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- (IFSO) member.
- Faculty member of (BEST).
- Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- Bariatric surgeries.
- Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.



email: wbuhaimeed@gmail.com

Tel.: 965 2269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228

Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine
Head of Cardiology departmenta
at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).



مستشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tel: 1802 555



daralshifa

To advertise on this Page Call: 24833199 ext:101,102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617 or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

Lifestyle | Features

Vacation from the virus: **Maldives** still welcoming rich Indians

The Maldives is still welcoming Bollywood stars and other rich Indians to its secluded beaches and crystal-clear lagoons even as countries ban flights because of a brutal COVID surge. The Indian Ocean archipelago of more than a thousand islands reopened its international borders in mid-July after being shut for three months, and Indians have accounted for the most visitors. This week, as a string of other countries banned visitors from India, the Maldives government made only slight changes to its rules for passengers from its giant neighbor.

Holidaymakers arriving from India now can only stay at a resort or a safari boat and are not allowed to check into guest houses in inhabited islands where locals also live. "The geographical location of our islets help us to minimize the (virus) risk," Thoyyib Mohamed, the head of the country's tourism authority, Visit Maldives, told AFP. "Each islet is a self-contained single resort. Even if we have a few cases popping up here and

there, we can contain it within the resorts without exposing the local population."

Tourism workers vaccinated

Thoyyib said that they have also launched a campaign to vaccinate the entire workforce of 50,000 in the tourism sector and many others providing services relating to the hospitality trade. "We want to be the first fully vaccinated tourism sector in the world," Thoyyib told AFP by telephone. He said about 90 percent of workers were already vaccinated. Media reports have suggested that the Maldives might even offer COVID vaccines to foreign visitors.

But officials said they had no such immediate plans until all Maldivians and resident non-nationals had received both doses of the AstraZeneca or the Sinopharm vaccine. More than two-thirds of its 330,000 population has already received their first dose, according to health ministry figures. It has reported just over 29,000 virus infections



with 73 deaths, although case numbers have been rising sharply in recent weeks.

Yoga on Insta

Thoyyib said there was a decline in the number of Indians visiting in the past week but they remained the largest single group of visitors to the archipelago this year. Bollywood stars escaping India

in recent weeks include Alia Bhatt, her partner Ranbir Kapoor and Shradha Kapoor, who posted Instagram photos of herself doing yoga at sunset at a Maldives resort. Press reports suggest that private jet firms have seen a surge in demand to Europe, the Middle East and the Maldives, including from people clubbing together to hire an aircraft. "It's not only the ultra rich," Rajan Mehra,

head New Delhi-based private plane firm Club One Air told The Print. "Whoever can afford to take a private jet are taking private jets."

India on Friday reported 385,000 new cases in the past 24 hours-a new global record-and almost 3,500 deaths, according to official data that many experts suspect falls short of the true toll. With the surge blamed on new virus variants and huge religious and political gatherings in recent months, India's hospitals are struggling to cope, particularly but not only in the capital New Delhi. The Maldives attracted a record 1.7 million foreign tourists last year, a 15-percent increase from 2018, according to the government, with China the biggest source of visitors. The numbers fell to 555,494 last year because of the pandemic, but was showing signs of a recovery. Some 381,000 tourists have visited so far this year. China has now dropped below the top 10. — AFP



Actors Catherine Russell and Charles Geyer perform in the longest running play 'Perfect Crime' Off-Broadway at The Anne Bernstein Theater in The Theater Center in New York City. — AFP photos



An employee (left) scans tickets at the longest running play 'Perfect Crime' Off-Broadway at The Anne Bernstein Theater in The Theater Center.



Actors Catherine Russell and Charles Geyer perform onstage in the longest running play 'Perfect Crime' Off-Broadway at The Anne Bernstein Theater in The Theater Center.



The audience watches the longest running play 'Perfect Crime' Off-Broadway at The Anne Bernstein Theater in The Theater Center.

NEW YORK'S
OLDEST PLAY
BLAZES TRAIL AS
BROADWAY WAITS

Broadway is not due to return until September but New York's longest-running play is already back thanks to its indomitable lead who has played the same role over 13,500 times. Catherine Russell, 65, is the driving force behind "Perfect Crime," a rollicking whodunit that has been on Big Apple billboards since 1987. "I'm very determined. And whenever people tell me, you can't do something, I'm like, 'Screw you. Watch me do it,'" she tells AFP. Not only is Russell the show's main actor, she is also the manager of the Theater Center that puts on the play and a "dynamo" according to co-star Charles Geyer. "I can do 180 push-ups in a row. Marine push-ups, not girl push-ups," insists Russell, as if anyone would dare dispute the fact.

When performance venues shut in March 2020 as the pandemic spread like wildfire through New York, Russell kept busy so as not to get too depressed. She

repainted the theater, repaired a few of its armchairs and bought a ventilation system to help keep the air clean. When Russell heard that bowling alleys were going to be allowed to reopen at the end of August last year, while theaters remained shut, she thought: "This is crazy!" "Bowling alleys are great. But if you can bowl, you should be able to go to a theatre and sit with a mask and watch a show," Russell says. So she sued the city government and the state's governor to try to force them to reopen small performance venues like hers.

In early March Governor Andrew Cuomo ruled that theaters could reopen at 25 percent capacity, later updated to 33 percent, which is still not financially viable for most venues. Russell is continuing her lawsuit to try to obtain at least 50 percent seating. On April 9, she reopened the Theater Center with performances of "The Office: A Musical Parody." On April 17, Russell performed in "Perfect Crime," for the 13,524th time, world record. "Many people felt they were not ready, and that's fine. (But) I felt that we were ready," she recalls. "I don't think of (myself as) a torchbearer. Perhaps I'm a little less fearless than other people, and maybe I have less to lose because I'm a little off-Broadway show," Russell adds.

'Bringing New York back'

She admits that the theater is losing money and that even an increase to 50 percent capacity would not be enough to balance the books. "We're kind of scrap-

py, and I'm willing to do this for principle," Russell says. Her theater received the green light from the main performing arts union, the Actors' Equity Association, provided every actor is vaccinated and tested before each show. When AFP visited, the audience was at covid-era capacity, with 66 people in a room that would normally hold 200. Attendance has been steady since reopening, said producer Armand Hyatt.

Susan Jacknowitz, 75, traveled from North Carolina to see the play with a friend from New York. "When she texted me to say I got theater tickets, I was so excited," said Jacknowitz. "Perfect Crime," a classic murder mystery matured by a hint of psychology, usually gets drowned out by the countless Broadway shows on offer. But the current hiatus is allowing it to get a little more attention than usual. Theater fan Jessica Bloom had passed the Theater Center, off Times Square, dozens of times without stopping to go in.

"It's something new and anything that will get me inside a theater I will see it, even if I don't know what it's about," said the 35-year-old. Geyer, the actor, recalls a "terrific" reopening night. "We were the first players to be back on stage. They were the first audience to come and support the players, so we were like a team," he says. "There's a larger meaning than just a night at the theater. It's about being in the vanguard of bringing New York back, culturally." — AFP

Jennifer recently split from fiancé Alex Rodriguez, while Ben is single since his relationship with Ana de Armas ended earlier this year. Meanwhile, Ben, 48, recently praised Jennifer in an interview with InStyle. He gushed: "I thought I had a good work ethic, but I was completely humbled and blown away by what she was committed to doing day in and day out, the seriousness in which she took her work, the quiet and dedicated way she went about accomplishing her goals, and then how she would go back and redouble her efforts. "She remains, to this day, the hardest-working person I've come across in this business. She has great talent, but she has also worked very hard for her success, and I'm so happy for her that she seems, at long last, to be getting the credit she deserves." — Bang Showbiz



home. A source told the New York Post's Page Six: "Security picks him up at a nearby location and drops him off after spending a few hours at her house." However, insiders insist the relationship is platonic, explaining: "They are friends ... they've never not been."

Jennifer Lopez
and Ben Affleck
'hanging out'

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck have been "hanging out". The former couple - who were engaged in 2002, postponed their wedding just days before the ceremony in 2003 and split in 2004 - have remained close friends and were recently seen together at Jennifer's home in Los Angeles. Ben has been seen leaving his own car at the Hotel Bel-Air before being picked up and brought to Jennifer's

Oscar-winning
actress
Olympia Dukakis
dies at 89

Olympia Dukakis, a character actress who won an Oscar for her role as an overbearing mother in the romantic comedy "Moonstruck," died Saturday at the age of 89. The passing of the theater veteran, who made a name for herself in film late in her career, was confirmed on Facebook by her brother Apollo. "My beloved sister, Olympia Dukakis, passed away this morning in New York City," he wrote. "After many months of failing health she is finally at peace and with her [husband] Louis [Zorich]." The cause of death was not immediately given. Dukakis won the Oscar for best supporting actress for her work in "Moonstruck" (1987) as the scornful mother of a young widow played by Cher. It also earned Dukakis a Golden Globe and a BAFTA nomination.

"The fun part is that people pass me on the street and yell lines from my movies: For 'Moonstruck' they say, 'Your life is going down the toilet,'" Dukakis told the Los Angeles Times in 1991. "It's real funny." Dukakis also won acclaim for her role as a gossip hound at a small town



In this file photo Actress Olympia Dukakis is honored with the 2,498th Star on The Hollywood Walk Of Fame Hollywood, California. — AFP

Louisiana hair salon in "Steel Magnolias," (1989) which also featured Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field and Daryl Hannah. By 1988, with her Oscar, Dukakis was a household name in America because of the award and because her cousin Michael Dukakis had won the Democratic presidential nomination. She plugged him in her Oscars acceptance speech, shouting "OK, Michael, let's go" as she concluded her remarks and held up her statuette. Michael Dukakis ended up losing the election to George H.W. Bush, but both she and her cousin remained active in politics. Olympia Dukakis is survived by the daughter and two sons she had with Zorich, who died in 2018. — AFP

Anya Taylor-Joy
felt 'exposed
and vulnerable' on
Queen's Gambit

Anya Taylor-Joy felt "exposed and vulnerable" during 'The Queen's Gambit'. The 25-year-old actress - who played chess prodigy Beth Harman in the hit Netflix drama - admitted she was nervous when she realized there were aspects of herself she would have to show on camera as part of the role. Speaking to America's OK! magazine she said: "Those feelings of loneliness - those quiet moments you have to yourself in your hotel room that nobody else witnesses. "I was putting that on screen for everyone to see, and that was scary. You



feel exposed and vulnerable. "But I really felt I was the right person to tell Beth's story, and it ended up being a wonderful experience." Anya has experienced a new level of fame after the show hit the small screen, and she "never" thought it would hit this level of success. She added: "I never could have imagined this is where the show would go.

"I got to Los Angeles and took a walk and saw this giant poster and I was like, 'Oh my God, wow.' "And the model turned actress admitted she gets recognized a lot in public with fans shouting out questions about the plot. She said: "I've actually had people yell at me from across the street, 'Why didn't you pay Mr. Schaibel back?' And I'm like, 'I'm sorry. I don't know!' "While fame will have its drawbacks, Anya is appreciative of the situation she's found herself in, even if it can be overwhelming. — Bang Showbiz

Steps' **Lisa Scott-Lee** is
headteacher
in Dubai

Lisa Scott-Lee is working as a headteacher in Dubai. The Steps singer and her husband Johnny Shentall run the Dubai Performing Arts Academy together, which has around 600 pupils aged between 3 and 18, and whilst she is very much part of the group, her primary role is currently being the principal at the performing arts school. She said: "Steps is my life. It has been my life for the last 24 years, but being principal of the school is my day job. I can never switch off. Even when I'm with Steps, rehearsing or shooting a video, I'll be working on my laptop. It's become a bit of a running joke. I have to flip between my Steps hat and principal hat, which can be really hard and stressful at times ... I focus on the day-to-day running of the school and the business side of things, while Johnny is the creative #director and main teacher."

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the 45-year-old singer has been unable to return to the UK to perform with her bandmates - Lee Latchford-Evans, Claire Richards, Faye Tozer and Ian 'H' Watkins. — Bang Showbiz

Lifestyle | Features



This picture shows Zhang Chen, founder of the Extraordinary Luxuries Business School, teaching a class at the school in Beijing. — AFP photos



This picture shows a staff member verifying the authenticity of a handbag at the Beijing Extraordinary Luxuries Technology company in Beijing.

KEEPING IT REAL: APPRAISERS SIFT CHINA SECOND-HAND LUXURY MARKET FOR FAKES

It's the world's biggest market for luxury goods-and their counterfeits-so an expert eye for telling a bona fide Chanel handbag from a bogus one is a skill set in hot demand across China. Enter the "luxury appraiser", an eagle-eyed differentiator of real from fake, trained to triage handbags, belts and garments for dodgy serial numbers, stitching and logos. China's factories

count price. But a vast shadow trade in counterfeits lies in wait for the bargain-hunters. Many are fooled by "good imitations with little difference" from the originals, said Zhang Chen, founder of the Extraordinary Luxuries Business School, who tools his graduates with the gift of detecting fakes. His seven-day course teaches students how to detect forgeries, value second-hand goods and

year, according to consultancy Forward Business Information. "Chinese people buy one third of the world's luxury goods, but the circulation rate of three percent is far below the 25-30 percent in Western countries," he said, referring to the percentage that is later resold.

Tricks of the trade

Zhan drills the rules of luxury into students who are hooked onto his every word. "The lining of a black Chanel handbag must be pink," he says. Trainees check ID cards on handbags from the French luxury fashion chain under a special ultra-violet light. "Two letters will light up, and that's the secret," said Zhang, who learned his own skill appraising luxury goods a decade ago in Japan. Knowing which letters in the Chanel logo use a rectangular rather than square font can "detect a third of the fakes on the market", he added. His class are all affluent but from a variety of backgrounds, including the former editor of a fashion magazine from Shanghai and a bartender looking for a fresh start after his business was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. "I realized that second-hand luxury bags could be sold at a very good price," said 31-year-old stock market trader Xu Zhihao.

A Louis Vuitton Neverfull handbag bought two years ago can still be sold at 9,000 yuan on second-hand platforms, a 20 percent discount, while a small Chanel Gabrielle bag goes for about 60 to 70 percent of the counter price. "I think the logic behind the sales is very similar to the financial products I'm selling now." But the condition of the bags can have a heavy impact on value. "Pay special attention to the scratches around the buckle, as a lot of people get manicures these days," Zhang warns, identi-



This picture shows trainees practicing methods in verifying the authenticity of a handbag following a class at the Extraordinary Luxuries Business School in Beijing.

fying grazes from long nails.

And seasonality is essential, with red-the color of good luck-selling quickest over Chinese holidays. His school has even attracted former counterfeiters as students, he added, many wanting to build on existing skills but shift to less disreputable work.

Block the fakes

In most cases it takes Zhang around 10 seconds to tell if a product is real, he says, holding up a genuine Hermes bag. Some clients send pictures of watches, trainers and clothes for an online diagnosis. Verifying luxury products is set to become more high-tech with fashion houses introducing chips to trace pedigree. Louis Vuitton announced in 2019 that it will launch a blockchain platform

called AURA to record its goods.

Microchips have been inserted in the sole of women's shoes made by Italian brand Salvatore Ferragamo, while Burberry has experimented with Radio Frequency Identification technology (RFID) in its goods-a technology that uses radio waves to identify a tagged object. But with the tech still in its infancy, Zhang is unconcerned about the threat to his analogue line of work. "Any technology has the possibility of being cracked," Zhang told AFP. "The market for identifying luxury products will always exist, it's just that the methods will have to adapt."—AFP



This picture shows Zhang Chen, founder of the Extraordinary Luxuries Business School, teaching a class at the school in Beijing.

churn out huge quantities of luxury goods, much of which is destined for a domestic market worth about four trillion yuan (\$620 billion), according to market researchers UIBE Luxury China.

Now the second-hand luxury market is also booming as those unwilling to part with thousands of dollars for a handbag seek out the prestige at a dis-

learn the skills needed to appraise luxury products.

And while the fee is 15,800 yuan (\$2,400), Zhang says it is a price worth paying as it provides a foothold in a second-hand luxury market that is only just taking off. China's second-hand luxury market value reached 17.3 billion yuan in 2020, almost double the previous



This picture shows an assistant preparing for a class at the Extraordinary Luxuries Business School in Beijing.



This picture shows a staff member verifying the authenticity of a luxury item at the Beijing Extraordinary Luxuries Technology company in Beijing.



This picture shows a staff member verifying the authenticity of a watch at the Beijing Extraordinary Luxuries Technology company in Beijing.

With 'lollipops', Austria tests toddlers for virus

A newly developed, lollipop-shaped coronavirus test is being rolled out in some of Austria's kindergartens as an alternative for toddlers who don't take well to throat or nose swabs. Students-a little shy-lined up in one Vienna kindergarten this week to be tested, with the exercise open to the media. Though children are exempt from many virus measures, there are fears that with schools and kindergartens reopening, the more contagious variant that emerged in Britain and is dominant in several EU countries could spread more widely among young people and children. This could contribute to another surge in cases and threaten progress with vaccination campaigns.

To "keep track of the infections" and to offer a "sensible alternative to other testing options," Austria's Burgenland province has already ordered 35,000 lollipop tests, a spokesperson for the regional government told AFP. This follows the success of a pilot project with

children in some kindergarten and day-care centers. Letters have been sent to parents informing them that the Burgenland state will provide each child with three free tests per week.

The instructions read as follows: "Put the test in the mouth, suck for 90 sec-

onds, dip the test in the container, wait 15 minutes, check the result." After initial disappointment that the tests lacked the bright colors and the sweet taste of a real lollipop, instead resembling "an oversized cotton swab", father and graphic designer Dominik Krotschek

says that his three-year-old has now taken well to the tests. "It's unproblematic-we just did it again today and it worked well," Krotschek told AFP. "I think it makes sense to have stricter controls in the educational sector," he said. The tests were invented by Manuela Foedinger, who leads the laboratory at Vienna's Kaiser-Franz-Joseph hospital and is credited with pioneering a similarly simple-to-use gargle test that is now widely used across the nation of 8.9 million.

When her invention was recognized by the city of Vienna last year, the mayor of Vienna asked what could be done to test toddlers and Foedinger replied: "I have an idea for that, too." In Vienna, Foedinger is now conducting a study with children between the ages of one and six across five kindergartens to show just how accurate the test results are and help decide whether lollipop tests can be deployed more broadly, a spokesperson said. — AFP



A pre-school boy uses a newly developed, lollipop-shaped COVID-19 test prior to the testing of pre-schoolers at the 'City of Vienna Kindergarten' in Vienna, Austria. — AFP photos



A medical worker gives a pre-school boy a newly developed, lollipop-shaped COVID-19 test prior to the testing of pre-schoolers.

Photo of the Day



Cameron Burrell trains in Houston, Texas. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Havertz stars as Chelsea cement hold on fourth place

LONDON: Chelsea cemented their grip on fourth place in the Premier League as Kai Havertz struck twice to seal a 2-0 win over struggling Fulham on Saturday. Thomas Tuchel's side warmed up for Wednesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Real Madrid with a ruthless display at Stamford Bridge.

Havertz netted in each half to lift Chelsea six points clear of fifth-placed West Ham in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top-four finish. Chelsea are looking up not down after they closed the gap on third-placed Leicester to just two points with four games left.

"We were spot on. It was what we demanded from ourselves. We showed the pride we are capable of, to do it in between two big games," Tuchel said. "We knew Fulham gives everyone a hard time. I'm beyond happy. There was no lack of concentration."

Havertz's seventh and eighth goals of an underwhelming first season at Chelsea were a welcome sign the German playmaker is finally emerging from his funk. Since arriving from Bayer Leverkusen, Havertz has endured a bout of coronavirus and a host of difficult performances that raised doubts about his desire.

But the 21-year-old thrived in the false nine role against Fulham in an indication he could still have a part to play in Chelsea's bid for a memorable end to the season. "For sure, this is what we want if someone gets his chance. He scored two decisive goals and he was involved along with Timo Werner," Tuchel said.

Just as significant as Havertz's improvement, Chelsea remained rock solid at the back and have kept 17 clean sheets in 23 games under Tuchel. The German coach's only worry was the sight of the influential



LONDON: Chelsea's German head coach Thomas Tuchel (left) celebrates with Chelsea's Scottish midfielder Billy Gilmour after the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Fulham at Stamford Bridge in London on Saturday. — AFP

Mason Mount being treated for a back injury which he played through before being taken off in the closing stages.

"I hope really that Mason is not a big thing and hopefully he can fully recover for Real Madrid," Tuchel said. Chelsea have been revitalized by Tuchel since he replaced the sacked Frank Lampard in January. The former Paris Saint-Germain boss arrived with Chelsea languishing in ninth place, but he has led them back

into the top four and earned an FA Cup final date with Leicester in May.

The icing on the cake for Tuchel would be reaching the Champions League final, with Chelsea hosting Real on Wednesday as they look to capitalise on the 1-1 first-leg draw in Madrid. Third-bottom Fulham sit nine points from safety with four games remaining and look set for relegation to the Championship.

Havertz hits his stride

It was 42 years since Fulham last won at Stamford Bridge, but they almost snatched a shock lead when Antonee Robinson's 20-yard rocket was tipped over by Edouard Mendy. Chelsea responded to that threat with a superbly crafted opener in the 10th minute.

Thiago Silva's long pass was beautifully controlled by Mount and the midfielder slipped a pin-point ball through to Havertz, who slotted a composed finish into the far corner. Fulham weren't out of the hunt and Ademola Lookman's low drive was pushed away at full stretch by Mendy.

Hakim Ziyech's shot was well saved by Fulham keeper Alphonse Areola before Mendy alertly parried Ola Aina's strike after it took a wicked deflection off Reece James. But Havertz was beginning to hit his stride at last and he doubled Chelsea's lead in the 49th minute. Ben Chilwell's long pass picked out Havertz and he glided away from two defenders to find Werner. Werner played a deft pass through to Havertz and he capped the flowing move with a clinical finish. For all his critics in an uneven season, the much-maligned Werner is the first player to register double figures for both goals and assists in his debut season for Chelsea since Eden Hazard in 2012-13. — AFP

Selby to face Murphy in world snooker final

LONDON: Former winners Mark Selby and Shaun Murphy will meet in the final of this year's snooker World Championship after coming through tough semi-finals on Saturday. Selby saw off Stuart Bingham 17-15 in a match that was paused with Selby leading 16-15 to allow Murphy and Kyren Wilson to complete their match at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

Selby broke the deadlock when his match resumed when a plant set up a break of 41 only to lose position. And a lucky red allowed qualifier Bingham to lay a snooker which set him up for a break of 59. With all the reds off the table, Bingham lost position but laid a snooker behind the black. But Selby made a superb escape and eventually laid a brilliant snooker on the green that saw Bingham give away several fouls that left his opponent in front. Selby, a three-time world champion, then cleared to the pink to complete a 17-15 win.

Earlier Murphy, the 2005 world champion, defeated Wilson 17-12 in another all-English contest having been 10-4 behind earlier in the best of 33 frames match. Murphy, who won the final three frames of the morning session to draw level at 12-12, was unstoppable in the evening as he reeled off five consecutive breaks of over 50 apiece.

His 78 put him ahead for the first time in the match since the opening frame before an unlucky in-off by Wilson paved the way for a break of 91 that saw Murphy go two frames ahead. Wilson's missed black let Murphy in to make a break of 117 before his 77 left him one frame away from victory at 16-12 come the mid-session interval. An extended safety exchange after the match resumed ended with Murphy making a decisive break of 58. — AFP

Montreal hold Columbus, Real Salt Lake beat Kansas City

LOS ANGELES: CF Montreal stretched their early unbeaten run in the fledgling Major League Soccer season on Saturday, playing to a goalless draw against MLS Cup champions Columbus Crew. Coach Wilfried Nancy said Montreal, hosting the match in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as Canadian teams continue to be shut out of their home grounds because of the coronavirus pandemic, could have come out with a big win.

Despite multiple opportunities, they couldn't get a shot past Columbus keeper Eloy Room. "We could have scored three goals," Nancy said. "We had the possibility to be better but we didn't finish. But, again, I'm happy with what I saw." Mustafa Kizka had a solid chance in the 26th minute but fired right at the feet of Room. Room dived to save a shot in injury time from Finnish substitute Lassi Lappalainen. Meanwhile Montreal keeper Clement Diop was never severely tested.

The Crew, who drew 2-2 against Monterrey of Mexico in CONCACAF Champions League play on Wednesday, made five changes to their starting lineup and failed to generate a shot in the first half. But they thought they had snuck out the victory late when Bradley Wright-Phillips found the back of the net only for the effort to be ruled offside.

"We showed some good character today," Crew coach Caleb Porter said. "We bent but didn't break. Good teams, on a day where we're clearly not sharp, not playing our game, not creating chances, you have to find a way to hang on and we certainly hung on."

Elsewhere, Jesus Medina and Valentin Castellanos both scored as New York City FC downed 10-man Philadelphia Union 2-0. Anton Tinnerholm set up Medina's early opener for NYCFC, who have won twice since losing at DC United in their season opener.

Philadelphia, winners of the Supporters' Shield last season as the team with the best regular-season record, saw Jose Andres Martinez sent off upon video review for an elbow toward Castellanos' head in the 15th minute.

Martinez was already scheduled to miss the Union's quarter-final, second-leg clash Atlanta United in the CONCACAF Champions League because of yellow card accumulations and will now miss their next MLS match at Chicago next Saturday. The Union take a 3-0 lead into their Champions League second leg clash with Atlanta tomorrow.

Fans return in Salt Lake

Real Salt Lake welcomed fans back to their Rio Tinto stadium with a 3-1 victory over Sporting Kansas City. Rubio Rubin struck twice as Real Salt Lake scored three straight goals after Alan Pulido opened the scoring for Sporting with his first goal of the 2021 season.

With up to 10,000 fans allowed now under local health and safety protocols, Salt Lake announced a crowd of 9,842. They created a rowdy atmosphere, but it was Sporting who struck first when Khiry Shelton fired a cross through the penalty area and Gianluca Busio skipped over the ball to give Pulido plenty of time to finish.

Real Salt Lake pulled level before halftime as substitute Andrew Brody whipped in a cross that Damir Kreilach headed in. Rubin fired the hosts ahead in the 52nd with a shot between the legs of Sporting goalkeeper John Pulskamp. He bagged his second goal in the 77th, eluding two defenders on the way to beating Pulskamp. — AFP



LOUISVILLE: Medina Spirit #8, ridden by jockey John Velazquez, leads the field around the first during the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on Saturday in Louisville, Kentucky. — AFP

Baffert makes history as Medina Spirit wins 147th Kentucky Derby

WASHINGTON: Medina Spirit won the 147th Kentucky Derby Saturday at Churchill Downs, giving trainer Bob Baffert a record seventh victory in the US flat racing classic. Puerto Rican jockey John Velazquez piloted Medina Spirit to the front early and held on to win the first jewel of US racing's Triple Crown for the fourth time as overwhelming pre-race favorite Essential Quality finished fourth.

"I cannot believe he won this race," Baffert said of 12-1 shot Medina Spirit, who was second in his previous start in the Santa Anita Derby on April 3. "He won this race. That little horse, it was all guts." Velazquez said he and Baffert had decided to take Medina Spirit to the front early, and the strategy paid off. "Johnny had him in a perfect spot, and if you have him on the lead he'll fight."

Mandaloun, a 26-1 shot trained by Brad Cox and ridden by US-based French jockey Florent Geroux, applied the most pressure in the final straight, but settled for second ahead of Hot Rod Charlie, trained by Doug O'Neill and ridden by another US-based Frenchman, Flavien Prat. The bigger disappointment for Cox, trying to become the first Louisville-born trainer to win the Kentucky Derby, must be the failure of Essential Quality.

Unbeaten in five prior starts, the gray colt owned by Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Godolphin stables left the global racing and breeding powerhouse still seeking a Kentucky Derby win after 12 attempts. Baffert moved out of a tie with legendary trainer Ben Jones for most career Kentucky Derby wins. His six prior winners of the 1 1/4-mile race for 3-year-olds at Churchill Downs included Triple Crown winners Justify and American Pharoah.

Baffert admitted he didn't have the same kind of expectations for Medina Spirit that he had for those greats. "I'm so spoiled bringing these heavy duty horses here," he said. "But that little horse has such a heart." The Triple Crown chase resumes on May 15 with the Preakness at Pimlico in Baltimore, and concludes June 5 with the Belmont Stakes in New York. — AFP

Sports

Hazard starts as Real Madrid defeat Osasuna, Atletico scrape past Elche

MADRID: Real Madrid held their nerve to beat Osasuna 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday as Eden Hazard made his first start since January, raising the possibility of Zinedine Zidane picking him for Wednesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Chelsea.

Chaves missed a 91st-minute penalty in what could prove a pivotal moment in Spain's thrilling title race, with Atletico maintaining their two-point lead over Real Madrid and stretching the advantage to five over Barcelona. "We're entering a defining period and each victory is a very important step," said Atletico coach

hope it's a little thing but right now I can't say," Zidane said. The best chance fell to Hazard from a Marcelo cross but he failed to catch the volley cleanly, instead scuffing it into the ground and goalkeeper Sergio Herrera did brilliantly to save.

Benzema had already gone close and Militao had a pair of headers early in the second half that again drew Herrera into action. Hazard faded and departed with 18 minutes left. Osasuna were tiring too and finally Madrid got the breakthrough, Militao making it third time lucky, rising high to head in Isco's corner. Four minutes later it was two, Benzema driving in from the left and slipping a reverse pass through for Casemiro, who stretched to control and instead poked the ball directly into the net.

Atletico edge out Elche

Elche squandered two golden opportunities to snatch a draw against Atletico. First, Antonio Barragan volleyed over from close range and then Marcos Llorente's handball gave Fidel a chance from the spot but he struck the post. "I don't believe in luck," Llorente said. "If it didn't hit the post, I think Oblak would have got to the shot. We have the points and that gives us a lot of strength going forward."

Atletico are now guaranteed to be ahead of Barca when they kick off at Camp Nou next Saturday. Real Madrid also face Sevilla at Valdebebas a day later in a crunch weekend at the top but the resistance of 18th-placed Elche against La Liga's frontrunners suggests the race may well go to the final day.

Simeone's side were denied three times in the first half, Luis Suarez missing a golden chance before they had a goal and a penalty ruled out by VAR. Finally, Atletico broke through, with Yannick Carrasco weaving through down the left before picking out the arriving Llorente, whose shot deflected off Josema Sanchez on its way in. Barragan should have equalized with five minutes left when the ball was headed back to him six yards out but somehow he volleyed over. There was more drama to come as Victor Rodriguez's cross struck the hand of the leaping Llorente in the box and Fidel stepped up to secure a point. Instead, he found the outside of the post. — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro (left) celebrates after scoring during the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium in Valdebebas in the outskirts of Madrid on Saturday. — AFP

After making a brief cameo off the bench in the first leg last week, Hazard played 72 minutes at Valdebebas and could now face his former club from the start in the pivotal return game at Stamford Bridge. "He was very good," said Zidane. "He played close to Karim (Benzema), they tried things and I was very happy with him."

Real Madrid have it all to do against Chelsea after drawing the opener 1-1 and they are playing catch-up in La Liga too, after Atletico Madrid had earlier scraped to a 1-0 victory against struggling Elche. Elche's Fidel

No Haaland, no problem as Dortmund reach Cup final

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund thrashed second-division Holstein Kiel 5-0 on Saturday in their German Cup semi-final even with top-scorer Erling Braut Haaland sidelined. Haaland, suffering from a thigh injury, watched from the stands at Signal Iduna Park as Giovanni Reyna started the rout with the first two goals to help put Dortmund in the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 13.

Dortmund will face RB Leipzig, who needed Emil Forsberg's 121st-minute winner at the end of extra-time to seal a dramatic 2-1 win at Werder Bremen on Friday in the other semi-final. "We were very consistent in front of goal. Almost every shot was a goal," Dortmund captain Marco Reus told ARD. "We are very happy to have reached the final."

Kiel had knocked out holders Bayern Munich on penalties in the second round in January, but any thoughts of another major upset were soon wiped out. The floodgates opened quickly as Mats Hummels released Jadon Sancho on the left, the England winger cut inside and passed to 18-year-old Reyna who hit the top corner on 16 minutes. The US midfielder grabbed a second goal six minutes later with a simple tap-in after Reus, then Raphael Guerreiro back-heeled the ball into Reyna's path. The third goal came on 25 minutes when Emre Can's pass over the Kiel defense found Reus who slammed his shot home.

At the other end, Dortmund had a lucky let off when Kiel forward Fabian Reese hit the post with goalkeeper Marwin Hitz beaten. It was just a brief respite as Dortmund forward Thorgan Hazard snatched up a loose pass from Jonas Meffert to score again on 32 minutes. Then England midfielder Jude Bellingham got on the scoresheet when his shot took a deflection to make it 5-0 at half-time. Bellingham nearly grabbed his second when he chipped just wide with the goal at his mercy, 14 minutes from time. However, the win came at a cost.—AFP

Diego Simeone.

Atletico's win meant victory for Real Madrid was essential and they had to work hard for it against a determined Osasuna side, Eder Militao breaking the deadlock in the 76th minute before Casemiro made it two four minutes later. Zidane's squad has been stretched by absences in recent weeks and he left Luka Modric and Toni Kroos on the bench, while handing Hazard his first start since January 30.

There could be a fresh concern, though, after defender Raphael Varane was taken off at half-time. "I



CROTONE: Inter Milan's Achraf Hakimi shoots on goal during the Italian Serie A football match Crotone vs Inter Milan at the Ezio Scida Stadium in Crotone on Saturday. — AFP

Inter Milan 'toppling a kingdom' with Serie A title one step away

MILAN: Christian Eriksen and Achraf Hakimi scored in the second half as Inter Milan beat Crotone 2-0 to move to the brink of the Serie A title on Saturday. Antonio Conte's side are 13 points ahead of city rivals AC Milan who reclaimed second place with a 2-0 win over 18th-placed Benevento, with four games to play.

"We are succeeding in toppling a kingdom that had lasted for nine years," said former Juventus coach Conte, who led the Turin giants to the first three of their current run of nine consecutive league titles. "We're aware that we can do something extraordinary because Inter haven't won a Scudetto in 11 years, and we're breaking up a dynasty. The lads deserve this joy, congratulations to them. We're a step away from making history."

Dane Eriksen came on as a substitute in the 65th minute and scored four minutes later, firing home a shot which took a deflection off Crotone defender Lisandro Magallan, from Romelu Lukaku's lay-off. Lukaku had a goal ruled out before Hakimi struck a second in injury time. "It's an important goal because it moves us closer to the title, but we still haven't won it yet," said Eriksen of just his second goal this campaign. "If it proves to be the decisive goal, then obviously it'll be the most important one of the season. Every goal is important, but the one that takes you to your objective is extra special. Today, I came on as a substitute, and when you do this the aim is to make your mark: you want to shake things up. I'm happy that I managed to do so."

The match in Calabria pitted the Serie A leaders against the bottom team who were relegated as a result of the loss. Both sides had chances in the first half with Adam Ounas threatening early for the hosts who lost defender Arkadiusz Reca to injury before the break.

Lukaku headed onto the post off a Stefano Sensi corner after 23 minutes. There was a flurry of activity in front of the Crotone goal before the break with Alessandro Bastoni sending wide after connecting with a Nicolo Barella cross.—AFP



LILLE: Lille's forward Burak Yilmaz celebrates a goal during the French L1 football match between Lille (LOSC) and Nice at the Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, northern France, on Saturday. — AFP

Lille stay top in France as Neymar nets in PSG win

PARIS: Burak Yilmaz again starred as Lille stayed on course to win the Ligue 1 title by beating 10-man Nice 2-0 on Saturday, a result that keeps the northern side a point clear of defending champions Paris Saint-Germain at the top of the table with three games left. Yilmaz and fellow Turkish international Zeki Celik scored the goals for Lille against a Nice team who played most of the second half a man short after defender Jordan Lotomba was sent off. Veteran striker Yilmaz, 35, had been the inspiration with a brace as Lille came from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at Lyon last weekend and he was also the catalyst here as Christophe Galtier's side responded perfectly after PSG had beaten Lens 2-1 earlier to move provisionally to the summit. Yilmaz scored with a pin-point low strike into the far corner from 20 meters following a Jonathan David lay-off on 13 minutes, and he also struck the post in the second half.

After Lotomba was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Jonathan Bamba at the start of the second half, Celik volleyed in Lille's second goal in the 56th minute as he latched onto a clearance and volleyed in from just outside the box. If Lille win their final three games against Lens, Saint-Etienne and Angers, they will be champions for the first time since 2011.

"Three points, a clean sheet, it's good," captain Jose Fonte told broadcaster Canal+. "It was important to win at home because we hadn't won here for a while, and the battles goes on. We have three difficult games left and we just need to keep fighting." Neymar scored one goal and set up the other for Marquinhos as PSG edged Lens at home to claim a vital three points in between the two legs of their Champions League semi-final against Manchester City.

Pochettino 'optimistic'

Coach Mauricio Pochettino made six changes to his team from the first leg which PSG lost 2-1 against Pep Guardiola's side, with Kylian Mbappe watching from the stands because of a slight calf injury. However Pochettino said he was confident Mbappe would be fit for the game in Manchester on Tuesday. "I am always optimistic and I still am," Pochettino told Canal+. "We think he will be there but we will make a decision before the game." Angel Di Maria was also rested but Neymar started and pounced when Argentine defender Facundo Medina gave the ball away under pressure to run through and score PSG's opener in the 33rd minute, his seventh league goal of the campaign.

Marquinhos then headed in a Neymar corner to make it 2-0 just before the hour mark, with Ignatius Ganago getting a goal back for Lens shortly after. Lens, who saw a 13-game unbeaten run ended, remain fifth, just ahead of Marseille in the fight for France's last European qualifying berth. They gave the reigning champions a run for their money and the tension got to PSG sporting director Leonardo, who was caught on camera angrily remonstrating with the officials in the tunnel at the end of the game — his mask under his chin — apparently over what he felt was some rough treatment for Neymar.—AFP

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Caral Cracy Dsouza holder of Indian passport no. K9616034 has been correcting the spelling of my name to Carol Cracy Dsouza in my passport. **(C 0243)**

I, Mohamed Oliyil, Oliyil House, Mampuram P.O., VK Padi, Malappuram holder of Indian passport no. K2098646 issued at Kuwait on 29/01/2012 have changed my name as Mohammala K, S/O Ibrahim, Kunnummal House, Karingappara, OM Achappuzha P.O., Mallapuram Dt., PIN: 676320. **(C 0241)**

I, Jovin Joseph holder of Indian passport no. R2312554 having permanent address at Olimalaputhenpurayil House Karamala P.O., Koothattukulam, Ernakulam, Kerala 686662, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Given name: Jovin and Surname: Joseph Joji. **(C 0242)** 30-4-2021

EMERGENCY
112



**Embassy of India
Kuwait**

Contract for cleaning of Embassy of India premises

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies by 3rd May, 2021 for awarding AMC for cleaning of Embassy of India premises in Kuwait. Detailed scope of work is available on Embassy's website: www.indembkwt.gov.in.

All offers should be in a sealed cover marked "Offer for AMC for cleaning of Indian Embassy premises- to be open by addresses only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery", Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 1200 on 24th May 2021.

**Embassy of India
Kuwait**



**Embassy of India
Kuwait**

Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Embassy Building

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies/firms for operation and maintenance of air-conditioning, plumbing and firefighting system etc. installed in the Embassy building. Detailed scope of work is available on Embassy's website: www.indembkwt.gov.in.

All offers should be sent in a sealed cover which be marked for "Offer for Contract for operation and maintenance of Embassy Building to be opened by the Addressee only" and addressed to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 12:00 hrs on 1st June 2021. For any enquiries Pls write to adminkuwait@mea.gov.in.

**Embassy of India
Kuwait**

Sport | Times

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021

Doncic delivers for Dallas

Curry scores 30 as Warriors beat Rockets

LOS ANGELES: Luka Doncic posted a triple double with 31 points, 20 assists and 12 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks won their sixth game in the last seven by edging the Washington Wizards 125-124 on Saturday. It was the first triple double for Doncic since March 15 as he spearheaded a Mavericks' attack that led the game by 12 points after the first quarter and by five at halftime.

"Everyone expects greatness from him every single night," said Dallas coach Rick Carlisle. "Just think about it, at 22 years old and having that kind of expectation put on him every night. But he is an amazing player. He does an amazing job of absorbing all of it."

Dorian Finney-Smith drained the deciding three with nine seconds left in front of a pandemic-limited crowd of 4,300 at American Airlines Center in Texas. Finney-Smith finished with 22 points, Maxi Kleber tallied 17 and Tim Hardaway scored 16 points for the Mavericks, who improved to 36-27 on the season.

Russell Westbrook equaled his season-high of 42 points and Bradley Beal had 29 points as the Wizards suffered just their second loss in the past dozen games. Doncic hit a jump shot with 34 seconds left to tie it 122-122.

Bradley Beal put Washington in front with a pair of free throws with 26 seconds to go before Doncic found Finney-Smith open for his clutch three. Beal failed to connect on a potential game-winning three-pointer with two seconds left on the clock.

Elsewhere, Stephen Curry poured in 30 points and the Golden State Warriors tightened up on defense to beat the Houston Rockets 113-87 and give their playoff push a much needed boost. Curry scored 23 points in the third quarter as the Warriors seized control by going on a 24-0 run for a 77-59 lead.

The win couldn't have come at a better time for the Warriors, who halted a two-game losing skid after winning seven of nine previously. The Warriors struggled on defense in both losses, surrendering a 25-0 run to the Dallas Mavericks and then giving up 37 fourth quarter points against the Minnesota Timberwolves.



DALLAS: Luka Doncic #77 of the Dallas Mavericks shoots the ball during the game against the Washington Wizards on Saturday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. — AFP

"We just need to bring a little joy. It's been tough trying to create consistency, we've had guys in and out of the lineup and really playing eight guys every night," Curry said. "Bringing energy is our focus, but when we bring joy and let that flow on the court — and I've got to lead that — that's when good things happen."

Curry also had six rebounds and five assists while Canadian Andrew Wiggins chipped in 20 points.

Draymond Green finished with 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Warriors. Kevin Porter, who was coming off a 50-point performance over Milwaukee on Thursday, scored 14 of his 16 points in the first half and added six assists for the under-manned Rockets. Jae'Sean Tate had 14 points for Houston, who led by as many as 11 points in the first half. At one stage of the contest, Houston went scoreless for 5:25, missing all 12 of their shot attempts.

In Charlotte, Terry Rozier scored 29 points as the Charlotte Hornets used a 13-0 run in the final quarter to beat the Detroit Pistons 107-94. Charlotte improved to 31-24 on the season but they had to work for the victory after the Pistons went on a 20-6 blitz that straddled the third and fourth quarters to cut the lead to just three points. Frank Jackson led Detroit with 25 points, and Saddiq Bey added 22. The pair combined for 11 of Detroit's 13 threes. — AFP






Established 1961
The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf

REGISTER TODAY

for the COVID-19 vaccine

Free for all residents of Kuwait. To register visit:

www.moh.gov.kw

STEP 1: Click on COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRATION **STEP 2:** FILL OUT BASIC INFORMATION **STEP 3:** SUBMIT FORM

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective and approved by Kuwait's Ministry of Health