



**4** Volvo and Kuwait Hospital hold talk on breast cancer



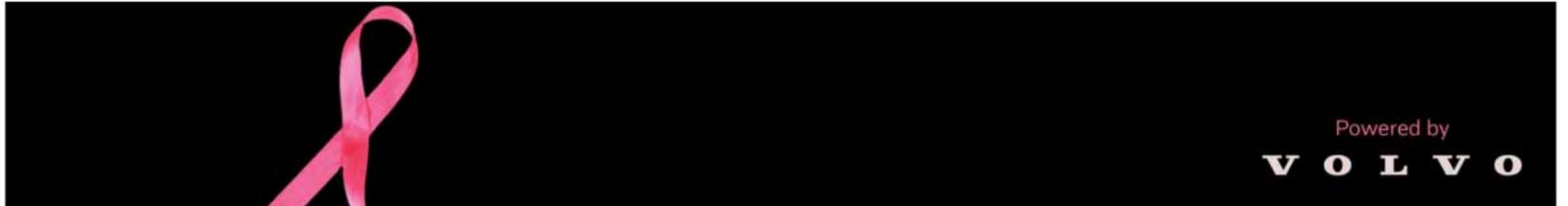
**7** Pakistani PM asks Facebook to ban Islamophobic content



**8** Pandemic plunges Lagarde into 'intense' year at ECB



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



# 93 candidates, including 8 women, file nominations

## Jabri resigns from Cabinet to run in Assembly elections



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

By B Izzak

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

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

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

among the leading figures who filed their papers.

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

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

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

## Oxford COVID vaccine prompts immune response

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

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

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

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

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

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## France urges end to boycott as anger rises

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

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

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

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

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## Arabs favor Biden over Trump: Poll

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

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

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

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

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

## Pak opens first metro line after years of delays

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

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

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



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



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



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