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# Kuwait using all resources to locate POWs, missing persons

## Foreign ministry says DNA tests on human remains showed a match

### Boris becomes British premier with Brexit vow

LONDON: Boris Johnson took over as Britain's new prime minister yesterday, vowing to prove the "gloomsters" wrong and get a new deal to leave the European Union on Oct 31 - or exit without one. The 55-year-old former London mayor is a divisive figure, loved by many for his wit and optimism but criticized for populist rhetoric and exaggerated claims during the 2016 Brexit referendum vote. In a speech in Downing Street, he repeated that he would prepare to leave the bloc without an agreement with Brussels but suggested this was a "remote possibility".

But ending Britain's 46-year membership of the bloc will prove a huge challenge for Johnson, who has a wafer-thin working majority in parliament and faces significant opposition among his own Conservative party. The EU has repeatedly said it will not renegotiate the divorce deal it struck with his predecessor Theresa May, which has been rejected by MPs three times.



LONDON: Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson gestures after giving a speech outside 10 Downing Street yesterday. — AFP

In typically upbeat fashion, Johnson insisted he could find a way through and unite the country. "We are going to fulfill the repeated promises of parliament to the people and come out of the EU on October 31, no ifs or buts," he declared.

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KUWAIT: Kuwait will continue efforts to locate its prisoners of war (POWs) and missing individuals in Iraq and will use all of its resources to achieve this goal, said a source at the foreign ministry yesterday. In a press release commenting on the findings of the technical committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) tripartite commission, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organization Nasser Al-Hain said Kuwait presented data to the commission and the Iraqi team involved in the search for the remains of Kuwaitis in Iraq.

The step led to the approval of DNA testing on human remains found in Iraq recently, said Hain. He added that initial results had shown a match in the DNA samples of some of the remains, which promoted Kuwait to request that all discovered bodies be sent back to its soil for further analysis. The tests will continue in Kuwait and the identities of



the bodies will be revealed as soon as results are announced, indicated the official, adding that the families of the victims will be informed as the process goes on.

Hain commended the tripartite commission and subcommittees for their efforts to uncover the fates of Kuwaiti POWs and missing persons and thanked Iraqi authorities for efforts to facilitate procedures in finding the remains. He hoped that the long-awaited case of the fate of

Kuwaitis and individuals from other nationalities will be closed, to conclude this humanitarian tragedy.

On June 20, the ICRC-affiliated tripartite commission announced the discovery of human remains in southern Iraq with initial expectations pointing to the discovery of bodies of Kuwaiti citizens and other nationals. The discovery gave hope to the families of the missing individuals who were taken away over 28 years ago. The commission gathers officials from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the US, the UK, France, and Iraq.

In 2005, the remains of a number of Kuwaiti citizens were discovered in Iraq, while in 2011, the body remnants of Iraqi individuals were uncovered. The tripartite commission continues efforts to uncover the remains of people missing or killed in the 1990-1991 war to liberate Kuwait. A total of 605 persons were taken as prisoners or went missing during the war, according to official Kuwaiti figures. — KUNA

### News in brief

#### Health insurance online only

KUWAIT: The health ministry said payment for expat health assurance will exclusively be online, adding that the paper-based collection system will stop on July 28, 2019. Meanwhile, sources said insurance centers operated by the party that is implementing the health insurance scheme will return to the health ministry on July 28. — A Saleh

#### Israel foils Iran spy ring attempt

JERUSALEM: Israel's domestic intelligence service said yesterday that the country's security forces had uncovered Iranian intelligence efforts to recruit Israeli Arabs and Palestinians. A statement from the Shin Bet said that the alleged Iranian-run operation was discovered "in recent months". "The network was based in Syria under Iranian guidance and was led by a Syrian operative nicknamed 'Abu Jihad'," it said. "It attempted to recruit people via preliminary contacts based on fictitious Facebook profiles and later - messaging apps." It said that those contacted were asked to gather data on sites such as military bases and police stations with a view to providing Iran with potential Israeli targets. — AFP

#### Rumors spark B'desh lynchings

DHAKA: Eight people have been killed in vigilante lynchings in Bangladesh sparked by rumors on social media of children being kidnapped and sacrificed as offerings for the construction of a mega-bridge, police said yesterday. The victims - which include two women - were targeted by angry mobs over the rumors, spread mostly on Facebook, that said human heads were required for the massive \$3 billion project, police chief Javed Patwary said. "We have analyzed every single case of these eight killings. Those who were killed by lynching mobs - no one was a child kidnapper," Patwary told reporters in Dhaka. Police are so concerned about the deadly fallout in rural towns that officers are trying to counter the web rumor using loudspeakers. — AFP

#### Nike sneakers sell for \$437,500

NEW YORK: A new world record for a pair of sneakers was set at auction on Tuesday when an avid collector splashed out \$437,500 on Nike's 1972 "Moon Shoe". Sotheby's said. The sale smashed the previous record of \$190,373 spent in 2017 on a pair of signed Converse worn by Michael Jordan in the 1984 Olympic basketball final, the New York-headquartered auction house said in a statement. Canadian collector Miles Nadal was the successful bidder in the online action, adding to the 99 pairs of other hard-to-find shoes that he bought in a private sale last week. Nike cofounder Bill Bowerman designed the flat racing 'Moon Shoe' which was made for runners at the 1972 Olympic trials. — AFP

### Mueller insists Trump was not exonerated

WASHINGTON: Robert Mueller denied yesterday that Donald Trump had been exonerated of obstructing his two-year investigation into Russian election meddling but - in his first testimony before Congress on the probe - he again declined to accuse the US president of a crime. In high-stakes testimony, a shaky-voiced Mueller appeared uncertain as Democrats and Republicans peppered him with questions about the investigation, repeatedly asking lawmakers to repeat themselves or restate their query.

The 74-year-old former FBI chief and veteran prosecutor also repeatedly

referred lawmakers to the report, and said he would not go beyond its text in his hotly anticipated appearances before two Democrat-led House committees. But his answers made clear he took issue with Trump's claim that the April report had exonerated him from charges of obstruction of justice. "The finding indicates that the president was not exculpated from the acts that he allegedly committed," Mueller told the House Judiciary Committee.

The former special counsel emphasized that Russia did interfere with the 2016 election and did so to bolster Trump's campaign against his rival, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton - contrary to Trump's repeated denials. But he also said that neither the president nor others of his campaign were charged over cooperation with Russians because the investigation lacked sufficient support for conspiracy charges. — AFP (See Page 6)

### Spotlight on suicide pushes taboos in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Nada never spoke about her suicide attempts and Ahmad hesitated before sharing his story, but as cases rise in Iraq the taboo issue is being pushed out of the shadows. Kept from school and sexually abused by her brothers, 24-year-old Nada, who first tried to take her own life at the age of 12, only agreed to

talk about her experiences under a pseudonym. "I didn't see a light at the end of the tunnel," she told AFP. Over the next decade, she attempted suicide more than 30 times, either by swallowing pills, cutting, or trying to hang herself. Now married to an abusive husband and a mother of two young children, Nada has yet to see a mental health specialist. "I never told anyone," she said. Almost 200 people took their own lives in Iraq in the first four months of 2019, according to the government's Human Rights Commission. This follows a rise in suicides from 383 in 2016 to 519

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### Jordan opens underwater military museum

AQABA, Jordan: Sunken tanks, a troop carrier and a submerged helicopter: Jordan yesterday opened its first underwater military museum off its Red Sea coast. The kingdom is hoping the 19 decommissioned pieces of military hardware, submerged at depths up to 28 m, will attract tourists to the already popular diving resort of Aqaba. The Underwater Military Museum Dive Site includes several tanks, an ambulance, a military crane, a troop carrier, an anti-aircraft battery, guns and a combat helicopter, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) said.

The sunken items have been "stationed along the coral reefs imitating a battle tactical formation", ASEZA said in a statement. The museum aims to offer a "new type" of museum experience combining "sports, environment and exhibits" for divers, snorkelers and visitors on glass-bottomed boats, it said. The launch was marked by a ceremony with music from the Jordanian Armed Forces band and a local folk group, AFP photographers there said. — AFP (See Page 21)



WASHINGTON: A quote from the Mueller report appears on a screen as former Special Counsel Robert Mueller testifies before the House Judiciary Committee in the Rayburn House Office yesterday. — AFP



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi policeman pilots a speedboat while on patrol to prevent people attempting suicide from jumping in the Tigris River on May 10, 2019. — AFP



AQABA, Jordan This combination of pictures shows military hardware submerged to be part of a new underwater military museum. — AFP