



**5** Cities under fire as Armenia, Azerbaijan fighting intensifies



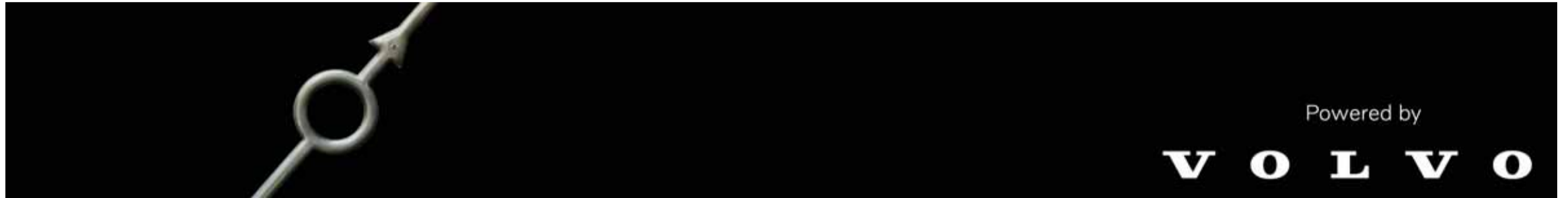
**10** Legacy of slavery endures in US Deep South county



**13** Teetotalers emerge from the shadows in Japan



**16** Spurs hit 10-man Man Utd for six on Mourinho return



# World leaders, top officials meet Amir to pay respects

## Prince of Wales, UAE VP, Qatari Father Amir, US and Iran ministers offer condolences



KUWAIT: (Left) Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, meets HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to offer condolences yesterday. (Right) UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum meets HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf to offer condolences yesterday. — Amiri Diwan

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday with world leaders and senior US, Iranian and Saudi officials, who separately paid respects over the passing of late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf received late yesterday Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, who arrived in Kuwait to offer condolences on the passing of late Amir Sheikh Sabah.

Earlier yesterday, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum met HH the Amir to express his condolences. HH Sheikh Nawaf also received Qatar's Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani yesterday, who offered condolences over the passing of late Amir Sheikh Sabah.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called Deputy Chief of Kuwait's National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday to offer his condolences. Several Saudi regional governors travelled to Kuwait yesterday to do the same.

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## Trump makes calls, tweets from hospital



BETHESDA, Maryland: This White House hand-out photo released yesterday shows US President Donald Trump working in the Presidential Suite at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Saturday. — AFP

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has resumed making calls and tweeting from hospital, but doctors say his progress yesterday will be crucial to see if he develops a more severe form of COVID-19. Trump posted a video Saturday from the business suite in Walter Reed medical center near Washington, saying he was improving and would be "back soon" - but that the crucial coming days would be "the real test".

Yesterday, his deputy campaign manager Jason Miller told ABC he had spoken to Trump for a half-hour Saturday and that the president was eager for political news with the Nov 3 election less than a month away. He was even "cracking jokes," Miller said.

National security advisor Robert O'Brien also said Trump was doing well, telling CBS that any discussion of a potential transfer of power to Vice President Mike Pence - as has happened when other presidents underwent surgery or were sedated - was "not something that's on the table" for now.

Pence has been close to some of those testing positive but says he has regularly tested negative. As Trump has had to freeze or rework his campaign, the vice president is continuing a busy schedule of appearances. But serious questions linger over the timing and severity of the president's illness - and whether he might have exposed dozens of others to Covid-19 even after a close aide tested positive.

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## New academic year begins at Arabic schools

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The new 2020-2021 academic year began yesterday at public and private Arabic schools, with classes held remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic. At some schools, teachers conducted online classes from classrooms, while other teachers taught students from home. The new school year at non-Arabic private schools began weeks ago.

Many teachers, parents and students expressed their support for the new virtual learning system adopted

by the ministry of education, but there are concerns too, especially regarding primary and kindergarten students. "My feeling today is a mix of wariness and happiness because schools finally reopened. But I am not very convinced with online classes. I don't know whether my kids will be able to learn," said Mariam Al-Zankawi, a mother of four young children.

"I still prefer traditional schooling because kids are on the school campus and are instructed by teachers. They can learn quickly because they compete with their peers," she told Kuwait Times. "One of my children is in grade 1, so I know he will need help once in a while. I am working at a ministry, so that's a problem. But my eldest daughter is 21 and waiting to be employed, so she is supervising her brother during online classes."

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KUWAIT: Arham Al-Khateeb, an Arabic teacher at Fajr al-Sabah School in Salmiya, observes a moment of silence in memory of late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah while conducting an online class in an empty classroom on the first day of school yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Pilgrims return to Makkah as umrah resumes

MAKKAH: Mask-clad Muslims circled Islam's holiest site along socially distanced paths yesterday, as Saudi authorities partially resumed the year-round umrah pilgrimage with extensive health precautions adopted after a seven-month coronavirus hiatus. Thousands of worshippers entered the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Makkah in batches to perform the ritual of circling the sacred

Kaaba, a cubic structure towards which Muslims around the world pray.

The umrah, the pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time, usually attracts millions of Muslims from across the globe each year but it was suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is being revived in three phases, with Saudi Hajj Minister Mohammad Benten saying last week that 6,000 pilgrims per day would be allowed in the first stage to perform the umrah "meticulously and within a specified period of time".

"In an atmosphere of faith and with assured hearts... the first batch of pilgrims begin the pilgrimage in accordance with the precautionary measures"

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MAKKAH: Saudis and foreign residents circumambulate the Kaaba in the Grand Mosque complex as authorities partially resumed umrah for a limited number of pilgrims yesterday. — AFP

## Akshay admits Bollywood has drug 'problem'

NEW DELHI: Bollywood megastar Akshay Kumar acknowledged on Saturday a drug problem within India's film industry, following a growing narcotics probe surrounding the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Movie-obsessed India has been gripped by the saga around the death of Rajput, who

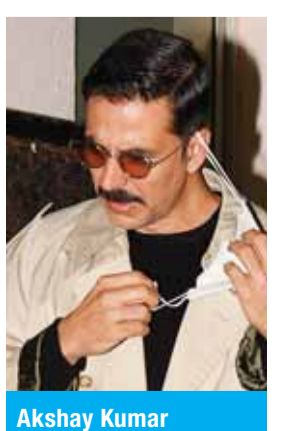
was found dead in June in his Mumbai apartment, with police saying he took his own life.

The investigation into the 34-year-old's death has expanded into a massive drugs probe, with his former girlfriend, actress Rhea Chakraborty, arrested earlier this month for allegedly buying cannabis for him. Indian media has also joined calls for a wider investigation into the multibillion-dollar film industry's so-called "drugs mafia".

In an almost four-minute video posted on his Twitter account on Saturday, Kumar called on the industry's fervent fans not to tar everyone in Bollywood with

the same brush. "With a hand on my heart, how can I lie and say that this (narcotics and drugs) problem doesn't exist in our industry," Kumar, 53, said in Hindi in a video watched more than 2.5 million times. "It exists in our profession the same way problems exist in every other profession. But to say that everyone in every profession is involved in all its problems would be wrong."

Several high-profile actresses including 34-year-old superstar Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh have been hauled in for questioning. — AFP



Akshay Kumar