



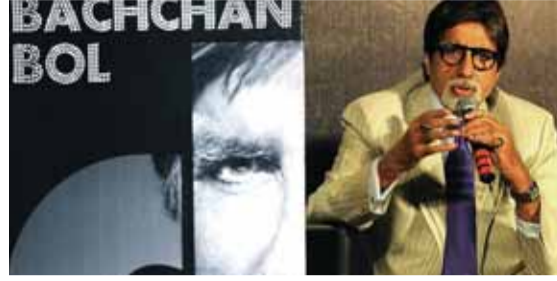
**3** Healthcare workers sacrifice their lives for patients' safety



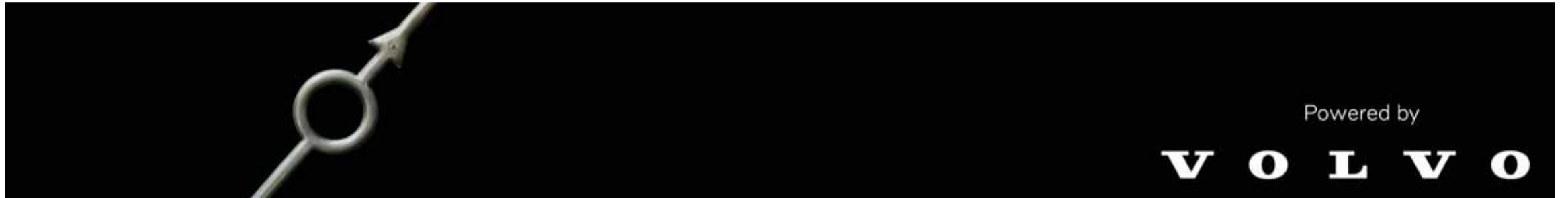
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# UAE, Bahrain normalize ties with Israel at White House

Palestinians mourn 'black day' • Trump hails 'dawn of new Middle East'

## Number of infected MPs rises to 8

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The number of members of parliament who have tested positive for the coronavirus increased to eight after three new lawmakers said they are infected with COVID-19.

The new MPs are Safa Al-Hashem, Mohammad Al-Dallal and Mubarak Al-Hajraf. All the three MPs made the announcement on their Twitter accounts.

All 50 MPs and an unspecified number of Assembly staff will be tested for the disease on Saturday as per instructions by the health ministry, which requires that seven days should have passed since any contact took place to ensure accurate results.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said on Monday that at least five MPs had tested positive for the coronavirus. He said the Assembly office has decided to postpone this week's session till next week and only healthy MPs will be allowed to attend.

MP Hashem strongly criticized the lawmaker who attended last week's three sessions "despite knowing they had been infected with the disease".

The new developments came as the Cabinet decided to postpone moving to phase five, the final stage of returning to normal life, until further notice amid a sharp increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases.

Health Ministry spokesman Abdullah Al-Sanad however denied Kuwait is witnessing the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, stressing that the country is still battling the first wave.

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WASHINGTON: (From left) Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump and UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan participate in the signing of the Abraham Accords at the White House yesterday. — AFP

**WASHINGTON:** The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements yesterday for normalizing relations with Israel, becoming the latest Arab states to break a longstanding taboo in a strategic realignment of Middle Eastern countries against Iran. US President Donald Trump hosted the White House ceremony, capping a dramatic month when first the UAE and then Bahrain agreed to reverse decades of ill will without a resolution of Israel's decades-old dispute with the Palestinians.

In front of a crowd of several hundred people on the White House lawn, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed accords with Emirati Foreign

Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al-Zayani. The deals, denounced by the Palestinians, make them the third and fourth Arab states to take such steps to normalize ties since Israel signed peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

Meeting Netanyahu earlier in the Oval Office, Trump said, "We'll have at least five or six countries coming along very quickly" to forge their own accords with Israel. But he did not name any of the nations involved in such talks.

Speaking from the White House balcony, Trump said: "After decades of

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HEBRON: Demonstrators wave Palestinian flags in the center of this flashpoint city in the occupied West Bank yesterday during a protest against decisions by the UAE and Bahrain to normalize relations with Israel. — AFP

## Iran warns US after Trump issues threat

**WASHINGTON:** Iran warned the US yesterday against making a "strategic mistake" after US President Donald Trump threatened Tehran over reports it planned to avenge the killing of top general Qasem Soleimani. "We hope that they do not make a new strategic mistake and certainly in the case of any strategic mistake, they will witness Iran's decisive response," Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabieci told a televised news conference.

Trump vowed on Monday that any attack by Iran would be met with a response "1,000 times greater in magnitude", after reports that Iran planned to avenge the killing of Soleimani. A US media report, quoting unnamed officials, said that an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa was planned ahead of the US presidential election in November.

"According to press reports, Iran may be planning an assassination, or other attack, against the United States in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani," Trump tweeted. "Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!"

Rabieci expressed regret that "the president of a country who has claims to global management and order would make hasty, agenda-fuelled and dubious remarks on such a weak basis".

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## Gas found on Venus linked to life on Earth

**PARIS:** The atmosphere of Venus contains traces of phosphine gas - which on Earth can be attributed to living organisms - scientists said on Monday, in a fresh insight into conditions on our nearest planetary neighbor. Conditions on Venus are often described as hellish with daytime temperatures hot enough to melt lead and an atmosphere comprised almost

entirely of carbon dioxide.

A team of experts used telescopes in Hawaii and Chile's Atacama Desert to observe Venus' upper cloud deck, around 60 km from the surface. They detected traces of phosphine, a flammable gas that on Earth often occurs from the breakdown of organic matter. Writing in Nature Astronomy, the team stressed the presence of phosphine did not prove the presence of life on Venus.

However, as the clouds swirling about its broiling surface are highly acidic and therefore destroy phosphine very quickly, the research did show that something was creating it anew.

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## Camel racing back in Sinai after hiatus

**SINAI, Egypt:** Spread out at the foot of a vast plateau in the Sinai desert, hundreds of excited Bedouins gathered to race their camels after a six-month break due to coronavirus. Shrouded in a vast sand cloud kicked up by the hump-backed beasts, more than 500 camels were loudly cheered on by their owners dressed in traditional jalabiyas and

headdresses. Camel racing is a popular traditional sport in many Arab countries, most notably in the Gulf region. And in Egypt, Bedouins of the South Sinai desert have kept up the tradition.

But race events have been suspended since March following the COVID-19 outbreak, and orders only came down at the beginning of the month that they could resume last weekend. The camels ran around a two-kilometer track in the Tih plateau, completing it in a matter of minutes, as they were followed by spectators and owners riding in SUVs to get a close-up glimpse of the action. — AFP (See Page 15)



A handout photo made available on Monday shows an artistic impression depicting Venus, where scientists have confirmed the detection of phosphine molecules, a representation of which is shown in the inset. — AFP



SINAI: Camels run on a dirt track during a race in Egypt's South Sinai desert on Sept 12, 2020 after more than six month of hiatus due to the coronavirus outbreak. — AFP