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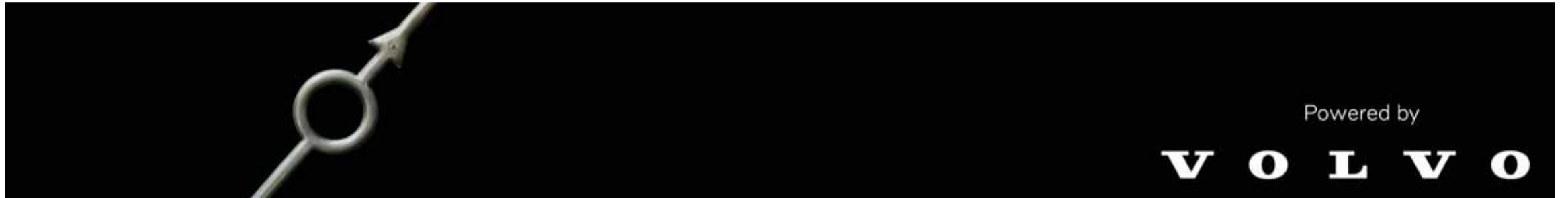
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Kuwait's COVID cases top grim milestone of 100,000

Gulf cases surpass 800,000 • US passes 200,000 deaths • World sees record cases

10 MPs sign non-cooperation motion against prime minister



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah speaks during a grilling session at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Ten opposition lawmakers yesterday signed a non-cooperation motion against HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah following a 10-hour marathon grilling over alleged violations and failure to handle the coronavirus. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told MPs voting on the motion will take place on Sept 30. This means the Assembly term will not end tomorrow as scheduled.

According to the constitution, if the Assembly supports the motion next week - a remote possibility - the issue will be referred to HH the Amir, who will decide whether to dismiss the prime minister or dissolve the Assembly. The MPs who signed the motion are Mohammad Hayef, Mohammad Al-Mutair, Abdullah Fahhad, Nayef Al-Merdas, Riyadh Al-Adasani, Thamer Al-Suwait, Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, Hamdan Al-Azemi, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei and Bader Al-Mulla.

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KUWAIT: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infected 719 people in Kuwait in the past 24 hours, as total cases since the outbreak started reached 100,683, official spokesman of the Ministry of Health Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad announced yesterday. Three patients died in the past 24 hours, bringing the total count of deaths to 588, he added. The health ministry had earlier announced 682 coronavirus patients recovered during the past 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 91,612.

The new cases include 187 in Hawally health zone, 162 in Ahmadi, 151 in Farwaniya, 120 in the Capital health zone and 108 in Jahra. Sanad said 99 patients are receiving medical care in intensive care units, with the overall number of confirmed cases that continue to receive medical care at 8,483. He added that up to 4,651 swab tests were conducted during the past 24 hours, raising the tally of tests to 715,887.

Sanad called upon the public to take all necessary precautions against the pandemic, abstain from mingling and observe social distancing. Kuwait's daily case numbers have fluctuated between 900 and 400 a day since early May. Kuwait began a partial resumption of commercial flights on Aug 1 while banning flights from several countries.

The number of recorded novel coronavirus cases in the six Gulf states has doubled in three months to over 800,000, according to a Reuters tally.

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Protest held against ties with Israel

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A group of Kuwaitis staged a peaceful protest outside the National Assembly yesterday against normalization of ties with Israel. They held banners in Irada Square saying 'normalization with Israel is betrayal' and the 'Kuwaiti people reject normalization and peace deal with the Zionist entity'.

US President Donald Trump claimed last week that Kuwait was likely to normalize ties with Israel soon. The remarks were made at the White House on Friday following a ceremony in which Trump awarded HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the prestigious Legion of Merit, a top US honor.

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti citizens hold a demonstration in Irada Square opposite the National Assembly yesterday to express their rejection of any normalization of ties with Israel. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News in brief

Americans in Bahrain alerted

MANAMA: The US Embassy in Bahrain on Monday warned American citizens in the Gulf kingdom of the "need for caution", days after Manama signed a US-backed deal with Israel. "The Embassy encourages all US citizens to review their personal security plans, remain aware of their surroundings, including local events, and maintain a high level of vigilance," an embassy statement read. — AFP

Abu Dhabi eases alcohol sales

ABU DHABI: Authorities in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi have abolished the requirement for permits to purchase and consume alcohol. "We are announcing the cancellation of permits for alcohol, and residents and tourists will have the right to buy it in authorized stores," said an official circular from the Department of Culture and Tourism. — AFP (See Page 5)

5 found alive in debris

MUMBAI: Emergency workers rescued five more people from the rubble of a collapsed apartment block in western India yesterday, more than 30 hours after the building came crashing down, killing 20, officials said. — AFP

Palestine quits chairing Arab League sessions

RAMALLAH: Palestine has quit its current chairmanship of Arab League meetings, the Palestinian foreign minister said yesterday, condemning as dishonorable any Arab agreement to establish formal ties with Israel. Palestinians see the accords which the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed with Israel in Washington a week

ago as betrayal of their cause and a blow to their quest for an independent state in Israeli-occupied territory.

Earlier this month, the Palestinians failed to persuade the Arab League to condemn nations breaking ranks and normalizing relations with Israel. Palestine was supposed to chair Arab League meetings for the next six months, but Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki told a news conference in the West Bank city of Ramallah that it no longer wanted the position.

"Palestine has decided to concede its right to chair the League's council (of foreign ministers) at its current session. There is no honor in seeing Arabs rush towards normalization during its

presidency," Maliki said. In his remarks, he did not specifically name the UAE and Bahrain, Gulf Arab countries that share with Israel concern over Iran. He said Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit was informed of the Palestinian decision.

In a new move addressing internal Palestinian divisions, officials from West Bank-based President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction and the Islamist Hamas movement were due to hold reconciliation talks in Turkey yesterday. Hamas seized the Gaza Strip in 2007 from Fatah forces during a brief round of fighting. Differences over power-sharing have delayed implementation of unity deals agreed since then. — Reuters

'Pen guns' the latest threat in Afghan capital

KABUL: Police in Kabul have seized a stash of "pen guns" they say criminals and insurgents are using in a wave of targeted assassinations that has gripped the Afghan capital in recent months. The cylindrical, single-bullet firearms look much like regular ink pens and are easy to carry undetected. "It is like a click pen, the shooter puts the bullet in the cartridge, aims and clicks the thrust but-

ton to fire the bullet," an official at Kabul's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Police last weekend unveiled a cache of 48 pen guns discovered in a larger haul of weapons including "sticky bombs" that can be slapped under vehicles and detonated remotely or on a timer. "The terrorists wanted to use these weapons in complex-target killings in the capital," interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian interior ministry spokesman said.

Rising unemployment and poverty have worsened Kabul's already abysmal security situation, with kidnappings, robberies and drive-by shootings commonplace. — AFP



KABUL: In this handout photograph taken on Sept 19, 2020, a stash of "pen guns" and sticky bombs are displayed by officials in a residential house. — AFP