



5 'Jabbed, cured or dead',
Germany warns citizens



10 Boeing opens office in Kuwait,
strengthens its local presence



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of handcrafted shoes



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121-116 win over Pistons



MoH urges Kuwaitis, expats to take COVID booster shot

MP proposes no rents during closures



KUWAIT: In this file photo, people stand in a long queue to get vaccinated at the vaccination center at Kuwait international fairground in Mishref.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health yesterday called on all people above 18 to take the booster COVID-19 dose known as the third dose in a bid to strengthen immunity against the killer disease. Ministry spokesman Abdullah Al-Sanad said people who had taken the second dose at least six months ago can take the third dose without prior registration at the Ministry's vaccination centers.

He said the dose boosts immunity, reduces the possibility of getting infected by the COVID-19 virus or its variants and also reduces the probability of death and complications from the disease. The main vaccination centers are open at Kuwait international fairground in Mishref, halls 5 and 6 from 9 am to 7 pm daily from Sunday through Thursday and from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Sanad said. Kuwait has been recording extremely low numbers of new cases of the coronavirus despite returning to pre-closure life.

In the meantime, MP Ahmad Al-Hamad yesterday proposed amendments to the rents law in which he calls to exempt tenants from paying the rents during closure periods if they were enforced by authorities. In his proposal, Hamad said that in case the government orders closures due to health or security reasons or any other causes and that the tenants were prevented from benefiting from the leased housing unit, the rent should not be paid. The issue was repeatedly raised during the total closures of commercial and other activities to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bahrain nabs 'terror' gang

MANAMA: Bahrain's interior ministry yesterday announced it had arrested a gang of armed "terrorists" it said were linked to groups in Iran. "Terrorists (were) arrested for plotting terrorist operations against security and civil peace," the interior ministry said on Twitter. "Weapons and explosives from Iran were seized" from the group who "are linked with terrorist groups in Iran", the brief statement said.

Sunni-ruled Bahrain accuses Shiite Iran of provoking unrest in the Gulf kingdom, an allegation Tehran denies. The ministry gave no further details, including on how many people were arrested or their nationalities. Bahrain has been hit by waves of unrest since 2011, when security forces crushed Shiite-led protests demanding a constitutional monarchy and an elected prime minister.

Opposition movements have been outlawed and hundreds of dissidents have been imprisoned - with many stripped of their nationality. Human rights groups have frequently said cases against activists in Bahrain - men and women, religious and secular - fail to meet the basic standards of fair trials. Bahrain's authorities have repeatedly rejected the accusations. — AFP

12-year-old girl's marriage causes stir in Iraq

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi court has adjourned a hearing to allow a man to formalize his religious marriage to a 12-year-old girl, according to a lawyer for the girl's mother, who opposes the union. Rights activists protested outside the Baghdad court with banners such as "the marriage of minors is a crime against childhood", while lawyer Marwan Obeidi

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Robot waiters take Mosulites to the future

MOSUL: From the rubble of Iraq's war-ravaged city of Mosul arises the sight of androids gliding back and forth in a restaurant to serve their amused clientele. "Welcome", "We wish you a good time in our restaurant", "We would be happy to have your opinion on the quality of the service", chime the automated attendants, red eyes blinking out of their shiny blue and white exteriors.

"On television, you see robots and

touch-screen tables in the United Arab Emirates, Spain and Japan," said Rami Chkib Abdelrahman, proud owner of the White Fox which opened in June. "I'm trying to bring these ideas here to Mosul." The futuristic servers are the result of technology developed in the northern city, erstwhile stronghold of the Islamic State jihadist group. "We saw the concept on social media in more than one restaurant," said Abdelrahman, a dentist by profession.

Occupied by IS between 2014 and 2017, the northern metropolis of Mosul still bears the scars of war. But at dinnertime, patrons of the restaurant that is packed every night can escape from the city on a voyage through space. — AFP (See Page 12)



MOSUL: A robot waiter carries empty trays after delivering an order to patrons at the 'White Fox' restaurant in the eastern part of Iraq's northern city of Mosul. — AFP

5 killed as SUV plows through Xmas parade

WISCONSIN: Americans were reeling yesterday from an "unthinkable tragedy" after a driver slammed through barricades and into a Christmas parade in the Midwestern city of Waukesha, killing at least five and wounding more than 40. The Sunday evening chaos which saw a red SUV speed into a crowd of men,

women and children, raised immediate fears of a deliberate act - in a state where tensions have spiked following a high-profile acquittal in a racially-charged trial.

But CNN and NBC both cited law enforcement sources as saying there was no known connection to terrorism at this stage - nor to Friday's verdict in the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, a teenager who fatally shot two people during Black Lives Matter protests in nearby Kenosha last year. Multiple US media quoted investigators as saying there were signs the driver was fleeing another incident at the time.

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WISCONSIN: Debris litters the street at a crime scene in Waukesha, Wisconsin. — AFP

COVID damaged 'fabric of society'

GENEVA: Beyond killing millions and ravaging economies and health systems, the coronavirus pandemic has taken a devastating socioeconomic toll with women and migrants among the most affected, the Red Cross said yesterday. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

warned in a new report that the secondary effects of the crisis had disproportionately impacted already vulnerable groups.

The pandemic has pushed many out of work, leading to widespread income loss, it said, pointing to data gathered by its 192 national societies. The crisis also increased food insecurities, cut access to education and to protections against violence while exacerbating mental health issues, said the report entitled "Drowning just below the surface". "Our research shows what we have long suspected and feared, namely that the destructive secondary

impacts of this pandemic have damaged the fabric of our society and will be felt for years, if not decades, to come," said IFRC President Francesco Rocca.

The report paints a bleak picture of "people who were already vulnerable, due to conflict, climate change, and poverty, have been pushed further towards the edge," he told reporters. Around the world, the report found that women had been particularly hard-hit. They were more likely than men to have lost work, partly as they more often work in the informal economy and in sectors heavily impacted

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