



**3** **Dodgy recruiters encourage domestic helpers to abscond**



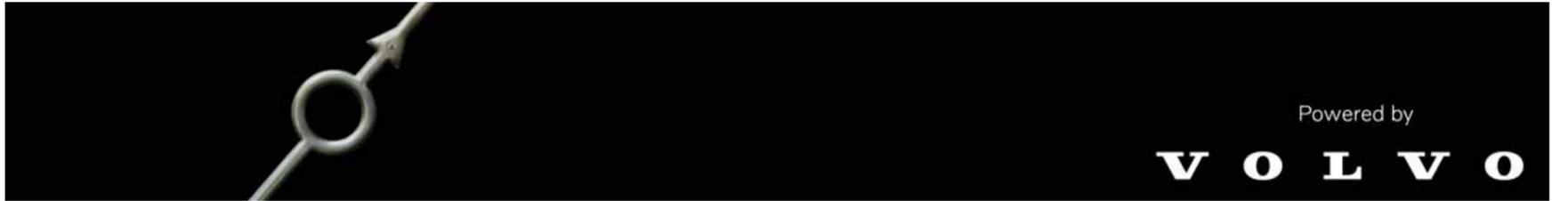
**6** **9/11: Ground Zero's forgotten cleaners demand recognition**



**16** **India win fourth Test after England collapse**



**16** **Row after Brazil vs Argentina clash aborted after kickoff**



# Kuwait allows unvaccinated under-18 residents to return

## Direct air links with India resume from today with 5 daily flights

### Opposition MPs say exit of PM, speaker only solution

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** A number of opposition lawmakers yesterday lashed back at National Assembly Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem, who spoke of a political breakthrough in the country, saying that the only solution to the country's political crisis is through the departure of the speaker and the prime minister. Ghanem said on Sunday that a number of initiatives had been floated during the parliamentary recess with the aim of achieving a breakthrough for the country's political deadlock.

The speaker said he was confident that some positive results will appear before the start of the next Assembly term in late October. He did not provide any details about the initiatives. Ghanem also lashed out at the opposi-

tion, charging them of obstructing all goodwill initiatives to resolve the political standoff.

But MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa accused Ghanem of protecting corrupt officials and insisted the main demand of the opposition will remain "the departure of the speaker and prime minister". Former opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani insisted that the "real breakthrough is in the departure of the speaker and the prime minister", and also through substantial change to governance policies.

MP Khaled Al-Otaibi said what has put the country into this situation are those who breached the constitution and prevented grillings, adding that "no solution will come from those who manufacture crises", a clear reference to the Assembly speaker.

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By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet yesterday issued a decision allowing residents under 18 years of age who have not been vaccinated to return to the country, provided they pledge to take the vaccine after arriving. The decision tasked the interior ministry to make returnees sign undertakings that they will take the vaccine in Kuwait. It also called for applying institutional and home quarantine whenever necessary and urged the application of health measures.

Kuwait has so far refused to allow expats who have not taken two doses of approved vaccines to return to the country. Those who have taken Chinese or Russian vaccines are required to take a third dose of an approved vaccine to be able to return. The Cabinet also issued another decision allowing the return of fans to sports venues, provided they are fully vaccinated and that their total number should not exceed 30 percent of the venues' capacity. All must observe health conditions set by the health ministry.

Health Minister Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet about major progress in the health situation and the sharp drop in the number of coronavirus cases, saying that the infection rate has dropped to just 0.6 percent of tests. As a result, a number of coronavirus treatment

wards at hospitals have been shut down.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation announced yesterday that direct commercial flights with India will resume today after a one-year suspension due to the pandemic. The DGCA has scheduled five flights a day according to the seat capacity agreed upon by the two countries, in accordance with the Cabinet's recent decision to increase the airport's capacity, Aviation Control Director Raed Al-Tajer said. The first flight from India is scheduled to arrive at 6:00 am today, he added.

The decision to resume flights was first announced last month, while following COVID-19 protocols, but without giving a timeframe for implementation. Kuwait had suspended commercial flights from several countries including India and Egypt on the advice of health authorities amid a surge in COVID cases. Direct flights with Egypt resumed on Sunday.

Kuwait yesterday reported 71 new coronavirus cases and one death, taking total COVID-19 cases to 410,413 and deaths to 2,425. Another 179 patients recovered from the virus, taking total recoveries to 406,137, Health Ministry Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said. The number of patients receiving medical care in COVID-19 wards is 137, including 46 in intensive care units, he said, adding that another 1,851 patients are receiving regular treatment.

### News in brief

#### Player dies after 40 yrs in coma

**MARSEILLE:** Former France defender Jean-Pierre Adams has died aged 73 after almost 40 years in a coma, his former club Nimes announced yesterday. Adams, who made 22 international appearances in the 1970s, slipped into a coma after a mistake by his anesthetist during routine knee surgery in 1982. — AFP (See Page 15)



Jean-Pierre Adams

#### Ex-US army sniper kills 4

**WASHINGTON:** A former sniper in the US military went on a shooting spree in central Florida, killing four people, including an infant boy in his mother's arms, officials said Sunday. The suspect, identified as 33-year-old Bryan Riley, shot and killed a 40-year-old man, a 33-year-old woman and her three-month-old son in a residential area in Polk County, Florida. The fourth victim was the child's 62-year-old grandmother. — AFP

#### Uzbeks lift school headscarf ban

**TASHKENT:** Uzbekistan will allow girls to wear headscarves in schools in a bid to ensure devout Muslim families send their daughters to school, the Central Asian country's education ministry said. Education Minister Sherzod Shermatov said on Saturday the authorities "intend to allow national headscarves and skullcaps in white or light colors" in schools after "the appeals of many parents". — AFP

#### Saudi man executed

**RIYADH:** A Saudi man was executed in Dammam yesterday on charges of terrorism and weapons smuggling, the interior ministry said. The man was found guilty of belonging to a terrorist cell and "targeting security personnel by shooting at them". He was also charged "with smuggling weapons in and out of the country and of being a member of a terrorist cell with the aim of destabilizing national security". — AFP

## Taliban claim full control of Afghanistan

**KABUL:** The Taliban yesterday claimed total control over Afghanistan, saying they had won the key battle for the Panjshir Valley, the last remaining holdout of resistance against their rule. Following their lightning-fast victory in mid-August over the former Afghan government's security forces and the withdrawal of US troops after 20 years of war, the Taliban turned to fighting the forces defending the mountainous Panjshir Valley.

As the Islamist hardliners claimed victory, their chief spokesman warned against any further attempts to rise up against their rule while urging former members of the security forces to join their

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KABUL: Members of the Taliban Badri 313 military unit stand amid debris of the destroyed Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) base in Deh Sabz district northeast of the capital yesterday. — AFP

## 6 Palestinians escape from Zionist prison

**JERUSALEM:** Six Palestinians broke out of a Zionist prison yesterday through a tunnel dug beneath a sink, triggering a massive manhunt for the group that includes a prominent ex-militant. The Zionist Prison Service said an alert was sounded around 3:00 am (0000 GMT) by locals who spotted "suspicious figures" outside the Gilboa prison in the country's north. The group includes Zakaria

Zubeidi, a former militant leader from the flashpoint city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

In footage that recalled the iconic 1994 prison escape film "The Shawshank Redemption", the prison service released a video which showed agents inspecting a narrow tunnel beneath a sink and another showing a hole just outside the prison walls. Gilboa - which opened in 2004 during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising - is a high security site where hundreds of Palestinians are detained among other inmates. The prison service said all those held at Gilboa over "security offences" were being relocated in case additional

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BET SHE'AN: Police and journalists gather around a hole used by six Palestinian prisoners to escape from the Gilboa Prison after they dug a tunnel beneath a sink yesterday. — AFP

## Gaddafi son Saadi freed from jail

**TRIPOLI:** Saadi Gaddafi, a son of Libya's late dictator Muammar Gaddafi who was overthrown and killed in a 2011 uprising, has been freed from jail, said the interim

government. Saadi - the strongman's third son, now aged 47 - was known for his playboy lifestyle and briefly played as a professional footballer in Italy. "Saadi Muammar Gaddafi has been freed from prison," following a court ruling several years ago, a justice ministry source said late Sunday in comments confirmed by the Government of National Unity.

Several media reports suggested Gaddafi had already taken a flight to Turkey. The Turkish foreign ministry, how-

ever, told AFP on Monday it had no information about Gaddafi's possible arrival in Istanbul. Libya's Presidential Council yesterday also announced the release of several other prisoners, including Gaddafi's former cabinet and intelligence chief, Ahmad Ramadan, who was nicknamed "Black Box" for being the keeper of the dictator's secrets.

Saadi fled to Niger following the 2011 NATO-backed uprising, but was

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Saadi Gaddafi