



**6** Masks on the street but not at work? Experts urge consistency



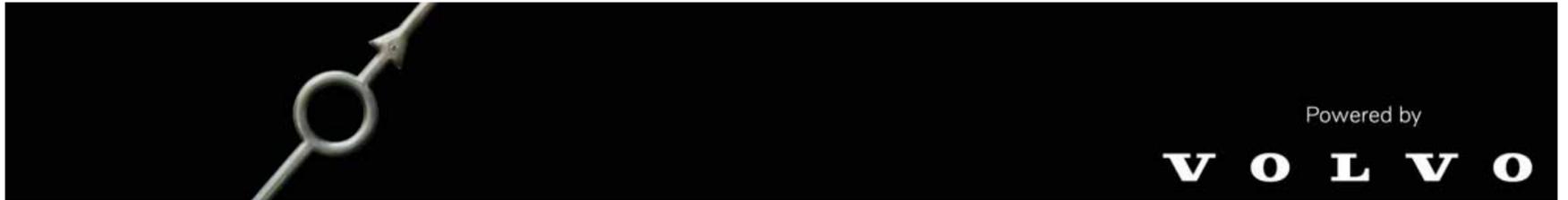
**13** Son of a slave reflects on his American story



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**16** Barca humiliation makes revolution only option



## UAE-Israel deal met with dismay, quiet welcome

Palestinians slam 'betrayal' • Turkey to review ties • Silence from Saudis, Kuwait



GAZA CITY: Palestinian protesters hold banners reading in Arabic "normalization is betrayal" and "Palestine is not for sale" during a demonstration on Friday against a US-brokered deal between Israel and the UAE to normalize relations. — AFP

**JERUSALEM:** From cries of "betrayal" to fears about "falling dominoes", the deal making the United Arab Emirates the third Arab state to forge ties with Israel stirred anger and dismay around the Middle East, but a cautious welcome from the UAE's Gulf allies. The mixed response highlighted new fault lines in a region where fear and distrust of Iran - shared by Israel and some Arab states - has challenged a decades-old allegiance to the Palestinian issue as a major driver of Arab policy.

Palestinians, who want to establish a state on West Bank territory captured by Israel in 1967, denounced the agreement as a betrayal of the long-held Arab stance that peace should be conditional on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory. The agreement, which is set to make the UAE only the third Arab state after Egypt and Jordan to make peace with Israel, calls for a temporary suspension of Israel's planned annexation of occupied West Bank territory, but not withdrawal.

The deal, which US President Donald Trump helped to broker with support from senior adviser Jared Kushner, forms a new axis with the UAE aligning itself with Israel in confronting Shiite Iran and Sunni radicals in the region. This is likely to heighten tensions in the Gulf, which has in the past two years seen attacks on tankers and energy assets that the United States and Saudi Arabia have blamed on Iran, a charge Tehran denies.

Tehran condemned the deal as an act of "strategic stupidity" that would only strengthen the

Iranian-backed "axis of resistance". Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also had talks with Ismail Haniya, head of the Islamist Palestinian movement Hamas which rules Gaza, on ways of "foundering" the deal, Hamas.

Zarif said the deal aimed to hand Trump a win ahead of US elections in November, a view echoed by the leader of Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement. "It's shameful what Abu Dhabi did ... They don't see the Zionist regime as an enemy, but an ally and what's happening now is to help Trump in the elections," Zarif told Al Mayadeen TV.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in a televised speech, described the UAE move as an "election favor" for both Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and said more Arab states would follow suit to "satisfy" Washington. "It is good, though painful, that the masks have fallen," he said. "This is a betrayal of Islam and Arabism, it is a betrayal of Jerusalem, of the Palestinian people."

Some worshippers at Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, where Palestinians want to establish the capital of a future state, carried pictures of UAE Crown Prince with the word "traitor" underneath his image. "Just like Egypt, Jordan and now Abu Dhabi, the whole Arab world will start to fall like dominoes," said Mohammad Al-Sharif, 45, a member of Israel's Arab minority. In Ramallah, office worker Jihad Hussein said: "The Palestinian people have been stabbed in the back by the Emirates leadership."

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## UN rejects bid to extend Iran arms embargo

**TEHRAN:** Iran yesterday hailed a UN Security Council vote rejecting a US bid to extend an arms embargo on the Islamic republic, saying its foe has "never been so isolated". President Hassan Rouhani said the United States had failed to kill off what he called the "half alive" 2015 deal with major powers that gave Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

"The United States failed in this conspiracy with humiliation," Rouhani told a televised news conference. "In my opinion, this day will go down in the history of our Iran and in the history of fighting global arrogance."

Only two of the Council's 15 members voted in favor of the US resolution seeking to extend the embargo, highlighting the division between Washington and its European allies since President Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear accord in May 2018. Washington's European allies all abstained, and Iran mocked the Trump administration for only winning the support of one other country, the Dominican Republic.

"In the 75 years of United Nations history, America has never been so isolated," said foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi. "Despite all the trips, pressure and the hawking, the United States could only mobilise a small country (to vote) with them," he tweeted. The result increases the likelihood that the US will try to unilaterally force a return of UN sanctions, which experts say threatens to plunge the Council into one of its worst-ever diplomatic crises.

"The Security Council's failure to act decisively in defense of international peace and security is inexcusable," said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The embargo on conventional arms is due to expire on Oct 18 under the terms of a resolution that blessed the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

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## Europe faces second wave of coronavirus

**LONDON:** Thousands of UK holidaymakers scrambled to get home to beat new restrictions on arrivals from European countries as a second wave of virus infections threatened more disruption and economic chaos on the continent. France and the Netherlands were removed from a list of quarantine-exempt countries Friday, sparking a rush for plane, train and ferry ticket by Britons hoping get home before 4am (0300 GMT) yesterday, after which arrivals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.

France is facing a resurgent wave

of the disease that emerged in China late last year and has so far infected over 21 million people and killed more than 750,000 around the world. Authorities in France have reported more than 2,500 new cases for the past three days - levels not seen since May.

One British couple said they had spent nearly £1,000 to make it home via Eurostar from central France. "I went to bed last night thinking it was all OK, woke up at 7am to find we had to get back here pretty sharpish," Stuart Buntine told the PA news agency. Neighboring Spain said it would close all nightclubs and ban smoking in the street where people are unable to stay at a safe distance, after the country reported almost 3,000 cases in 24 hours on Thursday.

Germany added all of Spain except

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## US seizes Iran fuel shipments to Venezuela

**WASHINGTON:** The United States said on Friday it had confiscated four Iranian fuel shipments that had been bound for Venezuela, disrupting a key

supply line for both Tehran and Caracas as they defied US sanctions. US President Donald Trump said Iran should not be sending cargoes to Venezuela and added that the seized shipments were bound for Houston, Texas, and suggested they may have already arrived. "They're going to Houston. And, they're there," Trump told a White House news conference. "We're moving them, and moved, to Houston."



LONDON: Passengers wearing facemasks as a precaution against the spread of the novel coronavirus walk along the platform to an escalator after arriving on a Eurostar train from Paris at St Pancras International station on Friday. — AFP

The US Justice Department said the seized cargo was now in US custody "with the assistance of foreign partners," adding that the amount confiscated from four tankers was about 1.116 million barrels of fuel, making it the largest-ever US seizure of Iranian fuel. The US State Department credited its outgoing special envoy for Iran for the seizure operation.

"Our diplomacy, led by Special

Representative for Iran Brian Hook, was able to both halt these shipments and assist the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security in executing a US seizure order," it said in a statement. Neither the Justice Department nor the State Department specify when, where or how the seizure took place. The latter also did not disclose what steps Hook, whose resignation was announced earlier this week, took to secure the seizure. — Reuters

## Trump fans false birther theory about Harris

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump has stoked false claims that Democratic vice-presidential contender Kamala Harris is ineligible to hold that office because her parents were foreign born. The claims about Harris - who was born in the United States, making her constitutionally eligible to be both vice president and president - echo a base-

less theory that Trump long promoted about his predecessor Barack Obama.

"I heard it today that she doesn't meet the requirements," Trump said at a White House news conference on Thursday, referring to an August 12 opinion piece in Newsweek. The article by conservative law professor John Eastman says that "before we so cavalierly accept Senator Harris' eligibility for the office of vice president, we should ask her a few questions about the status of her parents at the time of her birth."

Trump said that Eastman, of Chapman University "is a very highly qualified, very talented lawyer. I have no idea if that's right."

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WILMINGTON: US Sen Kamala Harris signs required documents for receiving the Democratic nomination for Vice President on Friday. — AFP