



7 Top US prosecutor who probed Trump allies fired



9 Dubai ports giant 'prepares for worst' as virus impact looms



10 Women bear the brunt of virus fallout in workplace



20 Arsenal stunned by Brighton, Wolves closing on top four



MoH launches random virus testing in residential areas

Lockdowns end in Hawally, Khaitan • MPs welcome probe into airport project

Two suicides in Kuwait over the weekend

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Filipino man was found hanged inside his apartment in Nugra after the haris of the building called police after the man had not emerged from his flat for more than three days. The haris said the deceased had been depressed lately. No other details were immediately available.

Over the weekend, another Asian man killed himself in Mangaf by

throwing himself down his building's airshaft. He was reportedly facing financial difficulties. Firemen had to break down a wall to retrieve his corpse. Additionally, a Nepali resident threatened to kill himself by jumping from the second floor of his building in Mahboula. The man was calmed down and rescued. He will be referred to the authorities. Attempting to commit suicide is a crime in Kuwait.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The health ministry said yesterday it will start random field testing for the coronavirus by sending teams to homes selected randomly in different residential areas. The ministry said in a statement the house visits will be from 5 pm to 11 pm daily and will cover all residential areas where expats and citizens reside. It asked people to demand the identification of the teams and cooperate with them.

The campaign comes after a steep rise in the number of cases reported in the country, especially among Kuwaitis, mainly in Jahra and Ahmadi governorates alongside Farwaniya governorate. The

unexpected spread of the disease among citizens led the government on Thursday to delay moving into the second of a five-phase plan to gradually return to normal life.

The government said it will assess the situation and take an appropriate decision based on the new developments. The number of cases relatively dropped in the past two days but still remained high among Kuwaitis. But the government decided to ease curfew hours from 7 pm to 5 am daily and also decided to lift the total lockdowns of Hawally and Khaitan following a drop in numbers. Both decisions became effective early yesterday.

MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei yesterday

welcomed a decision by Minister of Public Works Rana Al-Fares to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the reasons for the delay in the new airport project and find out those responsible for the delay. The lawmaker said that officials in the ministry have provided false facts about the progress of construction in the airport project in a bid to protect a former public works minister who resigned following a grilling.

MP Khalil Al-Saleh described the move as a step in the right direction, but said specialised people must be included. He called for announcing the outcome of the probe quickly and holding those responsible to account.

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Trump holds fiery rally but crowd smaller

TULSA: US President Donald Trump returned Saturday to one of his favorite spots - a campaign rally stage - defying the pandemic and attacking Democratic rivals at an event with crowds far smaller than promised. Gathering his political faithful for a much-hyped rally in Oklahoma, his first in three months, the Republican president sought to reinvigorate his flagging campaign in the face of a crushing health and economic crisis as well as protests against racial injustice that have swept the nation in recent weeks.

Trump all but claimed victory over the pandemic that has killed some 120,000 Americans - "I have done a phenomenal job with it!" he insisted - even as six members of his own Tulsa advance team test-

ed positive for COVID-19. The event - which the White House promised would be flooded with up to 100,000 people, but actually did not fill the 19,000-seat arena where Trump spoke - has emerged as a flashpoint in the pandemic era.

But Trump was more interested in reviving his political fortunes after several bruising weeks that saw continued economic woes tied to the pandemic, nationwide protests over racial injustice, the toppling of Confederate and other statues and critics including former aides savaging his performance. "The silent majority is stronger than ever before," Trump said in a rowdy, freewheeling speech in which he blasted his 2020 election rival, Democrat Joe Biden, as a "helpless puppet of the radical left". "Five months from now we're going to defeat 'sleepy' Joe Biden," he said.

Many rally-goers wore red "Make America Great Again" hats or T-shirts, but very few wore masks and there was little social distancing, even though coronavirus cases have recently been skyrocketing in Oklahoma.

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TULSA: US President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the BOK Center on Saturday. —AFP

Sisi warns of direct Libya intervention

CAIRO: Egypt's president warned Saturday that advances by Turkey-backed Libyan forces on the Libyan city of Sirte could prompt an Egyptian military intervention in the neighboring country in support of Cairo's ally Khalifa Haftar. Meanwhile, Ankara has urged forces led by the eastern-based Haftar to withdraw from the strategic city for a ceasefire agreement to be reached.

The UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli has made major military gains against Haftar's forces recently thanks to increased support from its backer Turkey. The key city of Sirte, which lies some 450 km east of the capital, is under the control of Haftar's forces, who last year launched a recently aborted attempt to seize control of western Libya.

In a televised address, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said Sirte is a "red line" for Egypt, citing the need to protect its porous border as grounds for "direct intervention" in Libya. "If the Libyan people asked us to intervene, it is a signal to the world that Egypt and Libya share ... common interests, security and stability," Sisi said on Saturday.

The GNA denounced Sisi's warning, saying any intervention would be a threat to Libya's security. "We strongly reject what was said by Al-Sisi and consider it a continuation of the war"

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'Ring of fire' solar eclipse thrills gazers

NAIROBI: Sky watchers along a narrow band from west Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, India and the Far East witnessed yesterday a dramatic "ring of fire" solar eclipse. So-called annular eclipses occur when the Moon - passing between Earth and the Sun - is not quite close enough to our planet to completely obscure sunlight, leaving a thin ring of the solar disc visible. They happen every year or two, and can only be seen from a

narrow pathway across the planet.

Yesterday's eclipse arrived on the northern hemisphere's longest day of the year - the summer solstice - when Earth's north pole is tilted most directly towards the Sun. The "ring of fire" was first visible in northeastern Republic of Congo from 5:56 local time (04:56 GMT) just a few minutes after sunrise. This is the point of maximum duration, with the blackout lasting 1 minute and 22 seconds.

Arcing eastward across Africa and Asia, it reached "maximum eclipse" - with a perfect solar halo around the Moon - over Uttarakhand, India near the Sino-Indian border at 12:10 local time (0640 GMT). More spectacular, but less long-lived:

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TAIWAN: A total solar eclipse is seen from Yunlin county yesterday. —AFP

US Asians soul searching over Floyd death

WASHINGTON: As anti-racism protests broke out across the United States, Viet Hoai Tran knew exactly what he wanted to write on his poster - "Yellow Peril Supports Black Power". "If we are talking about fighting for justice, for liberation, for change... all of us have to be part of this," said the 27-year-old, who was born in Vietnam, but grew up in the US.

The death of George Floyd, a black man, in Minneapolis police custody

sparked nationwide protests - and a sense of reckoning in the Asian American community, which has historically fraught, even violent, ties with African Americans. In particular, the revelation that one of the officers charged over Floyd's death, Tou Thao, is Hmong has caused many Asian Americans to grapple with their community's complicity.

"Yellow peril" is a racial slur articulating the centuries-old Western fear of an East Asian takeover that has been repurposed by Asian Americans in a show of solidarity with the black community. "There's a lot of anti-blackness in the AAPI community," said Tran, referring to the Asian Americans and the US diaspora of Pacific Islanders.

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HOLLYWOOD: A protester holds a sign as she demonstrates at Donald Trump's Hollywood Walk of Fame star on Saturday. —AFP