



2 Kuwait Towers shimmer with sadu patterns



5 US deaths hit daily record as Japan, China tighten curbs



9 Washing clothes can create Arctic microplastic pollution



15 Pogba 'happy' when winning as Man Utd go top of league



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PM submits govt resignation to Amir as MPs set priorities

Assembly panel rejects KD 100 fine for not wearing facemask

13 Kuwaiti martyrs laid to rest



KUWAIT: Security forces carry the coffins of Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POWs) whose remains were found in a mass grave in Iraq during a funeral procession at Sulaibikhat cemetery yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 3)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who submitted the government's resignation to him. Cabinet ministers had submitted their resignations to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on Tuesday.

Sixteen opposition MPs yesterday signed a statement calling on the next Cabinet to make fighting corruption its top priority. The statement also called on the future government to cooperate in passing laws to amend the election law and legislation linked to freedom of expression, in addition to the Kuwaitization of public sector jobs.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's health and labor committee yesterday rejected a government proposal to impose a fine of KD 100 on people not wearing a facemask to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Rapporteur of the committee MP Saadoun Hammad said the majority of the panel members rejected the proposal except MP Saleh Al-Mutairi, a physician, who called for raising the fine to KD 500.

Hammad said the committee rejected the principle of imposing fines on citizens, adding that MPs asked the health ministry about the way it plans to

Continued on Page 2



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who submitted the government's resignation, at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA

News in brief

Israeli raids on Syria kill 57

BEIRUT: Israeli raids targeting arms depots and military positions in east Syria killed 57 regime loyalists, in the deadliest such strikes since the start of the conflict, a monitor said yesterday. At least 14 Syrian regime forces, 16 Iraqi militia fighters, and 11 Afghan members of the pro-Iran Fatimid Brigade were among those killed, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The nationality of the remaining 16 who lost their lives in the 18 strikes was not immediately clear. Days before the strikes, the Fatimid Brigade transported a consignment of Iranian-manufactured weapons to eastern Syria from Iraq. — AFP

Negative COVID test to enter US

WASHINGTON: All air passengers bound for the US will require a negative COVID-19 test within three days of their departure, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Tuesday. The policy will take effect on Jan 26. The CDC also recommends that travelers get tested again three to five days after their arrival, and stay home for at least seven days. The test must be for "current infection" and passengers are required to provide written proof of its outcome to airlines before they are allowed to board. The policy expands on a previous testing rule that targeted Britain following the emergence of a coronavirus variant believed to be more transmissible. — AFP

Death sentence for boy's murder

RABAT: A Moroccan court sentenced a 24-year-old to death yesterday for the rape and murder of an 11-year-old boy, in a case that has sparked calls for renewed executions. The accused was arrested after he sent a ransom demand to the child's parents in an ill-conceived bid to put police off his trail by persuading them money was the motive. He was accused of keeping his victim captive in his rented apartment, raping him and then killing him before burying the body nearby. — AFP

Trump on the brink of 2nd impeachment

WASHINGTON: The House of Representatives was set to impeach President Donald Trump for inciting insurrection yesterday, with several key Republicans backing the Democrat-led push to bring down the real estate tycoon in flames just a week before he leaves office. Washington was in a state of siege as lawmakers opened their session, with armed National Guard soldiers deployed, central streets barred to cars and public spaces fenced off.

The expected majority vote, coming

seven days ahead of Democrat Joe Biden's inauguration, would make Trump the first US president to have been impeached twice. Trump's epic downfall was triggered by his January 6 speech to a crowd on the National Mall, telling them that Biden had stolen the election and that they needed to march on Congress and show "strength."

Amped up on weeks of conspiracy theories pushed by Trump, the mob stormed into the Capitol, fatally injured one police officer, wrecked furniture and forced terrified lawmakers to hide, interrupting a ceremony to put the legal stamp on Biden's victory. One protester was shot dead, and three other people died of "medical emergencies", bringing the toll to five.

Continued on Page 2



WASHINGTON: House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer walks past members of the National Guard as he arrives at the US Capitol ahead of a House vote impeaching US President Donald Trump yesterday. — AFP

WhatsApp users flock to rivals

SAN FRANCISCO: WhatsApp on Tuesday reassured users about privacy at the Facebook-owned messaging service as people flocked to rivals Telegram and Signal following a tweak to its terms. There was "a lot of misinformation" about an update to terms of service regarding an option to use WhatsApp to message busi-

nesses, Facebook executive Adam Mosseri, who heads Instagram, said in a tweet.

WhatsApp's new terms sparked criticism, as users outside Europe who do not accept the new conditions before February 8 will be cut off from the messaging app. "The policy update does not affect the privacy of your messages with friends or family in any way," Mosseri said. The update regards how merchants using WhatsApp to chat with customers can share data with Facebook, which could use the information for targeting ads, according to the social network.

Continued on Page 2



NEW DELHI: An advertisement by WhatsApp is seen in newspapers at a stall yesterday. — AFP

First woman executed by US govt in 67 yrs

WASHINGTON: An American woman was put to death by lethal injection yesterday, becoming the first female to be executed by US federal authorities in nearly seven decades. Lisa Montgomery's execution

came in the final days of the government of US President Donald Trump, which pushed forward with her execution despite a legal battle that the Supreme Court ended with a ruling in the early hours of yesterday.

Montgomery, 52, murdered an expectant mother to steal her baby, though she had sought a stay of execution on the grounds she was mentally ill. She was the 11th person to be put to death after the Trump administration successfully fought to resume federal executions in July following a 17-year hiatus. Her lawyer Kelley Henry, in a scathing statement, called the decision

- the first for a female inmate since 1953 - a "vicious, unlawful, and unnecessary exercise of authoritarian power."

"The craven bloodlust of a failed administration was on full display tonight," Henry said. "Everyone who participated in the execution of Lisa Montgomery should feel shame." The US Supreme Court voted 6-3 in favor of lifting a last minute stay of execution and allowing Montgomery's execution to proceed despite doubts about her mental state. The court's three liberal dissenters voted to grant her a stay of execution. — AFP



Lisa Montgomery