



3 Kuwaiti female journalists excel in reporting, attract high views



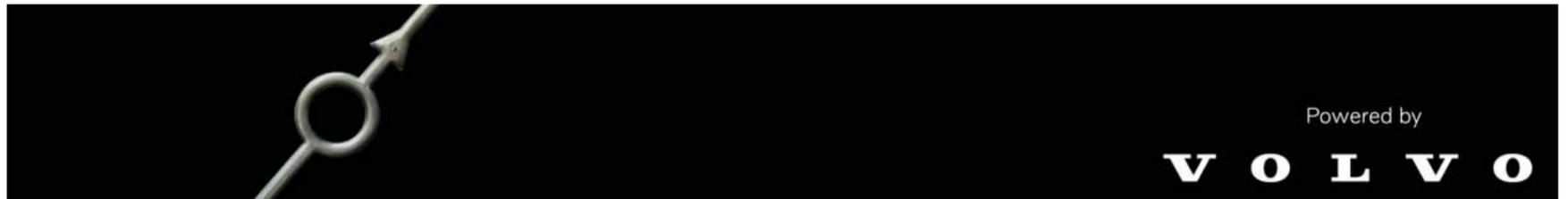
5 Uganda teachers turn coffin makers after schools shut



12 'Squid Game' Netflix's biggest-ever launch hit



16 Kenya athlete Tirop found dead with stab wounds



Two people attempt to commit suicide from Jaber Causeway

One man in critical condition, other stable after both rescued



KUWAIT: Firemen use ropes to rescue a man who jumped from Jaber Causeway late Tuesday.

KUWAIT: Two people tried to commit suicide by jumping from the Jaber Causeway into open waters in two separate incidents reported over a period of less than 24 hours, authorities said yesterday. The first incident was reported Tuesday night when firefighters managed to rescue a person who jumped from the causeway in a failed attempt to commit suicide, Kuwait Fire Force said.

Firemen used ropes to descend from the bridge, locate the man and rescue him, KFF noted, adding he was handed over to medical emergency personnel in critical condition. The man reportedly got out of a taxi that stopped on the side of the bridge, then immediately scaled the railing and jumped, according to eyewitnesses' reports.

In the second incident reported yesterday morning, a man jumped into the waters but was saved when a person on a passing boat rushed to his aid. The man was in a stable condition as he was handed over to authorities. Earlier this month, authorities banned cycling, walking and other activities on Jaber Causeway after a cyclist was killed by a motorist, who fled the scene. The interior ministry said the ban aimed at protecting lives amid a recent

increase in traffic accidents on the bridge.

The latest suicide attempts come a month after a woman jumped to her death from Jaber Causeway, a case that was classified as the first documented suicide from the bridge to be reported by authorities in Kuwait since the causeway was inaugurated two years ago. There had been several unsuccessful suicide attempts from the bridge before that.

In July, the interior ministry said a traffic policeman stopped a woman from jumping from the causeway in an apparent suicide attempt. The traffic department had published a video showing a police officer stepping in and catching a woman while she was trying to jump off the bridge, bringing her back to safety before he and other officers are seen attending to her in her car.

The officer was on patrol on the causeway when he approached the vehicle that had stopped on the side of the road, as seen in the video dated July 19. He checked on the driver, then waited for the vehicle to move, but instead the woman walked out of the car and approached the railing. The policeman ran towards her and caught her when she started climbing it.

News in brief

Daily aspirin may harm seniors

WASHINGTON: A US government expert panel said Tuesday it no longer recommends a daily dose of aspirin to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in people aged 60 and over. People aged 40-59 who are at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease but have no history of it, should consult with their doctor and make an individual decision on whether to start taking the medicine. — AFP

Phthalates linked to deaths

NEW YORK: Daily exposure to phthalates, a group of chemicals used in everything from plastic containers to makeup, may lead to approximately 100,000 deaths in older Americans annually, a study from New York University warned Tuesday. The chemicals can enter the body through such items and are linked to obesity, diabetes and heart disease, said the study. — AFP (See Page 5)

Lebanese pound back in freefall

BEIRUT: The Lebanese pound sold for more than 20,000 to the dollar yesterday, losing almost all the value it regained following the announcement of a new government last month. The pound, officially pegged at 1,500 to the greenback since 1997, has lost more than 90 percent of its black market value since the start of an unprecedented economic crisis in 2019. The plummeting pound sold for a record low of more than 23,000 to the dollar on the black market in July. — AFP

Iran tests anti-missile defenses

TEHRAN: The Iranian military said yesterday it has successfully tested anti-missile defenses for "sensitive" sites during war games in central Iran, after Zionist and US warnings over its nuclear program. The exercises, which began on Tuesday, combined the army's "Majid" defense system with the "Dezful" system of the elite Revolutionary Guard Corps to destroy incoming cruise missiles. Iran's central region is home to the Natanz enrichment plant and other nuclear sites. — AFP

Shatner in tears after space flight

LAUNCH SITE ONE, Texas: Star Trek's William Shatner, one of history's most recognizable science fiction stars, finally became a real space traveler yesterday on Blue Origin's second crewed mission, calling it the most profound experience of his life. "It was unbelievable," said the 90-year-old Canadian, who played Captain James T Kirk in the television series more than half a century ago, was moved to

tears after the 11-minute journey beyond Earth's atmosphere and back again to the Texas desert.

A New Shepard rocket took off from the company's base around 9:49 am (1449 GMT) after experiencing two brief delays, eventually soaring to 106 km above sea level. Shatner was joined by Blue Origin executive Audrey Powers, Planet Labs co-founder Chris Boshuizen, an Australian national, and Glen de Vries of clinical research platform Medidata Solutions.

Founder Jeff Bezos was on hand to greet the crewmembers as they climbed out of the capsule and were showered with applause and champagne.

Continued on Page 2

Cobra killer gets life for wife's murder

NEW DELHI: An Indian man who used a cobra and a viper to murder his wife was sentenced to life in jail yesterday in what prosecutors called the "rarest of rare" cases. Sooraj Kumar set loose a highly venomous Russell's viper snake on his wife Uthra that left her in hospital for almost two months, prosecutors said. While she recovered at her parents' house, the 28-year-old husband obtained a cobra from a snake handler and threw

it at his sleeping wife.

Its poisonous bite killed the 25-year-old woman. Sooraj pleaded not guilty but police said his phone records showed he was in touch with snake handlers and had watched snake videos on the Internet before the killing in March last year in Kollam in the southern state of Kerala. Sooraj stayed in the room with Uthra after the cobra bit her and went about his morning routine the next day when alerted by the woman's mother, said prosecutors.

"The mode of execution and the diabolic plan of the accused to murder Uthra, his wife who was bedridden, makes it (the case) fall into the category of rarest of rare," said the

Continued on Page 2

Families sell gold to survive cash crunch

MUMBAI: In Mumbai's jewelry bazaar, Kavita Jogani gingerly places her wedding bangles on the shopkeeper's scales, one of the thousands of Indians parting with their most cherished asset - gold. It was not an easy decision - Jogani was desperate after her garment business took a severe hit in the past year and a half with multiple coronavirus lock-

downs, making it difficult to pay shop bills and the salaries of her 15 employees.

The headline growth numbers suggest Asia's third-largest economy is rebounding from the economic crisis unleashed by COVID-19, but there is no end yet to the financial pain for many Indians. "I don't have any other option than selling the gold," said Jogani as she waited nervously for the shop owner to make her an offer. "I bought these bangles before my wedding 23 years ago," the 45-year-old told AFP.

Business closures and job losses pushed more than 230 million Indians into poverty in the past year, according to a study by Azim Premji University, leaving many struggling to pay



VAN HORN, Texas: In this still image taken from video, New Shepard NS-18 mission crewmember, "Star Trek" actor William Shatner (center), speaks with Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos (right) yesterday after landing in the West Texas region. — AFP



KOLLAM, India: Police take Sooraj Kumar into custody after he was sentenced to life in jail for murdering his wife with a snake yesterday. — AFP



MUMBAI: A shop manager examines a gold bangle at a jewelry shop on Aug 11, 2021. — AFP

Continued on Page 2