



Total of 220 candidates file nomination

19 women filed

NewsWatch

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KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Health declared on Thursday 760 new coronavirus cases during past 24 hours raising tally to 124,666.

MoH Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a statement to KUNA that four patients who suffered from the germ contamination passed away, putting total number of mortalities with the contagion at 767.

Number of patients receiving medical care at intensive care units reached 104, Dr Al-Sanad said, adding that all confirmed infection cases that continued to receive medical care reached 8,424.

Number of swab tests conducted, during the past 24 hours, amounted to 8,147, with the whole number of the examinations hitting 905,133. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Cabinet has handpicked seniors, patients with chronic diseases, medics, front-liners and providers of basic services as major categories to be vaccinated against COVID-19 once the country takes delivery of a first shipment of vaccines.

This was announced by Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah while keeping the Cabinet posted on Kuwait's vaccination blueprint purposed to curtail complications, infections and hospitalizations.

During an extraordinary Cabinet meeting, the minister, who also doubles as chief of the COVID-19 vaccination committee, said the vaccination campaign would be put in force as soon as the first shipment of vaccination turned up. (KUNA)

PARIS: Kuwait's embassy in France has called on its nationals to adhere to new measures aimed at curbing spiraling coronavirus rates, a day before France goes back into a nationwide lockdown.

The measures announced by President Emmanuel Macron, which come into force on Friday, mean that people will only be allowed out of their homes for essential purposes such as buying goods or seeking medical attention, said an embassy statement.

It urged Kuwaiti citizens to fully comply with the new rules, adding that anyone in need of urgent assistance should call 0033147235425 or 0033670673834. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Some 37 Kuwaiti non-governmental organizations (NGOs) rebuked France on Thursday for the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which triggered a wave of anger across the Muslim world.

"Any vitriolic content directed at our Holy Prophet is tantamount to a grave insult to Muslims worldwide," the NGOs said in a joint statement, singling out France for "some ideologies that infringe on fundamental rights and sow seeds of hatred." (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait strongly condemned, Thursday, the Houthi militia's drone attack, which targeted civilians and cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said a source at the Foreign Ministry.

The source revealed that the increasing hostile acts were in clear violation international laws and norms, adding that the attacks also threatened Saudi security and peace.

It went on to say that, the international community and the UNSC must hold the Houthis responsible for their acts threatening the security and stability of the region.

The source expressed its solidarity towards the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated, Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country's national day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. (KUNA)

LONDON: The British government announced Thursday the appointment of Belinda Lewis as its ambassador to the State of Kuwait, to succeed Michael Davenport.

In a statement, the British Foreign Office said that Ambassador Lewis will officially assume her duties as of next April, noting that the new ambassador has long governmental and diplomatic experience. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: By the end of the first week of registration for candidates in the 2020 parliamentary elections, the number of candidates reached 220 including 19 women.

Thursday witnessed the registration of 27 candidates - four applied for the First Constituency; thereby, increasing the number of candidates in this constituency to 48 (42 men and

six women).

Four candidates applied for the Second Constituency, increasing the number of candidates in this constituency to 28 including two women.

Six candidates applied for the Third Constituency, increasing the number of candidates in this constituency to 56 including eight women.

Six candidates applied for the Fourth Constituency, increasing the number of candidates in this constituency to 49 - all whom are men.

Seven candidates applied for the Fifth Constituency, increas-

ing the number of candidates in this constituency to 39 including three women.

Former MPs Adnan Abdulsamad, Yousef Al-Fadalah, Khalil Abul, Al-Saifi Mubarak and Kamel Al-Awadi filed their candidacies on Thursday.

Meanwhile, former National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim sent a cable to Turkish Parliament Speaker Mustafa Şentop congratulating the latter on the National Day of Turkey.

The Ministry of Interior's elections department opened candidacy for the 16th legislative term on Oct 26.

The doors for registration will be opened until November fourth.



Traffic chaos on roads during a brief power outage in Salmiya and some adjoining neighborhoods Wednesday evening. - See Page 3

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Arrest after stabbing at Saudi French Consulate

France on high alert ... 3 dead at Nice church

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (Agencies): Kuwait strongly condemns the "brutal terrorist crime" that occurred at the French city of Nice, which witnessed the killing and injury of a number of innocent people, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

In a statement, the ministry outlined Kuwait's "principled and firm stance against all forms of terrorism, extremism and violence, rejected by all divine religions and human values and criminalised by international laws and norms."

Kuwait underlined the need to increase global efforts to reject practices that may generate hatred between peoples and fuel extremism, radicalism and terrorism.

The Gulf Arab nation went on to extend its sincere condolences and commiserations to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

An attacker armed with a knife killed three people inside a church Thursday in the Mediterranean city of Nice, prompting the government to raise its security alert status to the highest level and double the number of soldiers deployed in the country.

It was the third attack in two months in France that authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher. It comes during a growing furor over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that were republished by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo - renewing vociferous debate in France and the Muslim world over the depictions that Muslims consider offensive but are protected by French free speech laws.

Other confrontations and attacks were reported Thursday in the southern French city of Avignon and in the Saudi city of Jeddah, but it was not immediately clear if they were linked to the attack in Nice.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers deployed to protect schools and religious sites from around 3,000 currently to 7,000. French churches have been ferociously attacked by extremists in recent years, and Thursday's killings come ahead of the Roman Catholic All Saints' holiday.

"He cried 'Allah Akbar!' over and over, even after he was injured," said Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi, who said a woman and a man died

inside the church, while a second woman fled to a nearby bar but was mortally wounded. "The meaning of his gesture left no doubt."

The assailant in Nice was wounded by police and hospitalized after the killings at the Notre Dame Basilica, less than a kilometer (half-mile) from the site in 2016 where another attacker plowed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd, killing dozens of people.

Shots punctuated the air and witnesses screamed as police stationed at the grandiose doors to the church appeared to fire at the attacker inside, according to videos obtained by The Associated Press. Hours later, AP reporters at the scene saw emergency vehicles and police tape lining the wide Notre Dame Avenue leading toward the plaza in front of the basilica. For a time after the attack, sounds of explosions could be heard as sappers exploded suspicious objects.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office opened an investigation into the attack, the third one since a trial opened in September for people linked to the 2015 attacks at Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket by gunmen who claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda. The trial is nearing its end, with a verdict planned for Nov 13, the fifth anniversary of another series of deadly Islamic State attacks in Paris.

A Saudi man stabbed and slightly wounded a guard at the French Consulate in the city of Jeddah on Thursday, authorities said, as France urged its citizens in the Kingdom to be "on maximum alert."

The Saudi Press Agency offered no immediate motive for the attack in the Red Sea port city. However, it comes amid heightened tensions after an assailant decapitated a French middle school teacher who showed caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for a class on free speech. Those caricatures were published by Charlie Hebdo and cited by the men who gunned down the newspaper's editorial meeting in 2015.

The Saudi Press Agency report, citing police spokesman Maj Mohammed al-Ghamdi, said the special force for diplomatic security was able to arrest the Saudi man after he stabbed the guard "using a sharp tool." The attacker is said to be in his 40s. The guard was taken to a hospital for treatment, the agency said.

Biden, Trump vie for Florida

TAMPA, Florida, Oct 29, (AP): President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden are set to chase votes in Florida, a state all but essential to the Republican's pathway to another term as both nominees turn their focus to encouraging voters to turn out on Election Day.

More than 73 million Americans have already voted, absentee or by mail, and Trump and Biden are trying to energize the millions more who will vote in person on Tuesday. While the Election Day vote traditionally favors Republicans and early votes tend toward Democrats, the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 227,000 people in the United States, has injected new uncertainty about the makeup of the electorate.

Trump and Biden will appear in Tampa hours apart on Thursday, visiting the western end of the state's Interstate 4 corridor, the area known for its rapid residential growth, sprawling suburbs and status as an ever-changing, hard-fought battleground during presidential elections.

The visit comes as Biden has framed his closing argument to voters on responsible management of the COVID-19 pandemic and Trump promises that the nation is on course to "vanquish the virus" even as it sets records for confirmed new infections.

"Even if I win, it's going to take a lot of hard work to end this pandemic," Biden said Wednesday during a speech in Wilmington, Delaware. "I do promise this: We will start on day one doing the right things."

Trump spent Wednesday in Arizona, where relaxed rules on social distancing made staging big rallies easier. Thousands gathered in close proximity without wearing masks - a trend that was expected to continue through more than a dozen events in the final sprint to Election Day.

Biden, meanwhile, heads later in the week to three more states Trump won in 2016: Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, where he'll hold a joint Saturday rally with former president Barack Obama.

The pandemic's consequences were escalating, with deaths climbing in 39 states and an average of 805 people dying daily nationwide - up from 714 two weeks ago. The sharp rise sent shockwaves through financial markets, causing the Dow Jones Industrial Average to drop 900-plus points.

Trump, who frequently lauds rising markets, failed to mention the decline on Wednesday. But he promised that economic growth figures for the summer quarter, due Thursday, would be strong, declaring during a rally in Bullhead City, Arizona. "This election is a choice between a Trump super-recovery and a Biden depression."

Trump is betting on the GOP's vast field and data operations, and efforts known as "poll flushing" - monitoring precinct lists for who has and has not yet voted - to provide a late boost of votes on Election Day. The Republican National Committee, which has more than 3,000 field staff and claims more than 2.5 million volunteers, will use that information to reach out to Trump supporters who have not voted throughout Election Day to ensure they get to the polls.

"We will continue our historic voter outreach efforts by knocking on over 4.5 million doors and making 15 million more calls to ensure voters turn out to the polls and vote for President Trump and Republicans up and down the ballot," party spokesperson Mandi Merritt said.

Nowhere may those efforts be more important than in Florida. Without the battleground state's 29 electoral votes, Trump's path to victory is exceptionally difficult.

Trump is banking on local news coverage of his visit to overcome a substantial advertising deficit stemming from a late cash crunch. Biden and his allies are outspending Trump and his backers by more than 3-to-1 in Florida - about \$23 million to about \$7 million - in the final push to Election Day, according to data from ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

In both Hillsborough County, which includes Tampa, and the adjacent Pinellas County, Democrats are crushing vote by mail. As of Wednesday morning, more than 53,000 Democrats had voted by mail in Hillsborough than Republicans. In Pinellas, the largest of the four counties in the state to switch from Obama to Trump in 2016, that number was just shy of 30,000 more Democrats voting by mail than Republicans.

Republicans in both counties have a slight edge in the state's in-person early voting, which began last Saturday as Trump himself voted in Palm Beach County downstate, and the GOP will likely need a strong showing on Tuesday to overcome Democratic leads.