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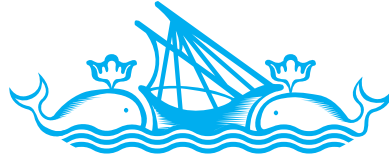
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Saudi King thanks Kuwait in phone call with Amir

Kordahi won't resign • Houthis put up posters of minister • 'Proxy wars' in Lebanon



HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who expressed gratitude for Kuwait's measures taken in response to Lebanon Information Minister Georges Kordahi's recent comments, and its position which reflects solidarity of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Saudi Press Agency reported. In response, HH the Amir reasserted that the measures taken by Kuwait reaffirm the unity and strong relations that bind the GCC states and their peoples.

"His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, dealing with deep-rooted bilateral relations," Kuwait News Agency reported. "In the call, King Salman wished His

Highness a long life and good health. His Highness the Amir expressed identical sentiments in his reply."

The UAE yesterday called on its citizens in Lebanon to immediately return home, a day after recalling its diplomats from Beirut. "In light of current events... the foreign ministry calls on all its citizens in Lebanon to return to the UAE as soon as possible," it said in a statement. "The ministry has taken all necessary measures to facilitate the return of its citizens," it added.

Later yesterday, Kordahi insisted he will not resign. "My resignation is out of the question," Kordahi told Lebanese television channel Al-Jadeed, without elaborating. On Saturday, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told CNBC that Kordahi's comments "are a symptom of a reality - a reality that the

political scene in Lebanon continues to be dominated by Hezbollah". "For us it is broader than just the comments of one minister. It is more an indication of the state that Lebanon is in," he said.

Analysts said financially crippled Lebanon finds itself in a new tug-of-war between regional kingpins Saudi Arabia and Iran after Riyadh and other wealthy Gulf states expelled Lebanese envoys. The crisis erupted Friday when Saudi Arabia gave Lebanon's ambassador 48 hours to leave the country, recalled its envoy from Beirut and suspended all imports from Lebanon.

The Saudi foreign ministry said the measures were taken after "insulting" remarks made by Kordahi on the Yemen war, but also due to the influence of

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More than 250,000 residents left Kuwait during pandemic

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR), an independent body, said in a report yesterday that as many as 253,000 residents left the country between June 2020 and June 2021 due to the economic situation resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Citing official figures, the society said around 205,000 workers from the private sector and their family members, 41,200 domestic workers and around 7,000 employees from the public sector left the country.

It also said the number of expats and Kuwait's total population dropped in the first half of 2021 for the second year in a row, adding that in 2020, Kuwait's population dropped 2.2 percent for the first time in 30 years. Until June 30 this year, Kuwait's population declined 0.9 percent to 4.62 million, mainly because the number of residents dropped by 1.8 percent, the report said.

As a result, the percentage of expats in Kuwait has fallen to 68.2 percent from 70 percent of the population just over a year ago. The report said that there were 1.93 million workers in the country until June 30 this year, 420,000 of whom are Kuwaitis, or 21.7 percent of the total. In addition, there are 639,000 domestic workers, divided evenly between males and females.

Only 90,000 expats are employed in the government sector, making up just 20 percent of the total government workforce of 437,100. The rest are Kuwaitis, the report said. Kuwaitis working in the private sector reached 73,000, making up merely 4.8 percent of the total workforce in the private sector of 1.51 million.

Indians top both workers in the private sector and the domestic help sector. As of June 30, there were 302,000 Indian domestic helpers, followed by the Philippines with 138,000 and Sri Lanka with 80,000. The society cited a report by the Public Authority for Manpower and published in the local press as saying that 71 percent of residents who left drew monthly salaries of between less than KD 60 and KD 359.

The society called in its report on authorities to find a solution for expats who lost their residence permits because they could not return to Kuwait due to restrictions. It also called for abolishing the kafala or sponsorship system and replacing it with another system that protects the rights of all parties. It also called for abolishing the so-called administrative deportation, under which police can deport expats without a court order.

US flies bomber over Mideast in show of force

WASHINGTON: A US Air Force bomber escorted by fighter jets from allies including the Zionist entity has flown over key waterways in the Middle East where American and Iranian naval vessels have faced off. The B-1B Lancer passed over the Gulf, Bab Al-Mandeb Strait, Suez Canal and Gulf of Oman, the US Central Command, or Centcom, said in

a statement Saturday. It also flew over the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for a fifth of world oil output at the head of the Gulf that Iran considers a strategic area of influence.

"The bomber task force mission... was intended to deliver a clear message of reassurance," Centcom said. Fighter jets from the Zionist entity, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, all US allies opposed to Iran, escorted the US bomber over their respective airspaces. "Military readiness for any contingency or mission - from crisis response to multilateral exercises to one-day presence patrols like this - depend on reliable partnerships," said

Continued on Page 2



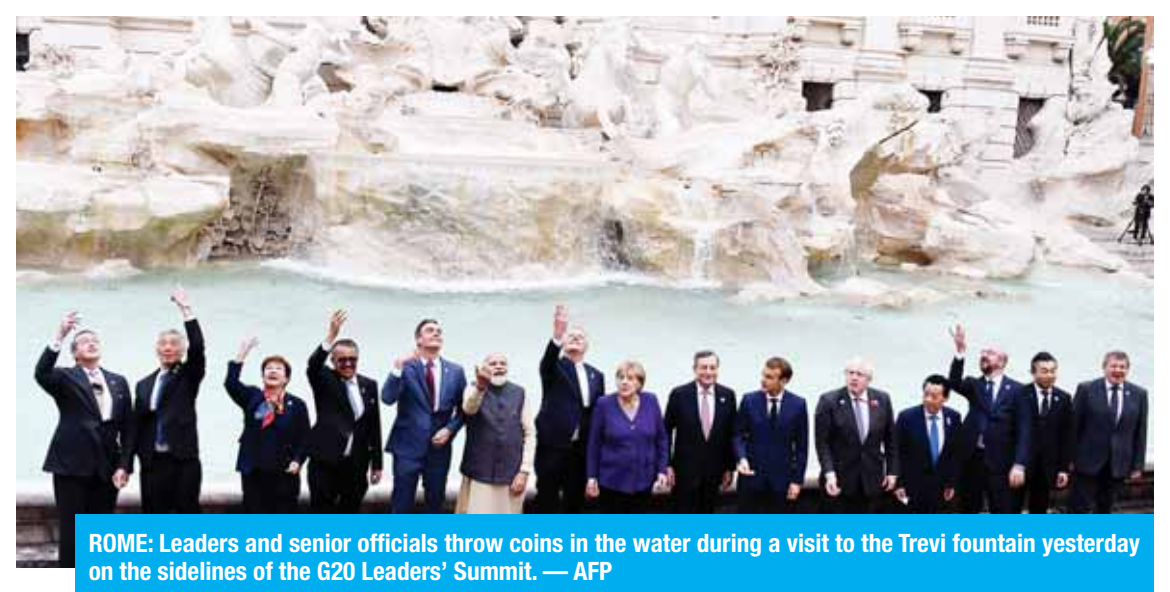
A Zionist F-15 fighter (left) escorts an American B-1 heavy bomber on Saturday. — AFP

G20 backs key climate goal as UN talks open

ROME: G20 leaders yesterday committed to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but campaigners slammed a "lack of ambition" as make-or-break UN climate talks opened in Glasgow. Following a two-day meeting in Rome, the Group of 20 major economies agreed that keeping that goal - which had initially been raised in the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement - would require "meaningful and effective actions", according to the final summit statement.

The leaders, whose nations between them emit nearly 80 percent of carbon emissions, also promised

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ROME: Leaders and senior officials throw coins in the water during a visit to the Trevi fountain yesterday on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit. — AFP

Russian tourists flock back to Egypt's Red Sea

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt: Mussa Al-Nahas sat outside his fragrance and spice shop overlooking the Red Sea beaming at the sight of Russian tourists, who are beginning to flood back to Sharm el-Sheikh six years after a terror attack. "Today is much, much better than three or four months ago because the Russians are back," he told AFP. "The return of Russian flights has spurred other countries to also open up," he added.

Nahas, 42, has spent half of his life in

the idyllic, sun-drenched Red Sea resort which was badly hit economically after the 2015 downing of a Metrojet plane that killed 224 mostly Russian passengers. The attack was claimed by the so-called Islamic State group, which has a presence in the restive North Sinai region. In the wake of the crash, Russia instituted a blanket ban on all flights to the Red Sea from 2015, and even to Cairo for a few weeks.

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was a double blow driving away the remaining tourists - the country's lifeline. Tourism represents about 10 percent of the GDP of Egypt where a third of the 100 million-strong population lives below the poverty line. "We used to say that Sharm el-Sheikh had

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SHARM EL-SHEIKH: A picture taken on Sept 29, 2021 shows Russian tourists in this Egyptian Red Sea resort. — AFP

Local

Amir receives Crown Prince, top officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Youssef Al-Roumi and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Youssef Al-Roumi and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Dar Al-Yamama His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy

Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Youssef Al-Roumi and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince also received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Roumi and Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem at Dar Al-Yamama. — KUNA

IICO: Grant system marks aspect of strategic plan

KUWAIT: The new grant system is an aspect of the basic development process of the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) strategic plan, stated IICO's Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq yesterday. This came in Maatouq's speech during a ceremony to launch the electronic grant mechanism, which formulates and governs the process of providing support and assistance to beneficiaries worldwide.

In the past few years, IICO launched a strategic institutional development program aiming to raise the efficiency of its operations and investment of its resources, said Maatouq. The organization relies upon its fresh donation approach to achieve its strategic vision, in cooperation with its field partners in accordance with the best practices that can enable it to implement the strategic plan goals within the scope of its geographical work field that

includes 89 countries worldwide.

Maatouq noted that the system is consistent with the application of governance standards regarding disclosure, transparency and compliance to all the laws and regulating work legislation, especially those related to fighting against money laundering and financing terrorism. He explained that about a year and a half ago, work began on the project to develop grant procedures in the IICO, through a working team formed for this noble purpose, under the supervision of a counselor who has extensive experience in the field of developing grant models, especially international ones.

The IICO chief added that despite the challenges of the epidemiological situation resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and relevant measures, the project continued and the team efficiently succeeded in investing modern technology applications in communication and file management. — KUNA



IICO's Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq

Kuwait commerce chamber extols strong trade ties with UK

KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said yesterday Kuwaiti-UK economic and trade relations, which were forged over 120 years back, are firm and deep-rooted. The remark was made by KCCI Member and Member of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) Dirar Al-Ghanim while meeting British Secretary of State for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena, with Vice-Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al-Sabah attending. The meeting, which came at the invitation of the British Embassy in Kuwait, touched upon ways of promoting bilateral economic relations, with the UK secretary underlining the significance of periodical meetings with the Kuwaiti private sector, represented by the KCCI, according to a chamber release. It quoted

the secretary as saying that his country's government attaches much significance to relations with the GCC countries, particularly following Brexit, and looks forward to launching free trade agreement negotiations with them.

He reassured that the British economy is recovering from the negative economic impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, hoping that these effects would be totally overcome very soon. Meanwhile, the KCCI member thanked the British side for interest in Kuwaiti economic activities and listening to the private sector's visions for promoting economic relations with the UK. He underscored that the KCCI is willing to capitalize on all its potential to develop these relations, according to the release. — KUNA

Saudi King thanks Kuwait in phone...

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon's Iran-backed movement Hezbollah. The group, it said, controls Lebanese ports and "hijacks" the government's decision-making in Beirut. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait were quick to follow suit.

However, the minister has won plaudits in rebel-held Sanaa, where the Houthi rebels yesterday put up posters in support of Kordahi. "Yes Georges, the Yemen war is absurd," said posters bearing his image that the Houthis pasted onto billboards and lampposts yesterday. The Houthis also plan to rename a street in Sanaa after Kordahi, according to shopkeepers and media reports in the city.

The crisis is a fresh blow to Lebanon, a country in financial and political turmoil where a fragile government is struggling to secure international aid, namely from wealthy Arab neighbors. But remarks by Kordahi, in an interview recorded back in August aired on Monday, slamming the Saudi-led military intervention against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, undermined these efforts. Kordahi said the Houthis were "defending themselves... against an external aggression", sparking angry rebukes from Saudi Arabia and its allies and calls in

Lebanon for his resignation.

Analyst Karim Bitar said Kordahi's remarks were just a trigger for a looming geopolitical showdown. The escalation "has very little to do with what this mediocre minister of information said... (and) everything to do with the Saudi-Iranian tug-of-war that has been ongoing for the past few years". "Kordahi was only a pretext for something that was long in the making," he said.

Lebanon is "one of the battlefields between Iran and Saudi Arabia" along with Syria, Yemen and Iraq, where the two regional rivals support opposing sides, Bitar added. Riyadh's move also reflects the kingdom's determination to push Lebanon "to take a harsher line on Hezbollah", he said. Hezbollah wields considerable influence in Lebanon, where it holds seats in parliament, and has been designated as a terrorist group by Saudi Arabia and much of the West.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati has said he "regrets" the Saudi decision, and urged Riyadh to reconsider its move. He did not explicitly call for Kordahi's resignation, but said he did not speak in the name of the government. He urged the minister to "take into consideration Lebanon's national interest... in order to appease ties with Gulf countries".

Kordahi was nominated by the Marada Movement, a Christian party allied to Hezbollah and led by Suleiman Franjeh. The minister has refused to apologize - as both Hezbollah and Franjeh rejected calls for his dismissal. — AFP

entity have been accused of engaging in what analysts have called a "shadow war", in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Gulf in tit-for-tat exchanges.

The regional patrol, Centcom's fifth such operation this year, comes as talks aimed at reviving the 2015 deal to limit Iran's nuclear program have stalled. US President Joe Biden has repeatedly offered to return to the nuclear accord, but his administration has voiced growing frustration over delays after a hardline government took office in Iran. Then-president Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the deal in 2018 and imposed sweeping sanctions, leading Iran to step up contested nuclear work in retaliation. — AFP

G20 backs key climate goal as...

Continued from Page 1

action on coal, but failed to set a clear target on another key goal, to reach "net zero" emissions. "We're proud of these results but we must remember that it's only the start," said Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, host of the talks.

Earlier, the COP26 climate talks opened in Scotland with a warning by summit president Alok Sharma that they were the "last, best hope" to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels. As an accelerating onslaught of extreme weather events underscores the devastating impacts of burning fossil fuels, he said: "If we act now and we act together we can protect our precious planet."

In the statement, G20 leaders reaffirmed their support for the Paris agreement goals of keeping "the global average temperature increase well below 2 degrees and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels". They added that "keeping 1.5 degrees within reach will require meaningful and effective actions and commitment by all countries, taking into account different approaches", through the development of national plans that "align long-term ambition with short- and medium-term goals".

But experts say meeting the 1.5-degree target

means slashing global emissions nearly in half by 2030 and to "net-zero" by 2050 - and the G20 set no firm date, speaking only of reaching the goal of net zero "by or around mid century". The leaders did agree to end funding for new unabated coal plants abroad - those whose emissions have not gone through any filtering process - by the end of 2021.

Environmental campaign group Greenpeace slammed the final statement as "weak, lacking both ambition and vision", saying G20 leaders "failed to meet the moment". "If the G20 was a dress rehearsal for COP26, then world leaders fluffed their lines," said Executive Director Jennifer Morgan. Friederike Roder, senior director at anti-poverty group Global Citizen, told AFP the summit had produced "half-measures rather than concrete actions".

However, French President Emmanuel Macron had earlier said it was too early to write off the success of the talks in Glasgow. More than 120 heads of state and government, including US President Joe Biden, India's Narendra Modi and Australia's Scott Morrison, are heading to the Scottish city. "Let's not forget that in Paris, in 2015, nothing was decided in advance," Macron told the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

China - by far the world's biggest carbon polluter - plans to make its economy carbon neutral before 2060, but has resisted pressure to offer nearer-term goals. India, meanwhile, argues that if net-zero by 2050 is the global goal, then rich countries should be carbon neutral ten years earlier to allow poorer, emerging nations a larger carbon allowance and more time to develop. — AFP

US flies bomber over Mideast in...

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Centcom commander General Frank McKenzie, the head of US forces in the Middle East.

Egyptian fighter jets also accompanied the B-1B, a supersonic bomber that can carry the heaviest conventional payload of all the US military's planes. In January, a US B-52 bomber, also capable of carrying nuclear weapons, flew over the Middle East. Since February, Iran and the Zionist

Russian tourists flock back to...

Continued from Page 1

become a ghost town," said Nahas. But in August, the fortunes of Sharm - as it is affectionately known - started to look up when the first plane from Moscow touched back down at the local airport. After years of diplomacy, the long-running ban was finally lifted.

Tour guide Abdelqader Abdel-Rahman, 30, who was preparing to take a group of Hungarian adventurers on a desert safari on quad bikes, was delighted to see the tourists milling around town. "Before 2015, there were

about 120-150 flights coming from Russia weekly... We hope that things go back to what they used to be," he told AFP. Currently, there are about 20 flights from Russia landing in Sharm every week.

Capitalizing on the appetite for tourism after months of global lockdowns, Egypt's tourism ministry has waived visa fees for 28 countries including many from eastern Europe. In April, the country welcomed half a million tourists alone, twice as many as January, according to official figures. "Since Russian planes have started coming back, the town has begun moving. Lots of people have gone back to their old jobs and have opened up their bazaars and restaurants again," Abdel-Rahman said.

Tourists are also happy to be back in the largest Arab country with plenty to explore from the pyramids in the north to the beauty of the Red Sea corals. — AFP

Local

Three authorities' heads meet at Bayan Palace upon Amiri directives



KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chairman of the Court of Cassation Justice Ahmad Al-Ajeel meet at Bayan Palace yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photo

KUWAIT: The heads of the three authorities held a meeting at Bayan Palace yesterday, upon His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives. The meeting included Speaker of the National Assembly

Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chairman of the Court of Cassation Justice Ahmad Al-Ajeel. — KUNA

New work permits through Ashal app tomorrow: Report

KUWAIT: New work permits will be issued through the Ashal app of the Public Authority for Manpower, which is linked to the health ministry app for vaccination certificates that can be uploaded electronically, a local daily reported yesterday. The mechanism of receiving new work permit applications will be announced tomorrow, based on the Cabinet's earlier decision to resume issuance of new visas and work permits, according to informed sources quoted in Al-Qabas Arabic newspaper's report.

The Cabinet asked PAM to coordinate with the health and interior ministries, making sure that the vaccination certificates are authentic and registered via a link with the health ministry. PAM meanwhile said employers desiring to bring workers on government contracts must attach airline tickets with contract forms mentioning working hours, work permit duration, job designation and academic qualification, along with housing allowance. PAM has activated the mechanism linking all professions with their academic degrees. The electronic platform will provide 28 services for residents, mainly for transferring to work permits, self-sponsorship, partners and families.

Netflix and Kuwait-based NCIG launch first scriptwriting program in MENA

KUWAIT: For the first time in the MENA region, Netflix has partnered up with a regional production studio to train and develop TV writers. Kuwait-based NCIG (National Creative Industries Group KSCC) and Netflix have partnered to deliver the NCIG TV Writers' Lab 6x6, a program designed to incubate six writers from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and turn their ideas into market-ready pitch decks in six weeks with the ultimate goal of having each of the selected creators present their final projects to Netflix.

Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Chairperson and CEO of NCIG said: "I am thrilled to announce the official launch of NCIG's TV Writers' Lab 6x6 in partnership with Netflix. This opportunity is a major stepping stone for our talented creators to nurture their craft in line with global industry standards, with the added potential of having their projects chosen for further development and production by the world's largest SVOD."

She also added, "The fact that Netflix has greenlit our Kuwait-based writers' program, the first of its kind by the streamer in the Middle East, is both a

nod to the country's pioneering history in the TV production field, as well as a testament to Netflix's commitment to talent development and to the creative potential of our regional storytellers."

Christopher Mack, Grow Creative Director, EMEA, LATAM and APAC said: "At Netflix, we believe great stories can come from anywhere and be loved everywhere. Even the best storytellers need to finetune their pitch so it appeals to the industry and ultimately, audiences. Through our partnership with NCIG, we will bring our global expertise in creating world class content, to hone regional creators' craft and provide the tools to tell the best version of their stories. Netflix is committed to investing in Arab stories and talent long-term. The Arab world has a pool of incredible talent that has been underrepresented on the global stage, and through the NCIG TV Writers' Lab 6x6, we hope to give new voices a chance to tell their stories."

Sheikha Shaikha Al-Sabah, Chief Business Development Officer at NCIG said: "With Lab 6x6, although our program is based in Kuwait, it will also target the tal-



Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

Chris Mack

ented Saudi creative community. By bringing Saudi-based creators together with their Kuwait counterparts, this unique program aims to build the long-awaited creative bridges and lay the essential groundwork for the collaborations needed to invigorate our shared content-driven industry and allow our regional stories to inspire and entertain audiences the world over."

The six participants will receive mentoring and virtual master classes by several of the entertainment industry's leading writers, showrunners, and script consultants. They will also be part of a specially curated intensive curriculum, including training sessions led by the world-renowned New York Film Academy. Participants will be granted NYFA endorsed completion certificates as a result of this collaboration with NCIG. By the end of the program, the six writers will have the chance to pitch their final scripts to the Netflix team. Submissions for Lab 6x6 open November 1, 2021. For more information, please visit www.ncig.com.kw.



Six griffon vultures spotted in northern Kuwait reserve



KUWAIT: Six Eurasian griffon vultures were spotted in the Liyah northern reserve, Kuwait Environment Public Society announced yesterday. The birds were documented while making their stop in Kuwait during their annual migratory route from Europe to Africa, society member Dr Mahdi Ghloum said.

News in brief

Woman sentenced to death for husband's killing

KUWAIT: The appeals court struck down the life sentence issued by the court of first instance against a woman convicted of killing her husband in their house in Masayel area, and instead sentenced her to death. The criminal court had sentenced the woman to life in prison, and exonerated a person who was accused of hiding her. Detectives had arrested the suspect in a Kabd ranch that belongs to a person with whom she had a close relation. She confessed of hitting the victim with a vase and then with a hammer following a fight, then wrapped his body in a carpet before escaping in the crime that happened last April.

Subsidized food smuggling foiled

KUWAIT: Land customs officers confiscated large quantities of subsidized foodstuff that is banned from being exported abroad, the General Administration of Customs announced yesterday. Inspection supervisor Jassem Al-Ghanem said land customs officers searched cargo bound for export and found a huge quantity of subsidized food. The confiscated items will be stored at the customs warehouse, and the supplies department of the commerce ministry will be asked to collect the foodstuff, he added.

Kuwait condemns Yemeni airport bombing

KUWAIT: Kuwait condemned as "cowardly" the terrorist bombing at the entrance of Aden airport in Yemen, which killed and injured dozens of civilians on Saturday. Kuwait underlined its unwavering position in opposition to violence and all forms of terrorism, according to a foreign ministry statement, saying it stood firmly behind the legitimate Yemeni government. It also reiterated its call for the international community to intensify efforts aimed at reaching a political solution which puts a stop to Yemen's crisis in accordance with previously agreed references.

Local

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ACK launches breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: In support of everyone touched by breast cancer, and in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility, the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) launched the annual breast cancer awareness campaign. This year's campaign featured everything in pink to bring attention to the cause while focusing on the importance of early detection.



May Al-Musallam

The college called for action through its various social media channels targeting community engagement towards the cause and reach maximum exposure. The engagement activities included weekly medical and motivational tips about the disease, fighters and cancer survivors, also, urged followers to spread the word within the community to optimize the mission.

In parallel, the college planned for staff and student's engagement by organizing various activities such as Pink Ribbon distribution, wallboard colored in pink placement dedicated and placed on campus as a space to ACK community for expressing their thoughts and share their encouragement notes for everyone affected by the breast cancer.

ACK believes in the importance of utilizing its resources to raise awareness regarding vital health issues that affect the community. Commenting on the college's efforts, May Al-Musallam, ACK Public Relations and Marketing, Senior Manager, said: "Breast cancer does not have a single story, yet it draws us all together, the breast cancer annual campaigns remain at the forefront of facilitating real progress against this disease. Together, and with the dedication of our community, we can help creating supreme awareness."

Indian School of Excellence marks Grandparents' Day

KUWAIT: To instill the knowledge of this inseparable and unique bond in their students and to shout out the worth of the real foundations of our families, Indian School of Excellence revered and celebrated grandparents across the globe.

The evening of October 14, 2021 was made distinctive and memorable with the adorable gestures of unsurpassable love between grandparents and their grandchildren. Students from all the classes and sections graciously performed for their dear grandparents which captivated and enamored their hearts and spirits. Director of ISEK Sherry Dennis addressed the audience and welcomed all of them to the event. She shared her exquisite thoughts on the relevance of grandparents' day and bestowed the warm greetings to all.

The tiny tots of the KG section staged an enchanting dance performance through which they brought so much delight into the minds of the audience. The dedication video which included the pictures of all the students with the grandparents took them down the memory lane and gifted them glimpses of moments that they cherish. The skit performance of classes 5 and 6 students portrayed the undefinable bond between generations. Through their charming video presentation, class 1 and 2 students also depicted their love towards grandparents. The soulful singing of class 3 and 4 students left the audience spellbound and the eloquent and significant speech of Parthiv Lal of class 3, in Hindi, manifested the essentiality of grandparents in our lives.

Nothing could have made the day more memorable than two of the grandparents from the school being the Guests of Honor. Mohd Istifa Khan and Durie Almas Tungekar, the highly dignified and special guests of the day who also are the valuable members of the ISEK family. Nisha Parakkoth, the KG Supervisor of ISEK, also a multi-faceted and charming personality introduced the special guests by providing a brief sketch on the lives. Durie Almas Tungekar, showered her blessings and love upon all and she also reminisced the unforgettable years that she got to spend with the ISEK family. She encouraged the students to give more importance to relationships and family and also appreciated the initiative of the school in giving importance to observe such special occasions.

Sherry Dennis, Director of ISEK, honored the special guests by presenting a virtual memento and acclaimed them for their blissful presence throughout the event. Class 1-6 Supervisor of ISEK, the enthusiastic and talented personality, Priya Magesvaran, expressed her sincere gratitude upon each person who strived to make the event a grand one.

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of the artificial Um Al-Ghaz island off Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwaiti medical team conducts 30 cardiac catheterization in Jordan

AMMAN: A Kuwaiti medical team conducted a total of 30 cardiac catheterization for Syrian refugees in Jordan, in cooperation with Kuwait's Rahma International Society, as part of its medical and rescue missions in the region. The team inspected 100 patients and decided to conduct operations for several refugees in cooperation with a private hospital in Amman, capital of Jordan. "Kuwait's rescue efforts is continuous and comprehensive", Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani said after meeting the team and visiting several patients. This initiative, offered by Rahma Society, came in accordance with the instructions by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting the humanitarian situation of refugees, he affirmed. The diplomat stressed the importance of alleviating the suffering of the Syrian refugees by offering them proper medical care.

The Kuwaiti medical team would conduct 100 cardiac catheterizations through three stages, according to a strict time schedule, Head of Rahma International Society delegation to Jordan Abdullah Al-Ajmi said. The Kuwait humanitarian aid to the

refugees in Jordan also included distribution of 1,000 food parcels to Syrian refugees in various parts of the country, he added. Ajmi also expressed his deepest thanks and appreciation to the people of Kuwait for supporting the Kuwait's medical convoy by offering a financial support the medical and rescue program. He highly endorsed the efforts exerted by members of both Kuwait and Jordanian medical teams, affiliated to Al-Kandi Hospital offering the proper care to the patients.

The current medical campaign was the fourth one for the Kuwaiti interventional cardiologists, which also included doctors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Consultant interventional cardiologist Dr Mohammad Al-Mutairi. The Kuwaiti medical team resumed its activities in Jordan following the coronavirus (COVID-19) suspension by conducting 30 cardiac catheterizations through three days, he said. The Director General of Al-Kandi Hospital Dr Ali Al-Hayasat expressed his pride in the cooperation with Rahma International Society, and the "distinguished" Kuwaiti medical team for offering this humanitarian service to the Syrian refugees. All



AMMAN: Members of the Kuwaiti medical team are seen at Al-Kandi Hospital in Amman, Jordan. — KUNA

cardiac catheterization operations were carried out smoothly and successfully, amid great care from the hospital, he added. Dr Hayasat praised the efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti political leadership and people towards the refugees in Jordan, endorsing their continuous sought in alleviating their sufferings. — KUNA



NBK staff complete trade finance training program

KUWAIT: In line with its strategy to develop human capital by supporting their career advancement and ensuring their career growth, NBK concluded a specialized training program on trade finance held in cooperation with Euromoney, with the aim of developing and enhancing the skills of Trade Finance Department staff and providing them with adequate expertise in this domain.

NBK is keen to continuously support, empower and develop its employees by providing them with the best training programs and workshops to develop their skills related to leadership, implementation of strategies, change management and innovation, to help them keep pace with the rapid developments taking place in the banking industry.

Burgan Bank launches Movember health awareness campaign

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank has launched its Movember campaign in partnership with Kuwait Hospital to mark November's globally recognized annual event that focuses on raising awareness around men's health issues. This campaign con-

try. To this end, the bank engages a select of reputable banking experts who transfer their knowledge and expertise to these cadres, reflecting its profound vision regarding investing in the human capital. In addition, NBK boasts the highest retention rates of Kuwaiti employees, which reflects success in its plans to manage human capital and appreciation of its human cadres.

On this occasion, NBK organized a graduation ceremony for trainees, which was attended by Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO of National Bank of Kuwait - Kuwait, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO of National Bank of Kuwait - Kuwait, Emad Al-Ablani, GM - Group Human Resources, as well as other executives from the bank, following all precautionary measures including social distancing to keep everyone safe.

The virtual program that lasted for five weeks hosted 15 employees who received intensive training on many topics covering the basics of trade finance, collections, letters of guarantee (LGs), letters of credit (LCs), trade products structure, LG/LC compliance, as well as other operational aspects of trade finance and technical

and professional tools.

The third version of the program aimed to enhance trainees' knowledge of international trade, educate them on the instrumental role played by banks in facilitating international trade, in addition to training them on LG/LC compliance matters, familiarizing them with key money laundering mechanisms associated with trade, and enabling them to identify the aspects of LG/LC compliance risk.

and professional tools.

The program is accredited by the London Institute of Banking and Finance and meets the standards required to obtain international accreditation as Certified Documentary Credits Specialist (CDCS), and Certified Specialist in Demand Guarantees (CSDG).

It is worth mentioning that National Bank of Kuwait was named "Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait for 2021" in the annual survey of Global Trade Review (GTR) magazine specialized in global emerging markets, in addition to receiving "Best Trade Finance Provider in Kuwait for 2020" award from the reputable international finance magazine Global Finance.

Worldwide, November marks various activities and events that aim at spreading awareness and advancing mindsets on men's health issues. Burgan Bank has joined the global movement to support the efforts of promoting the knowledge and understanding of diseases and other health threats affecting men, through powerful and positive messages and initiatives.

Burgan Bank continues to invest in supporting various social, educational, cultural and health initiatives and programs, aligning its actions as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution with the needs and interests of the community and stressing its role as a driving force of social change to promote the community's overall wellbeing.



Kids among 12 killed in Yemen's car blast

Global democracy under attack despite Biden push

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KHARTOUM: Sudanese anti-coup protesters wave the national flag as they gather in a street in the capital Khartoum to express their support for the country's democratic transition which a military takeover and deadly crackdown derailed. — AFP

Sudan protesters barricade streets

World powers demand a swift return to civilian rule

KHARTOUM: Sudanese anti-coup protesters yesterday manned barricades in Khartoum a day after a deadly crackdown on mass rallies, as a defiant civil disobedience campaign against the military takeover entered its seventh day. Tens of thousands turned out across the country for Saturday's demonstrations, marching against the army's October 25 power grab, when top General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan dissolved the government, declared a state of emergency and detained Sudan's civilian leadership.

The move sparked a chorus of international condemnation, with world powers demanding a swift return to civilian rule and calls for the military to show "restraint" against protesters. At least three people were shot dead and more than 100 people wounded during Saturday's demonstrations, according to medics, who reported those killed had bullet wounds in their head, chest or stomach. It takes the death toll since protests began to at least 11. Police forces denied the killings, or using live bullets.

"No, no, to military rule," protesters carrying Sudanese flags chanted as they marched around the capital and other cities, as forces fired tear gas to break them up. More than 100 people were also wounded on Saturday, some suffering breathing difficulties from tear gas, the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors said. Sudan had been ruled since August 2019 by a joint civilian-military council, alongside Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's government, as part of the now derailed transition to full civilian rule.



At least three people killed

Soldiers on the streets
Hamdok and other top leaders have been under military guard since then, either in detention or effective house arrest. US President Joe Biden has

called the coup a "grave setback", while the African Union has suspended Sudan's membership for the "unconstitutional" takeover. The World Bank and the United States froze aid, a move that will hit hard in a country already mired in a dire economic crisis. But Burhan—who became de facto leader after hardline ex-president Omar Al-Bashir was ousted in 2019 following huge youth-led protests—has insisted the military takeover was "not a coup".

Instead, Burhan says he wants to "rectify the course of the Sudanese transition". Demonstrations on Saturday rocked many cities across Sudan, including in the eastern states of Gedaref and Kassala, as well as in North Kordofan and White Nile, witnesses and AFP correspondents said.

As night fell Saturday, many protests in Khartoum and the capital's twin city of Omdurman thinned out. But yesterday morning protesters were back on the streets, again using rocks and tyres to block roads. Shops remain largely shut in Khartoum, where many government employees are refusing to work as part of a nationwide protest campaign. Soldiers from the army and the much-feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces were seen on many streets in Khartoum and Omdurman.

Security forces have set up random checkpoints on the streets, frisking passers-by and randomly searching cars. Phone lines, which were largely down on Saturday, were back apart from intermittent disruptions. But internet access has remained cut off since the army's takeover. Sudan has enjoyed only rare democratic interludes since independence in 1956 and spent decades riven by civil war. Burhan was a general under Bashir's three decades of iron-fisted rule, and analysts said the coup aimed to maintain the army's traditional control over the northeast African country. — AFP

US vice president still searching for her role

WASHINGTON: The first woman and first person of color to become US vice president, Kamala Harris made history on November 3, 2020. But a year later, she is still trying to figure out what part to play in a role that is by definition thankless. President Joe Biden, by teaming up with the 57-year-old former California senator, sent a clear message to an electoral base eager for more diverse representation in power.

But with his choice, the 78-year-old Biden—who had served as second-in-command to Barack Obama during the first Black president's two terms—has also turned the spotlight full-force onto Harris. A serial trailblazer, she was the first woman and first Black person to become California's attorney general. She was also the first senator of South Asian descent.

But Harris, the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, has yet to break another mold—one into which political customs and the US Constitution have locked her. "There is no such thing as vice presidential success," said Elaine Kamarck, a senior research fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Vice presidents rise or fall on the record of the president that they serve." Kamarck, who has written a book on the role of the vice president, pointed out, however, that the job has evolved from being merely ceremonial.

Lunches with Biden

For a long time, "that used to be the joke, that the vice president went to funerals around the world on behalf of the president," Kamarck explained. But then Al Gore changed the model by talking on "substantive assignments" that would typically have been the priority of President Bill Clinton, she said.

After that came Dick Cheney, whose influ-



WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris receives a booster of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in the South Court Auditorium of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

ence on George W Bush was so clear that he even got his own movie, the 2018 film "Vice." As for Obama, he made his "bromance" with Biden clear. And Biden has put his respect for his own deputy on full public display. He has lunch with Harris once a week, and his staff makes a point of always mentioning the "Biden-Harris administration" in their communiques—although this inevitably becomes just the "Biden administration" in news media.

Biden also entrusted Harris—who holds the Democratic Party's majority vote in the Senate—with an extremely politically sensitive issue: tackling the roots of illegal immigration, in the face of a surge in arrivals at the southern US border. In June, as part of this mission, Harris traveled to Guatemala and Mexico. But far from winning her accolades, this first-ever international mission earned her a barrage of criticism. The progressive wing of her party slammed her as being too harsh after she told potential undocumented immigrants, "Don't come." But the Republican Party said she hadn't been hard enough.

There was also buzz about a television interview she gave on immigration issues in which she appeared nervous and unprepared. The

conservative-leaning Washington Examiner had a field day, mocking her short-lived presidential campaign in the Democratic primary. "As a candidate, she is a paper tiger. As a politician, she is an out-of-touch weather-vane," the paper wrote. "She has failed upward to this point, and it's clear that she has hit her ceiling." But since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban and the hasty US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August, all eyes have returned to Biden.

'More hostility'

"Because she's the first woman of color... I think she'll get more hostility and more scrutiny," said Kamarck, the vice presidential researcher. "I don't think that she made any serious missteps. And I think they will be forgotten relatively quickly." For now, it is Harris herself—like many vice presidents before her—who seems to be forgotten.

She travels frequently on official business: in November, she will go to Paris to continue Biden's reconciliation efforts after France became outraged when Australia signed a deal for US nuclear submarine technology, throwing out a mega-deal for French conventional submarines. — AFP

Iran suspects US, Zionists behind fuel cyber attack

TEHRAN: An Iranian general has said Zionists and the United States were likely to have been behind a cyber attack that interrupted the distribution of fuel at service stations. Tuesday's attack "technically" resembles two previous incidents whose perpetrators "were unquestionably our enemies, namely the United States and the Zionist regime", the Revolutionary Guards' Gholamreza Jalali said.

"We have analysed two incidents, the railway accident and the Shahid Rajaei port accident, and we found that they were similar," Jalali, who heads a civil defense unit responsible for cyber activity, told state television late Saturday. In July, Iran's transportation ministry said a "cyber disruption" had affected its computer systems and website, according to Fars news agency.

And in May last year, the Washington Post reported that Zionists carried out a cyber attack on the Iranian port of Shahid Rajaei in the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic route for global oil shipments. Tuesday's cyber attack caused traffic jams on major arteries in Tehran, where long queues at petrol stations disrupted the flow of traffic. The oil ministry later took service stations offline so that petrol could be distributed manually, according to the authorities.

President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday accused the perpetrators of trying to turn Iran's people against the leadership of the Islamic republic.



TEHRAN: Photo shows off-line petrol pumps at a service station in Iran's capital Tehran, amid a nationwide disruption of the petrol distribution system. — AFP

Around 3,200 of the country's 4,300 service stations have since been reconnected to the central distribution system, the National Oil Products Distribution Company said, quoted Saturday by state news agency IRNA. Other stations also provide fuel for motorists, but at unsubsidized rates that make it twice as expensive at around five Euro cents (5-6 US cents) per liter, the news agency reported.

In a country where petrol flows freely at what are some of the lowest prices in the world, motorists need digital cards issued by the authorities. The cards entitle holders to a monthly amount of petrol at a subsidized rate and, once the quota has been used up, to buy more expensive at the market rate. Since 2010, when Iran's nuclear program was hit by the Stuxnet computer virus, Iran and its arch-foes Zionists and the United States have regularly accused each other of cyber attacks. — AFP

International

Global democracy under attack despite Biden push

Myanmar and Sudan have seen generals roar back

News in brief

Gunman kills reporter

MANILA: A Philippine news reporter has died after being shot multiple times in his home, police said yesterday, becoming the latest in a long line of journalists slain in the country. The archipelago nation is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, and most of their killers go unpunished. Orlando Dinoy, a reporter for online outfit Newsline Philippines and anchor for Energy FM, was shot six times by a gunman who barged into his apartment in Bansalan town, Mindanao island, local police chief Major Peter Glenn Ipong said. Dinoy died immediately, he added. Officers were still investigating possible motives, the force added. "One of the angles we are looking at is his work as a media man... but no one can give us a concrete lead so far," Ipong said. Dinoy was the 21st journalist killed since President Rodrigo Duterte took power in 2016, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said. — AFP

Man arrested after attack

TOKYO: A man was arrested for attempted murder after a knife and fire attack on a train in Tokyo yesterday, Japanese media said, with at least 10 people reportedly injured and one in a serious condition. A video clip published by public broadcaster NHK showed panicked passengers running down the train as smoke filled the carriage, with flames also visible. Another video posted on Twitter showed people climbing through windows to escape the Keio Line train at a station. The line operator said services had been partially suspended after "an incident involving injuries" took place just before 8 pm near Kokuryo in the Japanese capital's western suburbs. Media outlets including NHK said the alleged perpetrator in his 20s attacked people with a knife and started a fire on the train. The method was unclear but reports also said the man had spread a liquid around the train carriage. — AFP

French climbers missing

KATHMANDU: At least three French climbers were missing after an avalanche hit the area they were in near Nepal's Mount Everest, a media report said yesterday. The unnamed climbers were attempting to scale an approximately 6,000-metre peak near Everest, The Himalayan Times reported. Their tents and climbing material were spotted near the Minbo La glacier below Mount Amadablam by a rescue team yesterday, the newspaper added, citing sources. A Department of Tourism official told the Himalayan Times that the climbers had not obtained permission from authorities to summit the mountain. All climbers in Nepal are required to apply for a permit from the government or the Nepal Mountaineering Association to scale the country's peaks. Authorities were alerted to their situation after a plea from their families for a search mission to be launched, the publication added. — AFP

Rockets hit near Green Zone

BAGHDAD: Three rockets yesterday hit a Baghdad neighborhood near the high-security Green Zone where the US embassy is located without causing any casualties, an Iraqi security official said. "Three Katyusha rockets fell in the Mansur district of Baghdad," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity said. The rockets struck near a Red Crescent hospital, a bank and the district's water management department, the source added. The so far unclaimed attack, the first to target the Green Zone since two rockets fired on July 29, comes as authorities conduct a recount of votes cast in an October 10 parliamentary election. Preliminary results show the Conquest Alliance, the political arm of the Hashed Al-Shaabi network of pro-Iranian militias, lost ground in the election. — AFP

Five pro-Iran fighters killed

DAMASCUS: An Israeli missile strike killed five pro-Iran militiamen near Damascus on Saturday, a war monitor said, while state media said two Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attack. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strike "destroyed a Hezbollah and Iranian weapons and ammunition" convoy heading towards Lebanon. At least five pro-Iranian fighters were killed and several wounded, said the war monitor. The report could not be independently verified. Earlier state news agency SANA, quoting a military source, said two Syrian soldiers were wounded after explosions were heard in the Syrian capital. "The Israeli enemy fired a salvo of surface-to-surface missiles from northern occupied Palestine targeting positions near Damascus," SANA said. — AFP

ROME: US President Joe Biden has vowed a major push to promote democracy worldwide. But since he took office, democracy has faced repeated setbacks. Among three nations whose democratic transitions had inspired the most hope, Myanmar and Sudan have seen generals roar back, sacking civilian leaders and suppressing street protests, while in Tunisia, the birthplace of the Arab Spring a decade ago, the president seized wide-ranging powers.

Military juntas have also grabbed power in the West African nations of Guinea, Mali and Chad, while in Afghanistan, Taliban insurgents seized power after a US troop withdrawal brought the quick collapse of the Western-backed government. While local factors



Military juntas grab power in West African nations

are at play in each country, experts see common trends including economic insecurities exacerbated by COVID-19 and climate change, ruling elites who failed to meet aspirations and the growing role of China, which can support nations shunned by the West.

"There is an increase in attacks on democracy around the world—and not in the demand for democracy," said Derek Mitchell, the first US ambassador to Myanmar after its transition a decade ago. "It's a matter of old mindsets dying hard, particularly in militaries where people don't give up power and privilege easily," said Mitchell, now president of the National Democratic Institute, which promotes democracy worldwide.

Texas governor pursues agenda despite diversity

TEXAS: Building on his state's passage of the most restrictive abortion law in the US, Governor Greg Abbott has made Texas a test lab for deeply conservative ideas in a divided America still manifestly marked by the presidency of Donald Trump. A challenge to the law, which bans abortions after six weeks, is to be taken up by the US Supreme Court today, and some observers fear the conservative-leaning court might overturn long-established abortion rights.

But the Texas abortion law is just the latest politically provocative step taken by Abbott, a Catholic who turns 64 in November. In only a few months, he has shepherded into existence a wide-ranging set of laws that seem linked only by an intent to appeal to the far right. One of them requires transgender students to play only on sports teams that align with their birth gender.

Yet Texas's 29 million inhabitants - 40 percent of them Latino - are far from a solidly Republican bloc. Trump won the state in both 2016 and 2020 by just over 52 percent of the vote. Elections to the US Senate are usually close, and Democratic mayors preside in several large cities, including capital Austin and the state's largest city, Houston. So some observers see Abbott's conservative zeal as the clear sign of someone with ambitions reaching far beyond the borders of his big southern state.

Vegan ex-cop set to become NY 2nd Black mayor

NEW YORK: Eric Adams, a Black ex-cop who fought racial discrimination within the police, is poised to be elected New York's next mayor tomorrow, tasked with leading the city's post-pandemic recovery. The 61-year-old centrist Democrat and passionate vegan will become just the second African American to lead the Big Apple, a job often described as the most difficult in the United States after president. It caps a remarkable rise for Adams, who was born in poverty in Brooklyn and ran errands for a gang as a teenager before joining the NYPD and then pursuing a political career.

He is all but certain to defeat Republican rival Curtis Sliwa in the vote in overwhelmingly liberal-voting NYC and succeed unpopular progressive Bill de Blasio, whose two-term limit ends December 31. Adams considers himself a strong leader: a champion of the working class and a fighter against racial injustice, but also someone who is tough on crime and friendly towards big business.

As mayor for more than eight million people, he will oversee America's largest municipal budget, crippled by the pandemic, and its biggest police force and public school system. "This is a city where the mayor is the dominant political force. You need someone who knows how to use authority," said New York University urban planning and policy professor Mitchell Moss, describing de Blasio as at times "indecisive."

"Adams has the personality New Yorkers want in the office, which is someone who's going to be visible, who's going to be in the communities, who's going to come to work at the start of the day,"



ROME: This image grabbed from a video handout shows police officers monitoring on screens the arrival of US President Joe Biden's motorcade arriving yesterday at the convention center 'La Nuovola' in the EUR district of Rome for the second day of the G20 world leaders summit. — AFP

'No magic bullet'

Fulfilling a campaign promise, Biden has announced a two-part summit of democracies starting in December. He is drawing a sharp contrast with his predecessor Donald Trump, who openly embraced authoritarian leaders seen as useful and who inspired a violent mob that on January 6 attacked the US Capitol as it certified Biden's victory.

With the possible exception of Afghanistan, where Biden's decision to end the two-decade US war has been hotly debated, few link democracy's woes to the current occupant of the White House. "Democracy takes literally decades to consolidate and it takes years to erode. So I think there's very

little that any administration could do in the first nine months tangibly moving the needle on global democracy," said Frances Z Brown, who worked on supporting democracies in Barack Obama's White House.

Crucially, Biden responded quickly to the coups in Myanmar and Sudan including suspending aid, said Brown, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "It shows the United States is watching and it cares. There's no one magic bullet but I think it all matters," she said. Biden has also taken a distance with Trump allies, halting some military support for Saudi Arabia and leveraging part of its aid to Egypt on human rights progress, although activists say he should go further. — AFP



HOUSTON: Texas Governor Greg Abbott speaks during the Houston Region Business Coalition's monthly meeting in Houston, Texas. — AFP

Lofty aspirations

"Based on the actions I've seen him take, I would not be surprised if he seeks a presidential nomination" in the Republican primaries of 2024, said Juan Carlos Huerta, a political science professor at Texas A&M University's Corpus Christi campus. For now, Trump would be a "shoo-in" for the nomination if he wants it, Huerta said, while adding, "but politics change." Among other things, the former Republican president faces a slew of legal challenges on several fronts.

Trump has yet to formally declare his intentions for 2024, but his words and actions point clearly toward a new run for the nation's top office. Still, given the many uncertainties, several Republicans have been quietly positioning themselves to step up should he bow out. Given the large field of potential

Republican candidates, "Abbott might be positioning himself for a role in a second Trump administration—perhaps in the cabinet, perhaps in the courts, perhaps even as vice president," said Erica Grieder, a Houston Chronicle columnist.

In Texas, as across the country, the Republican party leans clearly to the right, still under the influence and control of the former president. So politically ambitious Republicans must prove their conservative bona fides. Abbott's Texas is a prime example. Laws passed just since September 1 allow anyone 21 or older to carry a handgun without a license or special training; permit the state to penalize any city that reduces its police budget; require sports teams receiving state financing to play the national anthem before their games; criminalize homeless encampments, and more. — AFP



NEW YORK: Democratic NYC Mayoral candidate Eric Adams raises hands with Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate, and NYC Comptroller candidate Brad Lander during a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) rally in front of Brooklyn Borough Hall. — AFP

Moss added. He will face myriad challenges in office, primarily rebounding New York City's economy following the COVID-19 crisis which has killed more than 34,000 residents and shuttered hundreds of thousands of businesses.

He will also have to grapple with keeping schools open, wealth inequality, a severe lack of affordable housing, fears about the impact of extreme weather events on crumbling infrastructure, and violent chaos at the notorious Rikers Island prison. One of his trickiest balancing acts will be trying to reform police practices while keeping outside a heavily unionized force that feels it has been underappreciated and under-supported during the de Blasio era. Born in Bushwick, Brooklyn in 1960, Adams was raised in a large family in a working-class neighborhood of Queens. His mother was a cleaner and his father was a butcher. When he was 15 years old, two NYPD officers repeatedly kicked him in the groin after arresting him for criminal trespassing. That was the moment he decided he wanted to become a police officer. — AFP

50 years after Roe v Wade, abortion case returns to US court

WASHINGTON: Abortion has been legal in the United States for nearly 50 years but remains an emotional and bitterly contentious issue and access to the procedure varies from state to state. The Supreme Court is to hear arguments today challenging a Texas law that prohibits abortion after six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant. Here is a synopsis of the state of affairs:

Roe v Wade

The US Supreme Court ruled in its landmark 1973 decision in Roe v Wade that access to abortion is a woman's constitutional right, striking down state laws that restricted the procedure. In a 1992 ruling in the case of Planned Parenthood v Casey, the court guaranteed a woman's right to an abortion until the fetus is viable outside the womb, which is typically around 22 to 24 weeks. That is longer than in many other countries, where the cutoff is the end of the first trimester, or around 12 weeks. Individual states retained the right to enact laws protecting a woman's health so long as they did not impose an "undue burden" on access to abortion of a non-viable fetus.

With "undue burden" being subject to interpretation, a number of conservative US states have imposed a patchwork of restrictions on abortion, forcing many facilities to close their doors. West Virginia and Mississippi, for example, each have only one abortion clinic while in California there are more than 150. Among the restrictions are parental consent for minors to undergo an abortion, a 24-hour waiting period, and a requirement to listen to the beating heart of an embryo. — AFP

International

China rejects 'political, false' US report on COVID origins

Washington urged to 'stop attacking' China

BEIJING: Beijing lashed out against a US intelligence review into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic yesterday, calling it "political and false" while urging Washington to "stop attacking" China. The Chinese foreign ministry's retort came days after the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a fuller version of its findings from a 90-day review ordered by

reported. The theory remains unsubstantiated, and China has repeatedly rejected it.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin responded in a statement yesterday that China had expressed firm opposition to initial findings published in the summary report in August. "No matter how many times this report is published and how many versions are concocted, it cannot change the nature of this being entirely political and false," Wang said.

He added that the fact intelligence agencies were tapped in origin-tracing efforts was "ironclad proof" of politicization, and urged the US to "stop attacking and smearing China". Beijing has come under pressure to consider a fresh probe into the origins of the pandemic after a delayed and heavily politicized visit by a World Health Organization team of international experts that failed to conclude how the virus first broke out.

But Chinese officials have resisted this, often maintaining that calls for further information were motivated by politics. In August, Biden said China was withholding "critical information" on the origins of Covid-19, adding that Chinese officials had worked to prevent access for international investigators. Although Biden's review was launched while the lab-leak theory gained momentum, the report noted that most agencies believed the virus was not genetically engineered.—AFP



Lab-leak theory says virus spread from Wuhan

President Joe Biden. The paper said that, without new information, intelligence agencies would not be able to offer a better judgment on whether the virus emerged via animal-to-human transmission or a lab leak.

It added that China's cooperation would probably be needed to reach a conclusive assessment on origins, although stressing that Beijing continued to "hinder the global investigation". The so-called lab-leak theory says the virus was spread from a research facility in Wuhan, the central city where the contagion was first

As rivals reopen, Hong Kong doubles down on isolation

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's decision to descend deeper into international coronavirus isolation as rivals reopen is causing consternation among managers at multinationals who see no end to a zero-COVID strategy imposed by a leadership beholden to Beijing. The southern Chinese business hub has kept the coronavirus at bay thanks to some of the world's strictest quarantine rules with most arrivals undergoing 14 to 21

Chief Executive Carrie Lam has said restoring travel to the mainland is "more important" than reopening internationally and that the city needs to be even stricter than authorities north of the border to win Beijing's trust. That choice has sparked alarm as executives find themselves increasingly struggling to retain talent and replace those that are leaving. AFP spoke to six senior managers at international companies to gauge whether - as one banking lobby group warned last week - Hong Kong's long-term viability as a business hub is at risk. All asked to remain anonymous so they could speak candidly, and painted a similar picture.

One basket

The pandemic began with praise for the way the city kept the coronavirus on the back foot and mor-



BEIJING: A health worker takes a swab sample from a woman to be tested for COVID-19 in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

which President Xi is expected to secure a third term and there are growing expectations that Beijing will not risk a reopening of the borders until that sensitive date has passed. Regular leaving parties and a sudden drop in waiting lists for international schools, James said, pointed to a small but steady exodus of foreign white-collar workers from Hong Kong "especially those with families".

A managing director at a global investment bank who gave his name as John said he had spent 49 days in quarantine over the past 15 months and was now considering moving to either Singapore or London. "We have staff every month relocating," he said, adding it felt like Hong Kong's government was putting "all the marbles... in one basket" by prioritizing travel with China over the rest of the world. And Philippe, who works at a global consultancy firm, described how a major competitor recently held a gathering of all regional heads in London. "They all went except their guy based in Hong Kong," he said.

'Unsustainable'

Among the stricter rules Hong Kong announced this week were an end to most of the few remaining quarantine exemptions, which included VIP business figures deemed crucial to the city's operation. Officials have also declared recovered coronavirus patients must spend a further 14 days in quarantine once they have been discharged. That latter provision has sparked criticism that Hong Kong appears to be drifting away from a science-based health policy. Ben Cowling, an epidemiologist at the University of Hong Kong who advises the government, said ending the small number of exemptions "will have enormous economic costs" but is at least "evidence-based".

"But there doesn't seem to be any epidemiological rationale for that additional 14 days," he told AFP, adding that none of Hong Kong's 10,000 discharged patients has caused an outbreak. The new rules are the latest public health inconsistency to fuel suspicions in Hong Kong that the coronavirus is being used to keep the population down after democracy protests two years ago and a subsequent crackdown on dissent.

At present, 240 people can attend an indoor wedding banquet but more than four people eating sandwiches together in a park remains banned. One American who works for an asset management firm said his family had to undergo mandatory quarantine when someone in his building tested positive. He said he had gone from being an optimist at the beginning of the pandemic to a "deep pessimist". "COVID policy clearly overlaps with a lot of other political objectives," he said. Asked what another year of restrictions might do to business, he replied: "It's just unsustainable."—AFP

Japan's coalition to retain power but lose seats

TOKYO: Japan's ruling coalition is on track to retain power but lose seats in parliament, media predictions said after polls closed in yesterday's general election, the first major test for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. In forecasts based on exit polls, public broadcaster NHK said the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito would win between 239-288 of the 465 seats in the lower house. TV Asahi said the coalition was expected to win 280 seats, down from its previous total of 305 - weakening the dominance of the LDP, which has held power almost continuously since the 1950s.

Kishida, 64, became party leader a month ago after Yoshihide Suga resigned just a year into the job, partly due to public discontent over his response to the COVID-19 crisis. Cases have dropped precipitously since a record wave that pushed the Tokyo Olympics behind closed doors, but voters in the capital said the pandemic was a major factor in their decision.

"The economy is suffering because of the coronavirus, so I compared the politicians' responses," said Chihiro Sato, 38, a housewife and mother of a toddler. But engineer Hiroyasu Onishi, 79, said he was more concerned by "the military threat from China". Kishida has pledged to issue a fresh stimulus package worth tens of trillions of yen to counter the impact of the pandemic on the world's third-largest economy.

He has also outlined plans to tackle inequality heightened by the neo-liberal policies of Suga and his predecessor Shinzo Abe, saying he will distribute wealth more fairly under a so-called new capitalism, although the details remain vague. Japan's 106 million voters have "struggled to get excited about the new prime minister", said Stefan Angrick, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics. "Kishida will need to convince the public and younger members of his party that continuity does not mean status quo, but rather maintaining what has worked and improving on what has not."

Revolving-door risk

Kishida had set a comfortable target of winning 233 lower-house seats, a simple majority including LDP and Komeito lawmakers. The LDP previously boasted a commanding majority of 276 seats on its own. NHK predicted the party would hang on to between 212-253 seats yesterday, while TV Asahi said it would win 243, still a simple majority without Komeito.

Kishida has not enjoyed a political honeymoon, with approval ratings around 50 percent, the lowest in two decades for a new administration in Japan. In recent decades, votes against the LDP have been split between multiple major opposition parties, but this time five rival parties boosted cooperation in a bid to dent its stranglehold. The LDP wants to put a tumultuous year behind it, but "the fact that they are still having to fight so hard is, for them, highly embarrassing", said Michael Cucek, assistant professor of Asian studies at Temple University.—AFP



HONG KONG: Pedestrians cross a street in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

days of hotel confinement.

Competitors such as London, New York, Tokyo and Singapore have begun to live with the disease with face-to-face meetings, conferences and executive travel slowly returning. But Hong Kong, which dubs itself "Asia's World City", has gone in the opposite direction. And earlier this week officials further tightened the rules to try to secure a travel bubble with the mainland, even as China experiences its fourth outbreak in the past five months.

phed into optimism that vaccinations would return some sort of normality this year. But that has given way to fears that Hong Kong, like China, could remain closed off for much of next year. "Everyone I talk to expects there will definitely be no quarantine lift until after the Winter Olympics (in February) and also perhaps not until Xi Jinping gets himself re-elected," James, an Australian banker who has spent 30 years in Hong Kong said.

China's leaders will hold a gathering in October at



MARIB, Yemen: Fighters loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed government head to a position near Al-Jawba front-line, facing Iran-backed Houthi rebels, in the country's northeastern province of Marib. — AFP

Kids among 12 killed in Yemen's car blast

ADEN: At least 12 civilians, including children, were killed Saturday in a car bomb blast near the airport of Aden, the Yemeni government's interim capital, security officials said. "Twelve civilians were killed in an explosion" in the vicinity of Aden airport and "there are also serious injuries", said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Another security official confirmed the toll. A spokesman from the Southern Transitional Council (STC) - part of Yemen's government - said the blast was caused by a car bomb explosion. "A car bomb was detonated, killing a number of our peaceful citizens, including children, and wounding a number of other civilians," STC spokesman Ali Al-Kathiri said in a statement.

The explosion comes almost three weeks after six

people were killed in a car-bomb attack that targeted Aden's governor, who survived. AFP footage on Saturday showed people pulling out a body from a vehicle that had been completely destroyed, as firefighters put out flames nearby. The internationally recognized government relocated to Aden from the capital Sanaa in 2014, forced out by the Houthis, who are fighting Saudi-backed Yemeni government loyalists. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen's war in 2015.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for Saturday's blast, which is the deadliest in the area since December last year, when an attack targeting cabinet members ripped through Aden's airport. At least 26 people, including three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, were killed and scores were wounded when explosions rocked the airport at the time, as ministers disembarked from an aircraft. All cabinet members were reported to be unharmed, in what some ministers charged was a Houthi attack.—AFP

Troops mount fresh battle for strategic Ethiopian city

NAIROBI: Ethiopian forces have mounted a fresh battle for the strategic northern city of Dessie, residents said yesterday, hours after Tigrayan rebels claimed to have taken control of it. The capture of Dessie by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on Saturday marked a new step in its offensive in the nearly year-long war, after it retook most of Tigray from federal forces in June and expanded its presence into neighboring regions. But yesterday, locals said renewed gun battles were under way in the city, with residents ordered to stay indoors by Ethiopian troops, who had returned to Dessie after reportedly retreating a day earlier.

"Soldiers told us they are fighting to take the city again... and told us no one should go out," said Mohammed, a Dessie resident who declined to give his second name. Desta, a former waiter in Dessie and gave only his first name, said he saw soldiers fighting in the streets. "They are firing but I had to close my window... to not get spotted", he said. Another resident Yemesirach, holed up indoors, said she could also hear gunfire, telling AFP she was "at home and scared".

A statement from the Ethiopian military communications office yesterday said: "The armed forces on the front will continue to clear the group of terrorists." "They are fighting to eliminate the invading force once and for all," the statement added. The TPLF did not respond to requests for comment. Much of northern Ethiopia is under a communications blackout and access for journalists is restricted, making battlefield claims difficult to verify independently.—AFP

CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

RECALL INFORMATION



Mazda Cars Model
CX9, CX5, CX3, M6,
M3, MX5
Model Year 2019

RECALL REASON

This campaign recalls Mazda CX9, CX5, CX3, M6, M3 & MX5 cars manufactured during a certain period, as it was found that there is a fault in the fuel pump

REMEDY

Fuel tank pumps will be replaced on all vehicles included in the recall campaign without any expenses paid by the customer

CONTACT

To book an appointment, please call customer service at 66279604 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm from Saturday to Thursday

THIS RECALL WAS ORGANISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARTICLES OF LAW (42,41,44,45,46,47) OF MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION NO. 139/2015 ISSUING EXECUTIVE REGULATION NO. 199/2016 REGARDING CONSUMER PROTECTION.

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Business

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021

NIC: A journey of remarkable successes and gains in 2021

Unprecedented performance attracts prestigious international awards

KUWAIT: National Investments Co achieved exceptional successes at various levels during 2021 based on steady steps and insightful vision. This emphasized the company's leading and prestigious position as one of the largest investment companies in Kuwait and the region, moving forward in implementing an ambitious and effective strategy based on effective presence in the market, gaining customer confidence, and promoting digital innovation in investment products and services.

During 2021, NIC won five prestigious awards from leading global platforms in recognition of the company's efforts to provide the highest level of investment services and financial products and its keenness to continue its excellent business performance. The awards are an incentive for further achievement and success in line with the interest NIC enjoys locally and regionally.

Chief Executive Officer, Fahad Al-Mukhaizim said: "The company has made a strong start during the year due to the positive performance in creating new trajectories of growth despite the economic challenges, seizing distinguished opportunities, seeking strengthening its leadership by offering wide-range investment products and services, and achieving outstanding financial returns, based on a clear investment approach and efforts if its team that has a long experience and a track record of achievements.

Market maker service

"As part of its efforts to launch services and products that keep pace with customer aspirations, NIC successfully launched on August 22, 2021, the Market Maker service in Boursa Kuwait. The stock of Boursa Kuwait Company was chosen to be the first company to benefit from the service, in addition to Gulf Cable Company. It is expected that more companies will be added over the next few weeks." Al-Mukhaizim explained.

He pointed out that NIC was keen to offer the market maker for providing liquidity to the company so that it benefits from the service through purchase and sell orders. Al-Mukhaizim added that the market maker aims to continuously achieve a balance between supply and demand, reduce the gap between buying and selling prices, provide continuous and real prices as well as the necessary quantities in case of buying/selling, and exploring the equilibrium price by factoring in supply and demand.

Developed digital services

Al-Mukhaizim said that NIC always seeks to transform its business into fully-fledged digital business using artificial intelligence. The company is in the process of rolling out NICTRADE digital platform for trading in Boursa Kuwait, GCC and USA markets in addition to 80 global markets. This adds value to customer experience when utilizing advanced technology through the website or the mobile trading apps. Al-Mukhaizim stated that the NICTRADE service enables customers to trade and invest in professional financial instruments, such as listed funds (ETFs), options contracts in US market (Options), real estate funds (REITs) and many financial instruments listed in international markets, in addition to the possibility of activating price change alerts or up-to-date news. This service also enables access to trading accounts and information about the market movement.

"Keeping pace with the digital transformation of business at the level of local and regional investment companies, NIC has launched the electronic portal service for customers through the company's website. The innovative "Client Portal" platform will facilitate the digital investment process and enable customers to access all services and products in the easiest way, not to mention saving time and raising the level of automation, while achieving the company's strategic goals in offering high quality services," Al-Mukhaizim said.

He explained that National Investments Co highlighted its business model that aims at acquiring customer satisfaction by providing products and services specifically designed to meet the requirements and needs of customers and achieve their short-term or long-term goals based on clear transparency standards and mutual agreement between customers and company officials about the levels of risk that are determined in advance. This enables NIC to gain solid reputation and places it among the major companies in Kuwait and the region. In parallel with launching several new products and services, NIC achieved great and unprecedented performance during the first half of 2021, as the company was able to achieve a net profit of KD 15.055 million and EPS of 18.87 fils.

In addition, National Investments Co achieved KD 239.514 million of total assets, a remarkable growth of approximately 15 percent as compared to KD 208.19 million for the same period of last year. Shareholders' equity attributable to the parent company witnessed a significant growth by about 19 percent, reaching KD 189.21 million at the end of the first half of this year, compared to KD 159.34 million for the same period of last year. It is worth noting that the company's distribution of cash dividends to shareholders amounted to approximately KD 9 million for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.

Regarding the outstanding financial results, Al-Mukhaizim said that the Company's fiduciary assets under management (AUM) as of the end of the first half of 2021 was KD 1.1 billion, despite the repercussions and vulnerabilities covid-19 imposed on the region and the world. He pointed out that NIC main-

tained profits and reserves that are distributable amounting to KD 38.9 million, which constitute 48.76 percent of the capital.

Al-Mukhaizim stated that the financial results achieved during the first half of 2021 were positive with NIC successfully attracting many new investments in the sectors of infrastructure, credit, information technology and private equity. Also, the company started 2021 with strong investment operations which included a number of mergers and acquisitions for the benefit of its clients, sales and restructuring operations, as well as concluding contracts to provide general advisory services.

Good distribution

On the other hand, Al-Mukhaizim explained that NIC succeeded during 2021 in maintaining the distributions to its clients who invest in its commercial real estate investments business in UK and USA, while increasing the annual current return to 10 percent from 9 percent annually in its real estate investments located in Manchester, UK.

He added that NIC invested with a group of clients in two projects to develop logistics warehouses in Europe, specifically in Italy and Germany, whereby the first project, a warehouse located in Italy, was leased to FedEx. The second project in Germany is in the final stages of signing a leasing contract with one of the major companies in the logistics sector. The two projects are expected to achieve an annual return of 8.0 percent and 8.5 percent respectively, all of which will be distributed on a quarterly basis.

Al-Mukhaizim explained that as part of NIC's expanded investment strategy of eyeing the technology sector, the company has recently succeeded in investing in the US-based (Pipe Technologies) company, which specializes in fast-growing fintech,



Fahad Al-Mukhaizim

Continuous growth

Al-Mukhaizim said that NIC maintains its excellence and ability to compete to gain the confidence of the investment community locally and abroad, adding that the future bodes well with many achievements in light of the promising strategy of the company. Such global recognitions place more responsibilities on NIC to maintain outstanding performance levels.

He expressed his happiness for the great efforts NIC made in achieving this high performance, the positive growth that is always in line with the strategic plan, and the commitment to achieving the best results for clients. These have been achieved by supporting investment decisions with accurate research and investing in quality assets and the absolute support from the Board of Directors and Executive Management. Al-Mukhaizim stressed that this approach will continue in the future with utmost precision and efficiency to optimally meet all customers' aspirations locally and regionally.

Prestigious awards

Thanks to the company's tireless efforts and distinguished performance during 2021, NIC received 5 prestigious awards from major specialized international platforms. The annual awards in various fields of work and at different periods of time, are certificates of appreciation and praise from the largest and most international bodies following up on the performance of financial and investment institutions in the region and the world. Along with many other awards the company wins annually in various fields of business, these awards confirm the success NIC achieved at various levels and represent a certificate of appreciation and praise from major international entities that assess the performance of financial and investment institutions in the region and the world.

Al-Mukhaizim said that NIC's winning of the current and previous awards is a strong motivation towards

- NIC strengthens its presence and leading position as one of the largest investment companies in Kuwait and the region
- Outstanding performance of NIC reflects the success of executive management in adopting effective strategies
- NIC made a strong start in 2021 by recording positive performance and creating new growth trajectories despite the economic challenges

explaining that it is the first trading platform in the world for recurring revenues with an estimated value of roughly \$2 billion.

Remarkable performance of funds

Meanwhile, the National Investments Co announced that its investment funds successfully achieved record performance ratios during the first nine months of 2021, thanks to the sound approach and prudent performance of the fund management team and the extensive experience the company enjoys in managing equity funds.

enhancing its performance and achieving permanent success thanks to the tireless efforts and valuable contributions of all the company's departments, which believe in the need to enhance work practices and raise them to the highest international levels.

He went on to explain that: The awards reflect the superiority of NIC in innovation, achievement, strategy implementation, and progressive and inspiring changes that occur within the financial sector. They also confirm that the company is on the right track, and that it operates with institutional maturity and transparency that guarantee customer satisfaction, especially in light of



Al-Mukhaizim said that the Al-Wataniya Investment Fund achieved a good performance during the first nine months of the year, with return of 25.35 percent, bringing the return since inception to 291.70 percent. He also added that Al-Darji Investment Fund (recorded a return of 20.82 percent during the same period) seeks to achieve the highest risk-based returns as it provides exposure to sharia-compliant equities in Kuwait and the GCC.

He pointed out that Zajil Fund recorded a good performance amounting to 18.76 percent, during the first nine months of the year. The fund aims to invest primarily in listed and unlisted equities in the services and telecommunications sectors in Kuwait and the Arab region, which abide by Islamic sharia.

On the level of Gulf funds, Al-Mukhaizim stated that Mawarid Fund for industrial and petroleum services has outperformed equity funds established in Kuwait as it achieved a return of 37.23 percent during the first nine months 2021, the highest performance among funds.

the professionalism it applies in all its activities or through dealing with various regulatory and supervisory authorities. Regarding the awards, NIC won the Best Asset Management Company of the Year, GCC 2021 from the leading financial platform Global Banking & Finance. The Award was given in recognition of NIC performance in asset management, being one of the largest regional companies in terms of the size of assets under management which reached KD 1.1 billion.

National Investments Company also won an international award for being the "Most Innovative Portfolio Management Company in Kuwait in 2021" by the global platform International Financial Awards. The award was granted based on figures, financial data, and approved growth rates in addition to internationally recognized technical standards to measure the steadiness and stability of the professional performance of the companies.

The third award was the Best Wealth Management Company in Kuwait for the year 2021, by UK-based Global Business Outlook platform, which is one of the

most prominent specialized publications in the financial sector and the leading platform in recognizing and rewarding investment and financial institutions worldwide. The evaluation process is based on a wide range of criteria such as business volume, innovation, leadership, credit ratings, asset quality, volume of assets under management, annual profits, efficiency ratios, key performance indicators, distinctive services and innovative products.

This award reflects NIC's commitment to providing the best services in wealth management. It also confirms the Company's ability and its outstanding relationships with customers, and the long-term partnerships that depend on great confidence and prudence in wealth management at professional levels, providing integrated investment products to customers, along with provision of solutions and plans that help them achieve their various financial goals.

Al-Mukhaizim added that NIC has a proven track record of distinguished relations with customers and long-term partnerships built on confidence and prudence in wealth management, while providing integrated products, solutions and plans, and adopting novel approaches of investment in wealth management. During 2021, the company succeeded in attracting new capital from funds and investment portfolios customers approximating \$73.05 million.

Best investment management award

NIC was also awarded the Best Investment Management Company in Kuwait for the year 2021, by the International Business Awards: the leading magazine in the world of business and financial investment, headquartered in Dubai, UAE. The award is an international recognition of the Company's excellent and outstanding performance in the various investment services it provides in Kuwait, being one of the largest investment companies in the region, in terms of the volume of assets under management, the management of acquisitions and mergers, in addition to the various investment services it manages.

Moreover, National Investments Company bagged the "Fastest Growing Investment Company Award" in Kuwait for the year 2021, from the International Finance Awards. The selection for the award was based on a wide range of investment criteria set by financial and business experts, the most important of which are the number and size of deals, services and investment advisory provided, and efforts to cope with the market, in addition to the advanced innovation and the outstanding performance locally and internationally.

Al-Mukhaizim said that NIC's obtaining this international recognition is evidence and an international recognition of the ability and efficiency of the company's team in providing advanced and innovative investment services and products that are compatible with market conditions and challenges.

He added: "This award comes as a result of the completion of several successful banking transactions by NIC during the year and the professionalism and accuracy the company shows, especially in merger and acquisition advisory services, listing advisory, financial advisory and others. It also reflects the tireless efforts, continuous work, and in-depth understanding of our clients' needs and investment requirements, as we believe that each client has unique requirements. Consequently, we follow the advisory method to find appropriate innovative solutions, not to mention the team's keenness to meet these needs through specialized expertise and flexibility in adaptation with market variables in order to achieve the best value for their investments." Al-Mukhaizim also praised the promising trajectory NIC follows, which is in line with its strategic plan and future vision.

Leading CSR

As part of its efforts to maintain its leading position among private sector companies at the humanitarian level and to consolidate its role as one of the largest investment companies in Kuwait, NIC maintains a proven track record of CSR. In this regard, the company intensified its strategic efforts as part of its annual program, by focusing on meeting the needs and requirements of those who need support and assistance out of social solidarity and its national and social responsibility sense. In cooperation with Al-Najat Charitable Society, NIC sponsored certain prominent and annual activities including sponsoring people memorizing the Holy Quran. It also sponsored various Ramadan projects in collaboration with Kuwait Food Bank.

Al-Mukhaizim indicated that NIC is committed to its role in society as part of a strategic plan prepared and implemented by the company, by participating in various fields of humanitarian, social and charitable work, especially through community contributions, raising awareness and community participation.

He added that NIC has made a qualitative leap in recent years in its social plans, as it considers this a duty dictated by its national sense to contribute to economic development which has a direct and effective impact on the development and growth of society.

Al-Mukhaizim stressed that the mission and vision of NIC require it to maintain playing its vital and effective role in various sectors in Kuwait, GCC and international markets, continuing its efforts in developing the resources of its customers by providing the best investment opportunities that achieve the highest returns, as well as maintaining work system and institutional strategy to provide positive performance, create new paths for growth, seize distinguished opportunities, and aspire towards leadership.

Business

Markaz unveils new website to enhance customer experience

Modern design, advanced interactive features, a user-friendly interface

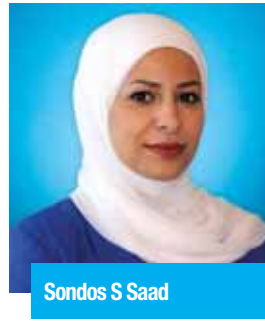
KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' announced the launch of its new website as part of its efforts to leverage digital technology to offer best-in-class investment information and opportunities.

Interactive features for an enriched experience

The new site's refreshed, modern design combines advanced interactive features, an easy-to-use interface, and engaging content to provide an enhanced user experience for the company's clients and investors as well as website visitors. The website address, www.markaz.com, remains the same. Created in accordance with the latest international trends and standards in website design and development to offer improved navigation and functionality, the new Markaz site allows easier and more secure access to information that fulfills the investment objectives of its stakeholders. The user interface has been completely refreshed to reflect the Markaz brand and its dynamic solutions, while also enabling website visitors to effortlessly browse and navigate through the company's comprehensive suite of asset management and investment banking products and services. Markaz's efforts to ensure that the user experience is optimized have resulted in new website features including a completely



Deena Y Al-Refai



Sondos S Saad

revised navigational structure, menus and user journey to enable intuitive and easy browsing; new search engine and improved search engine optimization to help users find the company's products and services from Google searches; and content tags and keywords in specific sections to allow easier navigation to related contents.

Dynamic information for investment funds

In response to the increasing interest of its clients and investors in funds, Markaz has made significant enhancements to the funds section on its new website. Users can now see a snapshot of the performance of all its funds, and all the data related

to funds is now available dynamically on the website, while they can still download the fund details as PDF files. Similarly, improvements have been made to Markaz's technology stack to use the latest and best solutions for performance, efficiency, reliability, and security so that the website provides the best user experience possible. In addition, Markaz has deployed a platform that allows it to continue to enhance and optimize the website and more easily introduce new features over time to respond to its client's evolving needs.

Understanding investors' needs

Commenting on the announcement, Deena Y Al-Refai, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations at Markaz, said: "At Markaz, we strive to listen to our clients and investors to understand their evolving needs. Through the launch of the new website, we have sought to meet their want for innovative, technology-driven solutions. We are committed to exploring new possibilities that digitalization offers to enhance our offerings and deliver solid returns especially in the post-COVID-19 era."

"Providing our existing and prospective clients with a better way to explore our products and services, the new website aims to bring a new level of digital

experience to their investment journey. In addition, there is also a dedicated Investor Relations section where users can find the latest regulatory information and disclosures," added Al-Refai.

Best international practices in website development

Sondos S Saad, Vice President, Media and Communications at Markaz, said: "Created with the user experience in mind, the new website's design reflects Markaz's constant evolution to better serve our stakeholders. We have incorporated cutting-edge features and followed the best international practices in website development to provide them with easier access to information. With its responsive design, the website can adapt to any device enabling our clients to seamlessly enjoy a superior user experience. In addition, we have simplified the navigation menus considering their valuable time."

She added: "Available both in English and Arabic to cater to a diverse audience, the new website ensures high levels of cybersecurity and confidentiality. We hope the new design and enhanced features will resonate with all website visitors and look forward to continuing to provide the best experience for our stakeholders both online and offline."

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

- Danah Ahmad Saleem
- Tarek Ibrahim Almoosa
- Mohammad Kareem Yousef
- Jassim Mohammad Qambar
- Mohammad Neamah Ali

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Fed set to begin stimulus taper amid inflation

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve is set to begin removing a major plank of the stimulus policies it rolled out last year as the pandemic began, a sign of the progress the US economy has posted since the historic downturn. While the American central bank is always capable of surprises, its top officials have widely signaled that they will announce at their policy meeting next week the start of a drawback in their monthly purchases of bonds and securities, which they began as the economy collapsed in March 2020 to stop the crisis from becoming a catastrophe.



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell testifies before the House Oversight And Government Reform Committee hearings, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.—AFP

The world's largest economy has undoubtedly come a long way from those dire days, but with an unpleasant passenger: inflation, which has spiked throughout much of this year, and caused some economists to name the Fed's easy money policies as an accessory. Fed Chair Jerome Powell could touch on these topics when he speaks following the two-day Federal Open Market Committee meeting beginning Tuesday, and may also offer the central bank's latest views on the state of the recovery.

"I think it'll be one of the biggest surprises in a long time if they didn't taper. They've been about as explicit as you can hope the Fed will ever get about a future action," Michael Feroli, chief US economist at JP Morgan, said.

Inflation as a test

Controlling inflation is one of the Fed's top priori-

CBK announces winners of Al-Najma weekly, salary draws

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait conducted the weekly draws on Al-Najma Account and Salary Transfer Campaign yesterday. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Ahmed Al-Basman.

The results of the draws were as follows:

- 1) Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 went to the winner Matrah Bnaya Al-Sulaimani
- 2) Salary account campaign - the prize of up to KD 1,000 went to the winner Ghaneemah Jassim Al-Khayat

The bank stated that the salary campaign is aimed at customers who transfer their salaries of KD 500 or more to the Bank, especially Kuwaiti employees and residents working in the government, oil sectors and companies listed with the Bank as well as retirees, and take advantage of the benefits of this campaign and get an instant cash gift from KD 400 to KD 500 or an interest-free loan for a period of up to four years and up to KD 70,000, Kuwaiti pensioner, along with expatriate customers who transfer their debt to the bank will receive an instant cash gift of 2 percent from their transferred debt up to KD 1,000.

ties, and its high level this year has tested the bank's policy of keeping its benchmark interest rate at zero for longer than in the past to spur a return to full employment. The latest sign of the wave came Friday when the Commerce Department—the central bank's preferred inflation gauge—reported prices rose 4.4 percent year-on-year in September.

The most potent policy move the Fed could make against inflation is raising its lending rate off zero.

Powell has made clear that doing that will require a "substantially more stringent test" and only come after tapering the bond purchases has finished. The Fed currently buys at least \$80 billion each month in Treasury bonds and at least \$40 billion in agency mortgage-backed securities. The purchases are intended to ease lending conditions as the economy weathers the pandemic.

Powell has previously said the buying could be wrapped up by the middle of next year, but details on the pace and composition of the taper, as well as its exact starting date, will have to wait for the meeting. At the gathering, Powell could find himself caught between the demands of inflation hawks who want rates hiked sooner and doves who see the zero rate as beneficial, said Standard Chartered's Head of North America Macro Strategy, Steve Englander.

"That's going to be the... debate internally, with the hawks wanting some room to speed it up if inflation doesn't come down and the doves kind of saying, you know, we have room to wait and see how things settle down," Englander said.

'Upside risks'

The Fed chair will likely signal what he makes of recent economic developments. These include data showing third quarter growth slowed to an annual rate of two percent from 6.7 percent the prior period as the Delta variant of COVID-19 hit businesses, and the weak 194,000 jobs the economy added in September.

Lackluster data usually supports keeping monetary policy easy, but there's evidence that stubbornly high prices are getting to FOMC members. At their last meeting in September, the committee forecast one interest rate hike next year and as many as three in 2023. In June, they predicted no rate hikes till 2023. Tim Duy, an economics professor at the University of Oregon, said that although central bank officials have indicated the price increases will eventually fade, Powell may opt to strike a hawkish tone at the post-meeting press conference.

"While the Fed has been willing to tolerate inflation and embrace the transitory story, I think there's much more concern that there's upside risks to inflation and those upside risks will require a policy response sooner than the Fed anticipates," Duy said.—AFP

China's factory activity slumps on energy woes

BEIJING: Factory activity in China plunged more than expected in October, official data showed yesterday, suggesting the industrial sector continued struggling as it grappled with tight power supply and surging raw material costs. The key Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) — a gauge of manufacturing activity in the world's second-largest economy—fell to 49.2 this month, down from 49.6 in September, said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This marks the second straight month in which China's PMI dipped below the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction. A Bloomberg poll of economists had pegged the reading at 49.7, which would have been a slight improvement.

Although the country's PMI contracted when the spread of COVID-19 — which first surfaced in the central city of Wuhan—forced most business activity to a halt, life has largely returned to normal as strict measures brought the outbreak under control. But the

NBS said yesterday: "In October, due to factors such as still-tight power supply and the high costs of some raw materials, the manufacturing PMI fell."

Both the production and new-order indexes were in contraction, pointing to weakening supply and demand, senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said in a statement. Meanwhile, the price index continued rising, reflecting higher purchase prices of raw materials such as petroleum and coal, and that of sales costs. The production index has fallen to among its lowest levels since 2005, said Pinpoint Asset Management chief economist Zhiwei Zhang—warning of stagflation. "A worrying sign is the passthrough of inflation from input prices," he said, adding this could pile pressure on consumer inflation. Tommy Xie of OCBC Bank told AFP that smaller companies appear to be "paying the price for the power shortages", suggesting the need for more policy support. Non-manufacturing activity fell in October also, official data showed, as authorities noted "the recovery of the service industry has slowed". China's non-manufacturing PMI came in at 52.4, down from 53.2 in September. While the reading still indicates expansion, helped by holiday activity in early October, the NBS said the threat of local outbreaks continued to cast a pall over consumer sentiment.—AFP

markaz.com

One step closer to your investment journey

The new, improved website of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" will help you navigate through investment opportunities to achieve your goals and take you on an ever-evolving journey to creating wealth.

Visit Markaz's new website markaz.com and enjoy a whole new experience that caters to your every investment need.



Business

Subscription in KIPCO shares now open to existing shareholders

Capital increase will support healthy expansion of our core businesses: Al-Ayyar

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - invited its shareholders to subscribe to the increase in the company's capital. The issue of 640,000,000 new shares represents 32 percent of KIPCO's existing issued and paid-up share capital of KD 200,000,000.



Faisal Al-Ayyar

The offering period begins today and will close on November 21, and the share's offering price will be 125 fils (including the nominal value of 100 fils per share and the issuance premium of 25 fils). KIPCO's Board of Directors approved the rights issue in early August, announcing that it intended to raise the company's issued and paid-up capital from KD 200,000,000 to KD 264,000,000. Necessary regulatory approvals have since been obtained.

Faisal Al-Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), said: "KIPCO's capital increase comes as part of our long-term strategy of growing our portfolio of companies. Both our core businesses in banking and insurance are raising their own capital, and we look to support the healthy expansion of their activities. This exercise will also allow us to maintain KIPCO's balanced capital structure."

AVEVA publishes ethnicity pay gap data

DUBAI: AVEVA, a global leader in industrial software, driving digital transformation and sustainability, is publishing its first Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap Report. In addition to reporting on its global gender pay gap for the second year, the company has collated data on race and ethnicity for the first time, starting with employees in the UK and US, two of its largest countries. It is one of only 14 FTSE 100 companies to do so. This is a complex subject and circumstances vary by country, but AVEVA believes it is important to start to address this topic where it can; disclosing and understanding the data is an important step in its journey.

"We are committed to leading progress and being transparent about our plans, which we are demonstrating with our first DEI targets," says Peter Herweck, CEO of AVEVA.

The company's global gender pay gap contin-

ues to close, and there were improvements in 15 of its largest 20 countries. AVEVA was pleased to achieve such high disclosure rates for its ethnicity pay gap analysis with 84 percent and 95 percent of the workforce participating in the UK and US respectively.

AVEVA is committed to creating an inclusive company culture that promotes equity and belonging for its employees and customers. The company has an important opportunity to become an employer of choice for STEM candidates and an inclusive place to work for all employees and future employees from diverse backgrounds.

It is pleased to have set its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) targets focused on gender diversity:

- 50 percent Women new hires by 2030
- 40 percent Women managers by 2030
- 30 percent Women in leadership by 2030



Peter Herweck

The company is in the process of setting goals and targets for ethnicity/race, disability, sexual orientation and religion and belief which are aligned to its global strategy to improve other areas of DEI.

Currently there are no regulatory requirements in the UK to report on ethnicity pay gaps, however AVEVA believes in data transparency and the value of data to inform strategy and decisions and support current action to make this mandatory in the UK. With respect to hiring, training and promotion practices, it will provide insight to promote equity and belonging, and a workforce which reflects the communities in which it operates. AVEVA is continuing to drive forward its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan to achieve this and looks forward to sharing learnings across its business and with likeminded organizations.

AVEVA was pleased to be recognized for its efforts at the recent Global Equality and Diversity Awards where it won the Transparency Award and secured a commendation in the Inclusive Workplace Award.

Herweck adds, "We believe that AVEVA is enriched by diversity and are making effort to bring about positive change together, ensuring AVEVA is a great place to belong."

Kalyan Jewellers' 150th showroom launched in Delhi

KUWAIT: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewelry brands, recently launched its brand new showrooms at Noida The Great India Place GIP Mall and Vegas Mall, Dwarka. Inaugurated by Kalyan Jewellers' regional ambassadors Wamiqa Gabbi (Punjab), Manju Warriar (Kerala) and Ritabhari Chakrobarty (West Bengal), these outlets usher the brand towards the milestone of 150 showrooms across India and Middle East, reflecting its wide footprint across markets. On the occasion of the launch, Wamiqa Gabbi, Kalyan Jewellers' regional brand ambassador for Punjab said, "During my association with Kalyan Jewellers, I have been a part of many showroom inaugurations, but the ones we are launching today are especially special, as it marks the 150th showroom occasion."

Manju Warriar, regional brand ambassador for Kerala added, "I have been a part of the Kalyan Journey since 2013, and I consider it a matter of personal pride and happiness that I am here for this landmark moment." Regional Brand ambassador for West Bengal, Ritabhari Chakrobarty added, "After visiting the Kalyan showrooms in West Bengal and now in Delhi, I have to add that I really admire the vast range of the collections here, and the hyper-local designs that are specially curated according to the region. I look forward to being a part of the journey where Kalyan Jewellers reaches new heights in the years to come."

Talking about the new showrooms, TS Kalyanaraman, Chairman and Managing Director - Kalyan Jewellers said, "Today, marks a very special moment for us - with these two new showrooms in Delhi NCR, Kalyan Jewellers is at the golden milestone of 150 showrooms across India and the Middle East. Being a customer-first brand, our priority has



NEW DELHI: Kalyan Jewellers' regional ambassadors Wamiqa Gabbi (Punjab), Manju Warriar (Kerala) and Ritabhari Chakrobarty (West Bengal), inaugurate its new showrooms

always been giving our patrons maximum value from their purchases, and our showrooms reflect this focus with their extensive product range as well as the safe and best-in-class shopping experience they offer to everyone who visits us. We would like to reiterate our commitment to patrons as we continue expanding our footprint across our key markets."

As part of this festive offer, customers will be able to maximize the value of their purchases with up to 25 percent cashback on their jewelry purchases. While

up to 25 percent cashback can be availed on making charges of gold jewelry, up to 20 percent cashback offers are available on the diamond, precious stone and uncut diamond jewelry collections. Cashback offers can be availed in the form of instantly redeemable vouchers. Customers can also opt for the Gold Rate Protection plan, by paying 10 percent advance on their intended purchase value. These offers are valid until Nov 30th, 2021, across all showrooms in Kuwait.

NBK money markets report

US recovery hit by supply chain bottlenecks

KUWAIT: Around the world, central bankers and government officials are struggling to assure that the recent spikes in inflation are temporary and will not lead to faster than expected rate hikes. Most of the world has seen significant surges in the cost of living since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020.

The eurozone is widely expected to register its highest figure since the financial crisis at 3.7 percent. In Russia, Nigeria, and Brazil, inflation has been reported well above 4 percent. Moreover, in the US, overall prices matched a 13-year high of 5.4 percent y/y in September. The US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank both maintain the view that inflation is transitory and price hikes are not expected any time soon. Leading a more hawkish approach, the BOE is on its way to be the first major central bank to hike rates, the BOC abruptly ended its bond-buying program, and the RBNZ already raised interest rates for the first time in seven years.

GDP slumps during supply crunch

The US economy grew at a slower pace in Q3 of 2021 amid supply chain bottlenecks, surging inflation, and a wave of the Delta variant. Data released last week revealed GDP registered 2 percent growth on a yearly basis for the third quarter, marking a sharp slowdown from the 4.5 percent and 6.7 percent growth seen in Q1 and Q2 respectively.

However, upon closer inspection, data has provided a more positive outlook for growth. For starters, the data suggests that absent of the chip shortage that has hurt the auto industry severely, the economy would

have registered 4.7 percent growth for Q3, roughly in line with the pace so far this year. Meanwhile, "final sales to domestic purchasers" rose 6.6 percent, and is a federal government measure of economy-wide demand that is not adjusted for inflation. The figure is perfectly on track with pre-pandemic trends and indicates that while business and consumers spent more, they took home fewer goods and services due to higher prices.

Additionally, household consumption of services continued to rebound, suggesting the economy is continuing to recover from last year's lockdowns that caused a collapse in the service sector and a corresponding surge in consumption of goods. Finally and perhaps one of the largest contributors to a positive outlook on growth, was a robust 9.2 percent gain in compensation of employees at private businesses. Compensation is now slightly above pre-pandemic trends and easily outpaces the rise in inflation.

Despite the disappointing figure, the report relieves recent worries of stagflation, which entails negative growth coinciding high inflation. While prices are rising, there is no decline in spending power. Consumers and business are on the path of rebalancing from goods to services, causing the supply-chain bottlenecks that should prove temporarily. As soon as those bottlenecks are cleared, the world's largest economy should be well positioned to return to higher growth.

Durable goods orders

Highlighting the weakness in auto, orders for US durable goods fell 0.4 percent in September following a 1.3 percent rise the month prior, marking the first decline after four months of consecutive gains. The bulk of the decline was attributed to the 2.3 percent drop in transportation orders, with non-defense aircraft orders decreasing 27.9 percent. Core capital goods orders, which exclude aircraft and military hardware, gained 0.8 percent following a 0.5 percent increase the month prior. The core figure data indicates businesses stayed optimistic on the economic outlook even as the Delta variant continued to spread. While the trend in core orders have been resilient, September's data demonstrates the manufacturing sec-

tors struggle with a lack of supply.

Lagarde sees no rate hikes

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde attempted to downplay the chances of a rate hike for 2022 during Thursday's press conference, warning that markets may be getting ahead of themselves with inflation predictions. Inflation in the eurozone reached a 13-year high of 3.4 percent in September. Yet, Lagarde appeared confident with the banks view, noting that they had "really looked and very deeply tested our analysis of the drivers of inflation, and we are confident that our anticipation and our analysis is actually correct."

Nonetheless, money markets are pricing in the probability of a 20 basis points hike for December 2022 as investors believe the bank may be forced to announce a hike before the start of 2023. However, it appears that the ECB is maintaining its view that higher inflation is temporary and will fade throughout 2022. The central bank opted to keep interest rates and its monetary policy stance unchanged as widely expected.

Contrary to the ECB, last week the Bank of Canada surprised investors by abruptly ending its bond-buying program and pulling forward the expected timeline for interest rate rises. "The main forces pushing up prices - higher energy prices and pandemic-related supply bottlenecks - now appear to be stronger and more persistent than expected," the BOC said in a statement. Policymakers opted to end the bank's holding of Canadian government bonds while maintaining its benchmark rate at 0.25 percent. However, the BOC's forecast suggests inflation is on pace to reach the 2 percent target in Q2 or Q3 of 2022 versus earlier expectations for the target to hit in the second half of 2022.

The move triggered a heavy sell-off in Canadian government debt, sending the yield on the two-year Canadian bond to a high of 1.262 percent after trading near 0.85 percent prior to the announcement. Similar to the UK, Australia, and US, yields have been rising steadily as investors bet on higher rates.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30165.

Aramco profits soar 158% on higher oil prices

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco's earnings rose 158 percent year-on-year in the third quarter on higher oil prices and volumes sold as the global economy recovered, it said yesterday. Aramco's profits surge comes as world leaders prepare for the UN's COP26 climate summit starting in Glasgow later yesterday, a key meeting in the battle against global warming.

Aramco's net income was \$30.4 billion in the third quarter, up from \$11.8 billion in Q3 last year, with free cash flow more than doubling to \$28.7 billion. Shareholders will receive \$18.8 billion in dividends.

The profits are the biggest since Aramco listed on the Saudi stock exchange in December 2019, before suffering a 44.4 percent slump in 2020.

"The increase in net income was primarily the result of higher crude oil prices and volumes sold," the Saudi oil giant said in its earnings statement. It also cited "stronger refining and chemicals margins in Q3, which were underpinned by rebounding global energy demand and increased economic activity in key markets".



Amin Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco

The latest rise comes after profits nearly quadrupled in Q2 as the world economy bounced back from the COVID crisis, lifting demand and pushing oil prices back above \$80 a barrel. "Some headwinds still exist for the global economy, partly due to supply chain bottlenecks, but we are optimistic that energy demand will remain healthy for the foreseeable future," Aramco chief executive Amin Nasser said.

Nasser claimed that Aramco will "build on our track record of low-cost and low-carbon intensity performance" after announcing last week that it intends to achieve net zero carbon emissions in its operations by 2050. The carbon-neutrality pledge by Aramco, the world's biggest oil producer, was met by skepticism by environmentalists as it excludes emissions from the company's products.

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's biggest polluters as well as the top oil exporter, has also pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060. Earlier this month Aramco announced that it planned to raise oil production to a maximum sustainable capacity of 13 million barrels a day by 2027.

In the latest statement, Aramco said its total hydrocarbon production was the equivalent of 12.9 million barrels a day, including 9.5 million barrels of crude. It said it also has a 30 percent stake in the 1.5 gigawatt Sudair solar plant, which will be one of the biggest in the region and will start producing in the second half of 2022. Aramco added that it has expanded an investment program partly focused on sustainability and would be "targeting new opportunities to achieve carbon footprint reduction". —AFP

British and French leaders declare truce in fishing row

Countries avert a full-blown trade war that could embroil entire EU

ROME: The French and British leaders agreed yesterday to defuse days of sniping over post-Brexit fishing rights, according to Paris, potentially averting a full-blown trade war that would embroil the entire EU. President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Boris Johnson met for about 25 minutes on the margins of a G20 summit in Rome, aides said, a day after Johnson complained to EU chief Ursula von der Leyen that French threats to trigger reprisals over the row were "completely unjustified". They agreed to work on "practical and operational measures" to resolve the dispute in the coming days, Macron's office said. They were united on the need for a "de-escalation" with concrete action to come "as soon as possible", it said.

There was no immediate comment from Downing Street. Johnson has been stressing at the G20 that all sides must focus on the bigger picture of climate change as he prepares to host more than 120 world leaders at the COP26 summit from today.

But both the UK and French governments had been intensifying their angry rhetoric, and France last week detained a British trawler that was allegedly fishing illegally in its waters. The two sides have also been at loggerheads over a nuclear submarine alliance involving Australia, Britain and the United States, dubbed AUKUS, that left France in the cold.

France is incensed that Britain and the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey have not issued some French boats licenses to fish in their waters since Brexit took full effect at the start of 2021.

'Credibility'

Paris had vowed that unless more licenses are approved, it would ban UK boats from unloading their catches at French ports from tomorrow, and even impose checks on all products brought to France from Britain. On Friday, French Prime Minister Jean Castex said in a leaked letter to von der Leyen that Britain should be shown "it causes more damage to leave the EU than to stay in".

The letter drew a withering response from British officials, and Johnson warned that London could activate a Brexit dispute tool for the first time, exposing all of the EU to potential UK trade measures.

For his part, Macron warned Friday that Britain's "credibility" was on the line, accusing London of ignoring the Brexit trade deal agreed with Brussels after years of tortuous negotiations. "When you spend years negotiating a treaty and then a few months later you do the opposite of what was decided on the aspects that suit you the least, it is not a big sign of your credibility," he told the Financial Times. — AFP



LE HAVRE, France: The trawler 'Cornelis-Gert Jan Dumfrjies', which is docked in the northern French port of Le Havre as it waits to be given permission to leave Saturday. — AFP

Burgan Bank receives PCI-DSS compliance certification for 2nd consecutive year

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank has received the Payment Card Information Security Standards certification (PCI-DSS 3.2.1) for the second consecutive year, confirming its commitment to comply with the application of the best global standards to protect its credit cards.

The PCI-DSS is the highest level of protection provided to customers, developed by reputed international organizations such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express. This certificate, granted by ControlCase, is awarded to banks that adhere to the highest international standards ensuring data security on credit cards and bank payments. ControlCase is an international company accredited by the Payment Card Information Security Standards Council and



authorized by Visa International to award PCI-DSS certification. Burgan Bank's information security systems and networks have successfully passed ControlCase's extensive testing and the Bank was certified by merit of adhering to all international requirements.

Burgan Bank's PCI-DSS 3.2.1 second consecutive certification confirms the Bank's strong strategic com-

mitment to guarantee the security of its customers' cards and banking information, in addition to its firm resilience facing the recent global economic difficulties and the increasing security threats affecting the digital financial services industry. This is a testament to the success of the Bank's efforts to establish a reliable, secure and sustainable digital infrastructure. It also reflects the management's engagement to adhere to the highest global standards of cards information security in order to guarantee the best banking experience through service quality and security.

Speaking about this latest certification, Raed Abdullah Al-Haqhaq, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer and Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait, said "As the banking world is moving towards greater digitization and technology adoption, safeguarding customers' data and ensuring utmost privacy of their information is a top priority. It has become crucial for financial institutions to ensure the integration of a solid and reliable cybersecurity infrastructure, as well as its regular update and enhancement to keep pace with the industry's development. At Burgan Bank, we have firmly embedded this into our business strategy, simultaneously uplifting our security framework as we continue to elevate our customer experience."

On his part, Andrew Singh, the Group Chief Risk Officer at Burgan Bank said "At Burgan Bank, we are always keen to provide our customers with the best banking experience and to put their needs first. Therefore, we pay special attention to the protection and safety of their personal and banking data. The PCI-DSS 3.2.1 certificate is a testament to our firm commitment to the internationally recognized standards that are crucial to the success of our mission of customer service excellence."

"Burgan continues to apply a strategic approach towards adopting the highest international standards in all its operating procedures. It also keeps integrating the latest cybersecurity technologies to guarantee effective and safe systems that deliver seamless and secure electronic payment services to its customers locally, regionally, and internationally," added Singh.

Burgan Bank has also demonstrated its commitment to the highest standards of excellence by receiving three ISO certificates in recognition of its ongoing efforts, namely, the Information Security Management System standard certificate (ISO 27001:2013), the IT Services Management Certificate (ISO 20000:2018) and the Excellence in Quality Management System Certificate ISO 9001:2015.



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 28 OCTOBER 2021

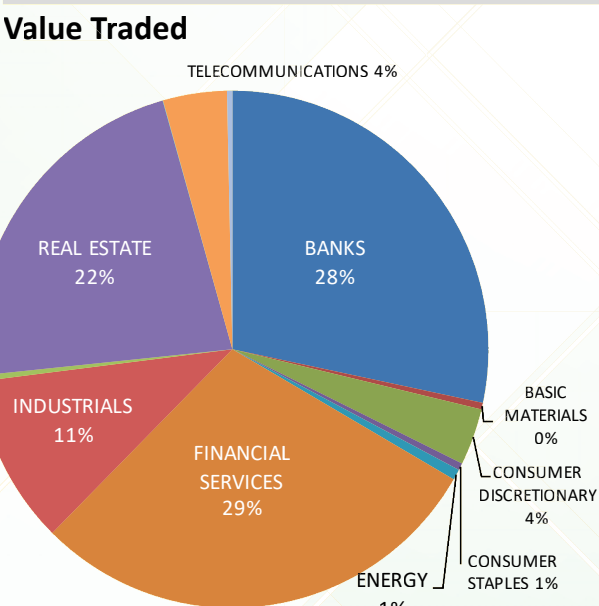
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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	31,130	7,678.21	1.9%	2.4%	26.9%	559,126,638	199,702,584	24,889	27.4	2.3	74.8%
Main Market	10,465	5,986.66	1.5%	6.5%	31.5%	2,377,983,968	205,913,618	69,081	21.6	4.9	25.2%
All Share	41,596	7,100.13	1.8%	3.4%	28.0%	2,937,110,606	405,616,202	93,970	26.1	3.0	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	23,863	1,617.61	1.9%	2.6%	28.1%	279,162,907	114,900,060	10,221	30.2	2.3	56.85%
BASIC MATERIALS	981	1,099.52	0.1%	1.0%	22.4%	3,058,525	1,670,691	692	24.4	1.6	2.34%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	652	1,269.80	4.1%	13.7%	70.1%	77,767,148	14,389,007	4,018	9.9	57.9	1.55%
CONSUMER STAPLES	236	775.29	-1.4%	-1.0%	-5.3%	3,379,380	1,787,674	426	16.0	1.6	0.56%
ENERGY	304	1,459.89	2.5%	6.0%	14.3%	61,654,526	2,704,914	1,455	15.2	1.4	0.72%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,049	1,429.04	2.7%	8.3%	53.7%	1,104,767,489	117,723,525	30,986	9.5	1.9	9.65%
HEALTH CARE	394	794.85	0.0%	-0.1%	-3.8%	2,644	1,202	7	27.9	5.3	0.94%
INDUSTRIALS	4,294	1,210.50	2.2%	3.7%	35.8%	211,844,246	42,938,124	12,128	27.7	1.8	10.23%
INSURANCE	617	1,478.72	0.9%	2.0%	27.9%	16,038,333	1,457,505	827	10.8	1.3	1.47%
REAL ESTATE	2,943	1,369.92	2.9%	7.1%	43.8%	949,525,366	90,212,197	28,297	27.7	1.3	7.01%
TECHNOLOGY	11	807.53	9.9%	13.0%	60.6%	1,018,968	108,968	88	n.a	0.9	0.03%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,369	1,098.54	-0.7%	0.3%	-0.3%	223,049,847	16,348,510	4,440	20.0	1.4	8.03%
UTILITIES	259	618.42	0.0%	-0.8%	-15.2%	5,841,227	1,373,827	385	20.3	4.9	0.62%

Top Gainers						Top Losers					
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MENA	87	94.2	231,598,231	19,807,719	7,858	HCC	161	-9.0	70,002	11,180	10
LAND	124	25.3	20,574,323	2,410,611	889	TAMINV	378	-6.9	778,213	296,127	77
SALBOOKH	60.5	24.2	66,138,964	4,061,975	2,329	KPROJ	147.0	-6.4	11,711,391	1,801,078	382
ALAQARIA	55	23.3	25,356,864	1,268,015	810	SECH	107	-6.1	40,560,860	4,449,750	905
TAAMEER	41.8	21.2	52,252,457	2,116,550	1,251	FTI	54.0	-5.3	169,108	9,327	37

Top Volume						Top Value					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFH	78	10.8	266,711,585	19,777,949	5,155	NBK	990	3.8	39,436,541	38,093,725	2,786
MENA	87	94.2	231,598,231	19,807,719	7,858	GBK	246	2.5	91,979,146	22,353,819	1,172
AAN	18	6.6	199,405,726	3,399,775	1,935	MENA	87	94.2	231,598,231	19,807,719	7,858
KRE	180	9.1	93,359,572	16,214,126	2,207	GFH	78	10.8	266,711,585	19,777,949	5,155
GBK	246	2.5	91,979,146	22,353,819	1,172	KFH	832	1.1	23,659,278	19,580,559	2,186



Market Summary:

- In an exceptional week, and on daily average trading, Premier market volume and value increased 51% and 63%, respectively. Main market volume and value increased 36% and 30%, respectively.
- All indexes managed to close at a new all-time high record due to Q3 positive announcements, especially in the banking sector.
- Technically, the All-Share index registered a new all-time high-level closing at 7100 creating support levels at 7042, 7000, and 6960. Staying above 7070 will lead to 7205 passing the resistance at 7105. Premier index registered a new all-time high-level closing at 7678 creating support levels at 7641, 7607, and 7578. Staying above 7660 will lead to 7205 passing the resistance at 7688. The Main index registered a new all-time high-level closing at 5986 creating a support level at 5960, 5925, and 5902. Staying above 5975 will lead to 6065.

Lifestyle | Features



Director of Tunisia's Carthage Film Festival Ridha Behi delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the 32nd edition of the cinema event in the capital Tunis. — AFP photos



Egyptian actress Nelly Karim holds her Golden Tanit honoring her professional career.



Senegalese director and journalist Baba Diop holds the Golden Tanit award honoring his professional career.



Tunisian actor Fethi Haddaoui arrives for the opening ceremony.



Producers arrive for the opening ceremony of the 32nd edition of the cinema event in the capital Tunis.

TUNISIA FILM FESTIVAL OPENS WITH 'TABOO' ABORTION MOVIE

Tunisia's prestigious Carthage Film Festival has opened with a screening of "Lingui"-a movie from Chad about a teenage girl who seeks an abortion. The festival showcases 57 diverse films from 45 Arab and African countries, with screenings not only in cinemas, but in prisons and military barracks too. Social issues are a common thread of the festival, with the opening film Lingui, by Chadian director Mahamat-Saleh

Haroun, telling the story of a 15-year-old seeking an abortion in a country where it is condemned.

Haroun said he was honored to open the festival Saturday with "a taboo subject". "It is a... political choice on the part of the festival, because it is a sub-Saharan film, which talks about the rights of women, in Arab countries and around the world," he said. Under the slogan "Let's dream, Let's live", the festival is

taking place across the capital Tunis this week, with screenings and talks until Saturday. The festival is "intended to be a celebration of art, creativity, cinema and life", organizers say, and hopes to explore "new cinematographic trends in Africa and the Arab world".

Entries from Arab nations include films from Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Yemen, while from sub-Saharan Africa they include movies from Ghana,

Madagascar, Mali, Somalia and South Africa. Other films include Egyptian director Ali Al-Arabi's 2021 film "Captains of Zaatar", about refugees in Jordan wanting to become professional footballers, and Jessica Beshir's 2021 film from Ethiopia, "Faya Dayi", of young people's dreams under a harsh regime.

The official selection also includes a documentary by Syrian filmmaker Amel Al-Zakout, "Purple Sea", made from

images filmed when she fled Syria and the boat on which she was travelling sank off the Greek coast. Veteran Italian producer Enzo Porcelli is chair of the jury, alongside others including Angolan actor Hoji Fortuna, Egyptian film critic Tareq Al-Shennawy, Iranian director Ahmad Bahrami and Haitian director Gessica Geneus. — AFP

Alec Baldwin says fatal shooting was 'one in a trillion'

US actor Alec Baldwin said Saturday in his first public comments on his fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins with a prop gun on a movie set that the tragedy was a "one in a trillion episode." In footage aired by TMZ, Baldwin and his wife Hilaria spoke to reporters who intercepted them in Manchester, Vermont. The Hollywood star declined to comment on the investigation of the shooting on the set of the 19th-century Western "Rust" on October 21.



In this file photo US actor Alec Baldwin attends DreamWorks Animation's 'The Boss Baby: Family Business' premiere at SVA Theatre in New York City. — AFP

Baldwin has previously tweeted to express his grief over the tragedy, and said he is cooperating with police investigating the killing. "She was my family," he told the reporters in the footage. "There are incidental accidents on film sets from time to time, but nothing like this. This is a one in a trillion episode." Calls have grown since the incident for better control of weapons on Hollywood sets, and Baldwin said the effort was "something I am extremely interested in." But he could not say whether he would ever work with firearms on a set again.

He also said that production on "Rust," which was suspended immediately after the killing, would not resume. Baldwin, who was a producer as well as the lead actor in the film, fired a live round from a Colt .45 during a rehearsal on the set of "Rust." The round passed through Hutchins' body and struck director Joel Souza in the shoulder. She died, while he

was treated in hospital for the injury and released. Baldwin, who had been told by the film's assistant director that the gun was "cold"-meaning it did not have a live round in the chamber-said he could not comment on the ongoing investigation.

The assistant director, Dave Halls, has since told detectives that he did not fully check the gun before declaring it safe. Halls was fired as assistant director on a previous movie for gun safety violations, that film's producers said this week.

'Well-oiled crew'

The film's armorer said in a statement on Friday that she had "no idea" where the live round came from. Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, 24, was responsible for supplying and keeping weapons safe on set, ensuring that they were accounted for at all times and locked away when not in use. She "never witnessed anyone shoot live rounds with these guns and nor would she permit that," the statement said. "They were locked up every night and at lunch and there's no way a single one of them was unaccounted for or being shot by crew members."

More than a dozen weapons were being stored in a prop truck on the set, according to law enforcement documents seen by AFP on Friday. Gutierrez-Reed spoke after days of reports suggesting safety lapses on set. Authorities have said they do not rule out pressing criminal charges. Investigators in Santa Fe, where "Rust" was being made, said they had seized a cache of ammunition, some of which they believe was live, and the sheriff told reporters there was "some complacency" on set.

Baldwin said that the day he arrived in Santa Fe he had taken Hutchins and Souza to dinner. "We were a very, very ... well-oiled crew shooting a film together and then this horrible event happened," he said. And he described meeting Hutchins' widower and son, saying they were "overwhelmed with grief." — AFP

Guns can safely be used on film sets, says Matthew McConaughey

Real guns can safely be used on movie sets so long as protocols are followed, US actor Matthew McConaughey has told AFP in an interview, as calls mount to ban firearms from filmmaking in the wake of the deadly "Rust" shooting. Nearly 80,000 people have signed a petition to permanently remove firearms from sets after Alec Baldwin fatally shot a cinematographer on the New Mexico set of the low-budget Western last week.

Baldwin fired the Colt .45 during a rehearsal after being told it was safe, with the man who handed him the gun later admitting to police he had not fully checked it for live rounds. "There's a safety protocol, and if it's followed, it can be safe on set," McConaughey said Thursday in the interview, conducted via



Zoom. The Oscar-winning "Dallas Buyers Club" actor described the incident as a "horrible accident that could easily have not happened." "I've been on many sets where I'm dealing with firearms. There is an understood protocol.

"When any firearm is handed from one person to another, when it gets on set, there's a means of communication. "One of the beautiful things about how film sets work-the organization is incredible. And they missed protocol. Somewhere. I don't know if they were in a rush." The "Rust"

armorer responsible for weapons on the film set said Friday she has "no idea" why there were live rounds present. Prosecutors have refused to rule out criminal charges including against Baldwin, who was a producer on "Rust" as well as the lead actor.

Baldwin had been told by assistant director Dave Halls that it was a "cold gun"-industry lingo for an inert firearm. While not criticizing Baldwin, McConaughey said he "personally would try to always take even more steps" as an actor using a gun, including checking the weapon himself. "You hear 'cold'-now I want a visual," said the Texan star. "If you and I are in a scene together, I need to give you visual. If it's a six shooter, do you see light through all six holes? "Let me look you in the eye, you confirm, and you yell it out, 'cold.'" He added: "You can't over-confirm it."

Advocates of a ban of real firearms on Hollywood sets say that gunshot effects such as the loud bang and muzzle flash can easily be added to fake rubber guns in post-production with modern technology. "What do I think about that? I think you should follow protocol. And it should be non-negotiable," said McConaughey. — AFP

US rapper Fetty Wap charged with drug trafficking

US rapper Fetty Wap was on Friday charged in a conspiracy to sell hard drugs including heroin across the New York area, allegedly acting as a trafficking "redistributor." The artist also known as William Junior Maxwell II was one of six men indicted by prosecutors in Brooklyn, the US justice department said in a statement. They are accused of transporting, distributing and selling more than 100 kilograms of cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and crack cocaine across Long Island and New Jersey.

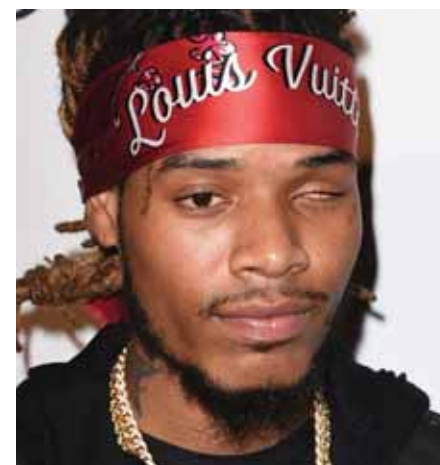
Between June 2019 and June 2020, the defendants allegedly obtained the drugs on America's west coast and used

the United States Postal Service and drivers with hidden vehicle compartments to transport the narcotics to New York. The substances were then distributed to dealers who sold them on Long Island and in New Jersey, prosecutors allege. A corrections officer in New Jersey was among those arrested. "Maxwell was a kilogram-level distributor for the trafficking organization," the justice department said.

Prosecutors said approximately \$1.5

million in cash, 16 kilograms of cocaine, two kilograms of heroin, numerous fentanyl pills and several guns were discovered during searches. "The fact that we arrested a chart-topping rap artist and a corrections officer as part of the conspiracy illustrates just how vile the drug trade has become," said Michael Driscoll of the FBI's New York office. FBI agents arrested 30-year-old Maxwell on Thursday afternoon at the Citi Field baseball stadium in Queens where he had been scheduled to perform at the Rolling Loud music festival.

He was due to be arraigned in court later on Friday. If convicted the defendants face a maximum of life imprisonment. Maxwell gained recognition when his debut single "Trap Queen" reached number two in the US charts in 2015. — AFP



In this file photo rapper Fetty Wap arrives for the Clive Davis & The Recording Academy's 2016 Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP



A rider team poses in the Petra touristic site during the fifth and last stage of the Gallops of Jordan in Petra, south Amman. — AFP photos



Riders take care of their horses during the first stage of the Gallops of Jordan.

Gallop across the shimmering red sands of Jordan's spectacular Wadi Rum valley, more than one hundred riders on horses swept through the lunar-like desert as part of an epic long-distance race. The 200-kilometre (125-mile) five-day long "Gallops" race, involving mainly amateur jockeys, started in Wadi Rum and ended Friday in the famed ancient desert city of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Quazane, an amateur French team comprised of five women medics, took second place, beating the all-male Royal Cavalry of Oman into third spot. The race was won by another French team, Blue Ghallah, made up of three women and two men. The cross-country team event, which organizers billed as an "orienteeering and endurance equestrian race" across "sparse desert terrains, canyons and mountains" has previously taken place in India, Morocco and Oman. "It is a great experience that allows us to discover a new country," said 27-year-old Camille Cerf, a model who won Miss France six years ago. Organizers say the race draws not only on horse-riding skills, but also competitors' "stamina, their spirit of solidarity, as well as their self-discipline."

Riders included Emeline Parmentier, a 26-year-old Belgian who lost both her legs from above the knee in a car crash in 2019, and who took part using a specially fitted saddle. "After the accident, I said to myself: Well I can't walk anymore, and if I don't walk I won't discover new things-now riding horses is like walking again," she said.

Boost to tourism

Other riders included Princess Jalila bint Ali, from Jordan's royal family. The race in Jordan brought together riders



Riders ride their horses during the first stage of the Gallops of Jordan.

from across Europe, and as far as Argentina, the United States, Indonesia and Japan. "We have 133 riders from 16 countries," race organizer Badi Kabir told AFP. All the horses come from Jordan. Looking around at the majestic dunes and stunning rock formations of Wadi Rum-where Peter O'Toole was filmed riding his horse in the 1962 epic

"Lawrence of Arabia"-Parmentier said the landscapes she rode through were "amazing".

The race finished in front of the famous rock-carved Treasury at Petra, where scenes from the 1989 Hollywood blockbuster "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" were shot. "I think all the photos we can take will never describe a

quarter of what we see here," Parmentier said. The COVID-19 pandemic badly dented Jordan's tourism industry, which represented over a tenth of its GDP.

The race had been postponed due to coronavirus travel restrictions, and the fact it finally went ahead was seen by tour guide Mohamed Saleem as early

evidence of a recovering tourism sector. "Everyone here is happy," he said. "The pandemic affected us a lot, and we lost our income... I hope that such races will attract the attention of tourists and bring them back." —AFP



Former miss France Camille Cerf walks with her horse during the fourth stage of the Gallops of Jordan.



This photograph shows horses after the first stage of the Gallops of Jordan.



Belgium rider Emeline Parmentier (left), who lost her legs in a car accident, rides her horse during the first stage of the Gallops of Jordan.

Palestinians celebrate olive harvest season

The olives harvest season continued across the Palestinian lands in a cherishing and cozy social atmosphere among dedicated families. The harvest season begins around mid-October every year, and lasts for several weeks with a daily routine starting from dawn to dusk. Palestinians celebrate the season as a symbol for their persistence and love to their lands. — KUNA



Sports

Spurs upset NBA champions Bucks, Wizards win in double OT

Rookie Cunningham makes debut as Pistons beat Magic

LOS ANGELES: San Antonio used a balanced attack Saturday to beat the reigning NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks 102-93, snapping a four-game losing skid with their first road victory of the season. Point guard Dejounte Murray and reserve Bryn Forbes led the charge as five players, including two off the bench, scored in double figures for the Spurs, who improved to 2-4 on the season.

Murray scored a team-high of 23 points, Forbes had 16, Derrick White delivered 17 and Keldon Johnson finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs. Thaddeus Young came off the bench to score 10. "I love having the ball, no matter what," said Murray, who finished with nine assists. "I take pride in being a pass-first point guard, but also being ready when my number is called."

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a game-high 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the injury-hit Bucks who were missing Brook Lopez (back), Jrue Holiday (ankle) and Donte DiVincenzo (ankle surgery).

The Spurs were playing the third game of a road trip and coming off a disappointing 104-99 loss to Dallas. "Obviously, it's a good win against the NBA champions," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "They were missing a pretty big piece tonight but it happens to all of us." San Antonio's mostly inexperienced squad outscored Milwaukee 33-26 in the final quarter. The Spurs played without starting forward Doug McDermott, who has an injured knee.

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored a team-high of 36 points and Kyle Kuzma grabbed a career-high 17 rebounds as the Washington Wizards continued their hot start to the season by beating the Boston Celtics 115-112 in double overtime. Both Kuzma (17 points) and Montrezl Harrell (20 points, 14

rebounds) finished with double doubles as the Wizards improved to 5-1 for their best start since the 2005-06 season.

"It just shows our resilience," Washington coach Wes Unseld Jr. said. "I keep using that word, but it's who we are and who we have to be. And every night somebody else finds a way to step up and make a play for us." Boston's Jaylen Brown finished with 34 points and Jayson Tatum tallied 27 points and 15 rebounds. Josh Richardson was the only other Celtic



Antetokounmpo's game-high 28 not enough for Bucks

to score in double figures, coming off the bench to score 18. Al Horford grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked six shots for the Celtics, who played in their third overtime game out of six contests this season.

Beal made a layup with 25 seconds left in the first overtime period that forced a second one. In double overtime, Beal scored on a fadeaway and layup, then Spencer Dinwiddie hit for two of his 20 points to give Washington a three-point lead.

'We got the job done'

Tatum forced a Kentavious Caldwell-Pope



MILWAUKEE: Dejounte Murray #5 of the San Antonio Spurs dribbles the ball against George Hill #3 of the Milwaukee Bucks in the second half at Fiserv Forum on Saturday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

turnover to give Boston one last gasp. But Caldwell-Pope then stripped Brown on the final possession to secure the win for the Wizards. "We stayed composed, we stayed within each other, and we got the job done," Caldwell-Pope said.

Also, Jerami Grant scored 22 points and NBA Draft top overall pick Cade Cunningham made his NBA debut as the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando

Magic 110-103. Cunningham was sidelined the first four games with an ankle injury. He played 19 minutes, mostly in the first half, and shot one-for-eight from the field while scoring two points. He added seven rebounds and two assists. Kelly Olynyk contributed 18 points, five rebounds and four assists, while Josh Jackson tossed in 13 points with seven rebounds for Detroit. — AFP

News in brief

Durant hit with \$25K fine

LOS ANGELES: The National Basketball Association has slapped Brooklyn Nets star Kevin Durant with a \$25,000 fine for tossing the ball into the stands at the Barclays Center arena on Friday night. Durant was hit with the fine for a play that officials said following the game should have led to his ejection but didn't. Durant finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds in a team-high 37 minutes of playing time as the Nets beat the Indiana Pacers 105-98. Durant was fouled with 4:40 left in the third quarter. Instead of handing the ball to the referee he launched it into the stands. Durant was called for a technical foul, but crew chief Sean Wright said after the game that he should have been thrown out.

2021-2022 bowling season

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Bowling Club Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah held a meeting yesterday with the technical and administrative departments, as well as players of all age groups in the presence of Team Director Nader Al-Mansour to discuss the road map for 2021-2022 season. Sheikh Talal paid attention to the obstacles that face some players who are students at universities, as their class timings clash with training sessions. The players asked for cooperation and coordination between departments so a suitable timing can be arranged. Sheikh Talal asked to comply with training sessions for each stage so as to reach the required levels through which results can be achieved in the name of Kuwait.

Saint-Etienne earn point

PARIS: Tunisia international Wahbi Khazri scored from well inside his own half as Saint-Etienne drew 1-1 at fellow Ligue 1 strugglers Metz on Saturday. Farid Boulaya drilled in a long-range free-kick to give Metz an early lead, but his goal was upstaged minutes later by Khazri's memorable strike, measured at 68 meters according to Opta. Khazri dribbled upfield after retrieving the ball inside his own penalty area and hammered it over the backpedalling Alexandre Oukidja for his fourth goal in as many games, and seventh of the season. Meanwhile, Lyon bounced back from a tough loss at Nice last weekend by beating second-placed Lens 2-1.

Late winner for Nice

PARIS: Andy Delort smashed home a last-gasp volley to snatch a 2-1 victory for Nice away to Angers as Christophe Galtier's side moved up to second in Ligue 1 yesterday. Sofiane Boufal won and converted a penalty to give Angers the lead in the first half, minutes after Delort headed against the post. The Algeria international equalized for Nice on 57 minutes with a deflected strike that looped over Angers goalkeeper Paul Bernandoni. Nice completed a second dramatic comeback win in the space of a week as Delort lashed in from the edge of area in stoppage time. The ambitious south coast club owned by Ineos, the group chaired by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, trail leaders Paris Saint-Germain by eight points.

Defying Native American protests, Trump performs 'Tomahawk chop'

WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump performed the controversial "Tomahawk Chop" cheer — denounced as a racist gesture by Native Americans — in support of the Atlanta Braves on Saturday while attending game four of baseball's World Series.

Trump, who was booed when he attended a World Series game two years ago in Washington, joined thousands of Braves fans at Truist Park in Atlanta in making the chopping motion with his right arm before the team faced the Houston Astros in the best-of-seven Major League Baseball championship final.

Trump was seated in a suite down the rightfield line and was joined by his wife Melania in the cheer, which Native Americans have deplored as a racist insult to their culture and heritage, with some groups calling for it to be retired.

Shooters from Kuwait, GCC to participate in Crown Prince tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Preparations are underway at the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club (KSSC) for the new season, as HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah tournament will be held from November 4-6 at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad



ATLANTA: Former president of the United States Donald Trump does "the chop" in Game Four of the World Series between the Houston Astros and the Atlanta Braves Truist Park on Saturday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

Racism targeting Native Americans hit home with MLB this year as the Cleveland Indians retired their nickname after years of complaints, and are now referred to as the Guardians. But the "Tomahawk Chop" remains a popular gesture among sports fans. MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred backed it this week, saying Native Americans in the Atlanta area are "fully supportive of the Braves' program, including the chop."

Olympic Shooting Complex. Shooters from the club, National Guard, military and police are set to participate, as well as shooters from GCC countries in the skeet, trap, air pistol and rifle, 25m pistol and 50m rifle in addition to the Olympic archery.

Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federation Secretary General Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for sponsoring the championship and for his continued support.

Osaimi lauded the major role of HH the Crown



Obaid Al-Osaimi

"For me, that's kind of the end of the story." But National Council of American Indians president Fawn Sharp ripped Manfred's comments, saying the group has repeatedly told the Braves that "Native people are not mascots and degrading rituals like the 'Tomahawk Chop' that dehumanize and harm us have no place in American society."

The Braves were joined in the suite by former Georgia college football star running back Herschel Walker, whose bid for a US Senate post from Georgia has been backed by the former president. In his 2020 re-election bid, Trump narrowly lost the state of Georgia.

While US president in October 2019, he attended game five of the World Series in Washington and a chorus of boos broke out when his image was flashed on the stadium video display board. Trump had called for a boycott of MLB after an April decision to move the MLB All-Star Game from Atlanta to Colorado in protest of restrictive voting laws passed by Georgia state lawmakers.

Dansby Swanson and Jorge Soler had smashed back-to-back home runs and the Atlanta Braves defeated Houston 3-2 on Saturday to reach the brink of their first World Series title since 1995. Swanson and Soler hammered solo blasts in the seventh inning to grab the lead as the Braves had seized a 3-1 edge in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final. — AFP

Prince in supporting Kuwait's shooting, particularly when he was Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard through the signing of joint cooperation protocol between KSSC and National Guard, and the training of National Guard shooters at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. "This contributed to the emergence of several champions, most notably skeet shooter Mansour Al-Rashidi," he said.

Osaimi noted that the interest of HH the Crown Prince in the sport of shooting is a strong motivation for the development of the sport both locally and internationally. Osaimi said competitions will start today at the club's branch in Jahra with juniors in the 10m pistol and rifle, as well as Olympic archery with the participation of nearly 40 shooters.

Kuwait's Awadhi wins bronze in Asian tennis tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: A new achievement for Kuwait tennis was made recently when national player Mohammad Jassem Al-Awadhi won the bronze medal for juniors under-14 in the International Asian Championship. The tournament is taking place in Qatar until November 6, with participation of athletes from 20 countries across the continent.

President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah lauded the achievement and commended Awadhi's performance and winning the medal while competing against professional players from various countries. He wished him success in the next event. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber said Kuwait Tennis Federation pays athletes of this age group good attention and provides them with all necessary requirements and training at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex and the Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait, which trains Kuwait's national tennis team players.



Mohammad Al-Awadhi

Devils spoil Crosby's NHL season debut

LOS ANGELES: Jesper Bratt scored the eventual game-winner on a penalty shot as the New Jersey Devils spoiled Sidney Crosby's National Hockey League season debut with a 4-2 win on Saturday. Three-time Stanley Cup winner Crosby, who scored the gold-winning goal for Canada at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, had missed the first seven games of the campaign after undergoing off-season wrist surgery.

Crosby played a role in the penalty-shot goal with three minutes remaining in the third period after he pushed Sweden's Bratt into the Penguins' goal. Bratt was awarded the penalty shot and slid a backhand past Penguins goaltender Tristan Jarry to make it 3-2.

Devils forward Andreas Johnson would add an empty-net goal with just under two

minutes left to round out the scoring before a crowd of 17,400 in Pittsburgh. It was Johnson's second goal of the game.

Jimmy Vesey also scored for the Devils, who were playing their first road game of the season. New Jersey goalie Jonathan Bernier, who missed the previous three games because of an injury, made 33 saves. Jarry finished with 36 stops for the Penguins, who lost their third in a row.

Crosby is one of three players named to Team Canada for next February's Beijing Winter Olympics. The others are Edmonton Oilers forward Connor McDavid and Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Alex Pietrangolo.

Also, Timo Meier scored a power-play goal in overtime and the San Jose Sharks withstood the loss of seven players and their coach to COVID-19 protocols, snapping a three-game losing skid by beating Winnipeg 2-1. The Sharks announced before the game they would be without seven players and head coach Bob Boughner. — AFP

Sports

Solskjaer's tactical tweaks pay off as Man Utd return to winning ways

Ronaldo, Cavani pair up adds veteran punch to Utd's offense

LONDON: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took Manchester United south to play Tottenham with his job on the line but lives to fight another day after his decisions paid off handsomely in a 3-0 win. The pressure on the Norwegian was intense after last week's 5-0 horror show against Liverpool, in which Jurgen Klopp's men embarrassed their historic rivals.

Greenwood were sacrificed to make way for the veteran double act, potentially depriving United of thrust down the flanks. But Ronaldo and Cavani both got on the scoresheet and proved a constant headache for the Spurs defense.

Solskjaer said it was the oldest team he had picked for United, adding he had decided it was time to bank on experience. "The old men led from the front," he told Sky Sports. "They play well together. They have loads of respect for each other. The work-rate and quality they put in is second to none."

Steady Varane

United's defending at home against Liverpool was catastrophic, summed up by an incident in which Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw collided in the lead-up to Liverpool's second goal. Solskjaer chose to bring back France defender Raphael Varane against Spurs for his first game for the club since October 2, switching to a central back three, with Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka pushing forward.

"Raphael Varane is a top player," Solskjaer told the BBC. "He reads the game well. He's quick and so experienced. To get him back is massive for us." United looked calm and assured at the back and goalkeeper David de Gea did not have a single save to make as they recorded just their second clean sheet of the season in all competitions.

'Man of the match' McTominay

Ronaldo was named man of the match after he scored one goal and created another for Cavani but Solskjaer said Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay



LONDON: Edinson Cavani celebrates with Cristiano Ronaldo after scoring Manchester United's second goal during the English Premier League football match against Tottenham Hotspur at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Saturday. — AFP

was his pick as the standout player. McTominay and Fred were bypassed by Liverpool's quicksilver attackers last week but established control in London as part of a midfield four and provided a platform for the men up front.

"Man of the match for me, by a mile," said the

United boss. "That's the Scott we have seen a few times before. He's had his injury, he's had his operation (on a groin injury) this season but today I thought he was absolutely brilliant. He won his tackles, drove forward, kept the ball simple, switched play, headed away a few set-plays. So, absolutely top." — AFP



McTominay regains control of midfield

United travelled to London for Saturday's game after taking just one point from a possible 12 to fall well off the pace in the Premier League. AFP looks at three talking points after the win against Spurs lifted United back within touching distance of the top four.

Veteran strike force

Solskjaer chose to pair Cristiano Ronaldo and Edinson Cavani up front at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, selecting a strike force with a combined age of 70. It was the first time they had started together.

Young guns Marcus Rashford and Mason

Barca held in first game after Koeman dismissal

MADRID: Barcelona dropped more points in La Liga after failing to beat Alaves on Saturday as their first game since the sacking of Ronald Koeman ended in a disappointing 1-1 draw at Camp Nou. Sergio Aguero had to be taken to hospital for tests after suffering breathing problems during the first half of the game. Aguero was able to walk off the pitch and Barca's interim manager Sergi Barjuan said afterwards: "I asked him and he told me he was dizzy. I was told he went to hospital. I don't know anything else."

Gerard Pique was also taken off with a calf injury, and the club announced yesterday that he will miss tomorrow's crucial Champions League clash against Dynamo Kiev after tests confirmed he has a right calf strain. Xavi Hernandez is expected to be appointed Koeman's successor this week but with the details of his move still to be agreed with Qatari side Al Sadd, Barca B coach Barjuan has been put in temporary charge.

Yet the removal of Koeman, and even the prospect of Xavi, produced no obvious uplift as a superb second-half strike from Memphis Depay was quickly cancelled out by an equally impressive run and finish from Alaves' Luis Rioja. "What I have to do is win over the players, make them believe in themselves," said Barjuan. After three league games without a win, Barcelona stay ninth, eight points adrift of leaders Real Madrid, who earlier defeated Elche 2-1 thanks to two goals from Vinicius Junior and aided by a red card for Elche's Raul Guti.

Even more worrying for Barca will be the gap behind the top four is five points while attendances suggest the team's form is creating a sense of apathy amongst supporters, with only 37,238 inside the 99,000 Camp Nou.

Club president Joan Laporta has suggested Barjuan will still be in charge for the trip to Kiev, with Xavi, or the next coach, arriving in time for next weekend's game against Celta Vigo or during the international break.

Barjuan admitted on Friday that it is "difficult to change things in a short time" but also said the team's style, a key factor in Koeman's dismissal, is "non-negotiable". But while the first half an hour was slightly more purposeful from Barcelona, they still struggled for chances and the defense was beaten too



BARCELONA: Medics assist Barcelona's Argentinian forward Kun Aguero during the Spanish League football match against Deportivo Alaves at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Saturday. — AFP

easily for Rioja's equalizer.

For all the talk about style and possession, Depay's opener was a thunderbolt out of the blue. Jordi Alba played inside and Depay opened up his body before curling the ball into the top right-hand corner. But Barca's lead lasted less than three minutes as Alaves equalized with another superb goal, Rioja dancing past three Barca defenders, latching onto a sublime flick from Joselu, before rounding Marc-Andre ter Stegen and finishing. Depay was slipped through by Gavi and Nico Gonzalez but hit the post and then Antonio Sivera as Alaves held on for a hard-fought point.

Vinicius again key for Madrid

Earlier, Vinicius' sensational start to the season continued as he scored twice in Madrid's victory over Elche to ensure the rested Karim Benzema was not missed. Vinicius had already given Madrid the lead when Elche's Guti was sent off in the 63rd minute and

he added a second soon after with a superb chipped finish into the corner.

Madrid made life difficult for themselves late on when a Casemiro mistake allowed Pere Milla to pull a goal back but Elche's brief hope of a comeback came to nothing. "We were very practical," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. "After only two days rest it's not possible to play with intensity and energy."

Benzema's resurgence for France means Madrid no longer have their chief goalscorer all to themselves and after 17 games played already this term, Ancelotti opted to leave the striker at home. It meant a surprise start for Mariano Diaz but it was Vinicius who filled the void, scoring his eighth and ninth goals of the season to continue an excellent run of form.

The 21-year-old Brazilian has long been circled as one of Madrid's most exciting talents but he has found a different level under Ancelotti. "I haven't done anything," Ancelotti said. "I just try to give him confidence. I am not a magician." — AFP

Neville disappointed as Inter Miami misses MLS playoffs

FORT LAUDERDALE: Phil Neville wasted no time in focusing his efforts on next season after Inter Miami's lingering Major League Soccer playoff hopes were extinguished 3-1 by New York City on Saturday. The former England women's manager needed his MLS side to win the final two games to stand any chance of extending a difficult second campaign for David Beckham's American franchise.

But NYCFC, who sit fourth in the Eastern Conference after the triumph, deservedly left South Florida with all three points thanks to a goal in each half from Argentine forward Valentin Castellanos and a late effort from Talles Magno after Nicolas Figal drew the home side level on 56 minutes.

Inter Miami's 17th defeat of the season, means the club has no chance of finishing in the top seven of the Eastern Conference and showed the watching Beckham just how much work former Manchester United teammate Neville has on his hand in the off-season, especially with transfer sanctions in place following an MLS probe into the signing of French World Cup winner Blaise Matuidi last August from Juventus.

"I'd be lying if I said that I didn't expect this to finish higher," Neville, who has the full backing of Beckham and the ownership group, told AFP. "So I'm disappointed at that and take responsibility for that. But I honestly can't wait to attack next season as quickly as possible. We've got great plans and this football club will continue to grow. This season, we've put some of the bricks in at the bottom in terms of the foundation that will help us be successful in the years to come. And that was really important. It was never going to be an overnight turnaround." But it's clear Beckham and his fellow owners want a reversal of fortunes and quickly. "This off-season will be massive for us and we've got a really big job to get a roster next year that will mean that we can compete," Neville said. "I spoke with the owners this week in terms of their expectations and their ambitions and it hasn't changed from day one. They want to win. They want us to be successful. They want to compete, and that's where we are really aligned. There's going to be a lot of work done in terms of getting the right people into this football club to help us compete and help us to be successful." NYCFC, managed by former Celtic chief Ronny Deila, were ahead on 33 minutes thanks to a beauty from Castellanos, who capitalized on defensive sloppiness before curling home from 18 yards. — AFP

Unusual 'church' in Argentina honors late football star Maradona

ROSARIO: Members of the "Maradonian Church" in Argentina came together Saturday in worshipful celebration of the memory of beloved football idol Diego Maradona on what would have been his 61st birthday, just weeks before the first anniversary of his death.

Chanting "Ma-ra-do...Ma-ra-do..." these devoted fans of player No 10 convened in the city of Rosario, the home of a distinctly unusual fan club which, since the 1990s, has greatly venerated the World Cup champion. The emotional get-together — more than a few tears were shed — has been an annual event in tribute to the man many consider the greatest footballer ever.

But this was the first to be held since last November 25, when Maradona, then aged just 60, was felled by a heart attack. "I think this is the greatest Maradonian movement in the world," Alejandro Veron, one of its founders, told AFP. The "church" claims thousands of "faithful" in more than 50 countries.

Tributes and tears

Between the tributes and the tears, fans told and

retold favorite stories about the "Golden Boy" and frequently broke into the traditional chants of Argentine supporters. They also staged reconstructions of some of Maradona's most famous goals.

Maradona died while recuperating in Buenos Aires from brain surgery last November for a subdural hematoma. "Many people realized they loved Diego only after the 25th of November," said Veron. "But they can get on the train too. There's room for everyone."

'He hugged me'

Veron recalled the day he met the superstar and told him about the "church" founded in his honor. "He hugged me and said thank you," Veron said, his voice shaking with emotion. "Diego is football," he added, "he is our best ambassador in the world, a voice for those who have none."

The celebration in Rosario was one of several being held across Argentina on Saturday in Maradona's memory. Football matches were organized in his honor, with a special homage being paid at the 10th minute of each professional match.

The main event is to be an afternoon match at the Buenos Aires stadium now bearing his name, home to the Argentinos Juniors, Maradona's first club. Some of the stars from Argentina's World Cup winning championship teams of 1978 and 1986 — Maradona played on the latter — are slated to attend. — AFP



ROSARIO: A member of the Maradonian church takes a picture of a poster depicting late Argentine football star Diego Maradona during the celebration of the 61st anniversary of his birth, in Rosario, Santa Fe province, Argentina, on Saturday. — AFP

Boult stars as Kiwis thrash India

Afghanistan bid farewell to Asghar with victory over Namibia



DUBAI: New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell watches the ball after playing a shot during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup cricket match between India and New Zealand at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. — AFP

DUBAI: Trent Boult led an inspired bowling attack as New Zealand thrashed Twenty20 World Cup favorites India by eight wickets yesterday to leave Virat Kohli's men facing a desperate struggle to reach the semi-finals. Boult and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi shared five wickets between them to restrict India to 110 for seven after being invited to bat first in the Super 12 clash in Dubai.

Skipper Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, who made 49, put 72 runs for the second wicket as the Kiwis romped home in 14.3 overs and hand India their second straight loss of the tournament. Jasprit Bumrah denied Mitchell his maiden fifty but the wicket proved a minor blemish for the Kiwis, who bounced back from their opening loss to group toppers Pakistan.

India, who lost their first Super 12 match to Pakistan by 10 wickets, remain in danger of slipping out of the race for the semi-finals. Boult dismissed Ishan Kishan for four and nearly had Rohit Sharma on the next ball but Adam Milne dropped an easy catch at fine leg. Milne, who replaced Tim Seifert as the only change in the New Zealand team from their opening loss to Pakistan, then gave away 15 runs from his first over with Sharma hitting the fast bowler for a four and a six.

But the New Zealand pace bowlers kept coming at the Indian batsmen as Tim Southee got KL Rahul walking back for 18 with another pull shot that found

the fielder. Sharma fell to Sodhi for 14, this time giving away a catch to long-on where Guptill made no mistake. Sodhi dismissed Kohli for nine after the captain mistimed a shot to be caught at long on and walked back to stunned silence at a stadium packed with Indian fans. Hardik Pandya, who made 23, and Ravindra Jadeja, 26 not out, put up some resistance with a partnership of 24 that was broken by Boult who struck twice in his final over.

Mohammed Shami, the only Muslim player in the India team, walked in to loud cheers after being mercilessly trolled following the 10-wicket defeat to Pakistan. Jadeja hit two fours and one six in his 19-ball stay. In reply, Martin Guptill started on an attacking note to smash three boundaries before falling to Bumrah who returned figures of 2-19. Mitchell took on the Indian bowlers as he hit left-arm spinner Jadeja for a six and then got another shot over the fence to bring up New Zealand's fifty in the seventh over. He departed with New Zealand needing 15 and Devon Conway joined Williamson to complete the formalities.

Afghanistan beat Namibia

Earlier, Afghanistan bid an emotional farewell to former captain Asghar Afghan by beating Namibia by 62 runs in the T20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Asghar scored 31 as Afghanistan batted first and made 160-5. Afghanistan's seamers then took

eight wickets as they restricted Namibia to 98-9. Hamid Hassan, making his first T20 international appearance in five years, and Naveen-ul-Haq both took three wickets.

Naveen was named player of the match but presented his award to Asghar. "He was the best captain Afghanistan has produced," he said. "I want to dedicate this man of the match in his last match. We will miss him a lot." Speaking after the first innings, an emotional Asghar discussed his decision to retire mid-tournament in an on-field interview saying he had made the choice after Friday's loss to regional rivals Pakistan.

"From the last match we were hurt too much and that is why I decided to leave the stage," he said. "It's very difficult to explain, but I had to retire. I wanted to give a chance to the youngsters," he said. Asghar skipped Afghanistan over all three formats of cricket. He played six Tests, 114 one-day internationals and this was his 75th Twenty20 international in a career spread over 12 years. The current captain Mohammad Nabi said after the game that he had not been able to change Asghar's mind.

Nabi won the toss and again bucked the trend at the World Cup by opting to bat first. Mohammad Shahzad gave Afghanistan a fast start with 45 off 33 balls including two sixes. After he holed out at deep square leg off JJ Smit, opening partner Hazratullah Zazai accelerated, smashing a pair of sixes in his 33.

Leg-spinner Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton dismissed Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Najibullah Zadran cheaply to briefly slow batting momentum. Play briefly halted when Asghar came in to bat and Namibia greeted him by lining up and applauding. Asghar hit a brisk 31 off 23 balls with three fours and a six.

'Good seamers'

After Ruben Trimpelmann dismissed the 33-year-old with the last ball of the 19th over, there was another pause as Namibian players ran across the field to shake hands as he walked off. Nabi bashed an unbeaten 32 off 17 balls with one six and five fours, the last off the final ball to take his team to 160. Trimpelmann took two wickets for 34 runs in his four overs while Loftie-Eaton gave up just 21 runs as he took two wickets.

Afghanistan had made one change to the team that lost to Pakistan, recalling Hamid Hassan for a first appearance in five years in place of injured spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman. The change paid off as, for once, Afghanistan's seamers did the damage. Naveen removed both openers, Craig Williams and Michael van Lingen to reduce Namibia to 16-2. He later removed Jan Frylinck to finish with 3-26. As Namibia struggled to recover from their poor start, Hamid dismissed captain Gerhard Erasmus with a yorker, JJ Smit and top scorer David Wiese, who made 26. — AFP

Correa at the double as Inter down Udinese

MILAN: Joaquin Correa's slick second-half double earned Inter Milan a 2-0 win over Udinese in Serie A yesterday to consolidate the defending champions' hold on third place. The Argentina international joined Inter on loan from Lazio in August and made an immediate impact, scoring twice on his debut against Verona. He repeated the feat, after missing three games this season through injury, against Udinese, who reached the interval having survived a seven-shot onslaught from Inter midfielder Nicolò Barella, and a goalmouth scramble.

"Things weren't going well for me in the first half today, but I never stop trying," Correa told Sky Sport Italia. "Now we have to continue along this path, because everyone in the team wants the same thing," he added. Correa finally got the breakthrough goal on the hour, running through after Ivan Perisic's dummy to sidestep Udinese centre back Bram Nuytinck and shoot inside the near post.

The visitors should have been further behind when Eden Dzeko was allowed a free run with Udinese assuming, mistakenly, he was



MILAN: Udinese's Danish defender Jens Stryger Larsen clears a ball under pressure from Inter Milan's Bosnian forward Edin Dzeko during an Italian Serie A match at the San Siro stadium yesterday. — AFP

offside only for goalkeeper Marco Silvestri to save the point-blank shot. Correa doubled up on the 68th minute, blasting the ball into the roof of the net with Denzel Dumfries providing a neat assist from the right.

Inter held on but only after their keeper and captain Samir Handanovic tipped a shot from Gerard Deulofeu over the bar, with the Spanish forward then having a goal disallowed for offside eight minutes from time. Simone Inzaghi's side moved to within four points of

leaders Napoli, who are at Salernitana, and AC Milan, who face Roma, later in the day.

Udinese extended their winless run to eight matches. Elsewhere yesterday, Serbia attacker Dusan Vlahovic scored a hat-trick to take his goal tally for the season to 10 in 12 games as Fiorentina beat Spezia 3-0. Genoa and Venezia drew 0-0 while Polish midfielder Szymon Zurkowski opened his account for the campaign with a 92nd minute winner to help Empoli edge Sassuolo 2-1. — AFP

Carrasco helps fire Atletico past Real Betis

MADRID: Yannick Carrasco's blistering strike set Atletico Madrid on the way to a 3-0 victory over Real Betis in La Liga yesterday, keeping the reigning champions within two points of the leaders. Belgium's Carrasco hammered in the opening goal at the Wanda Metropolitano on 26 minutes before Betis defender German Pezzella bizarrely headed a corner into his own net in the second half. Joao Felix came off the bench to wrap up just a second win in five outings for Atletico, who moved above Betis and stayed in touch with Real Madrid, Sevilla and Real Sociedad, all level on 24 points. Real Sociedad, who have lost only one of their opening 11 games, host Basque rivals Athletic Bilbao later yesterday.

Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak palmed away a powerful early attempt from William Carvalho, but the hosts quickly asserted their dominance as Jose Gimenez and

Antoine Griezmann forced stops from Claudio Bravo. Carrasco made the breakthrough, collecting a pass from Angel Correa and twisting past Martin Montoya before rifling the ball into the roof of the net.

Mario Hermoso saw his header ruled out for offside after half-time in torrential rain, with Stefan Savic nodding straight at Bravo who then saved well from Luis Suarez. But from the resulting corner Pezzella gifted Atletico a second goal when he badly miscued his attempted clearance.

Betis had won their last three league matches and a victory would move them level at the top, but instead Atletico began a key few days that includes a trip to Liverpool on Wednesday with an assured display. Felix raced onto a through ball in the final 10 minutes to seal the points and the goal was upheld upon review after initially being disallowed for offside. — AFP