



3 EPA, Japan Embassy thermally insulate Mishref walkway



7 KFH wins World's Best Islamic Financial Institution 2021 award



15 Tottenham appoint Antonio Conte as new manager



Kuwait to adopt national low carbon strategy until 2050

PM meets Biden • Leaders vow to save forests, commit to 30% methane cut



GLASGOW: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Representative, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, meets US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the COP26 summit on Monday. — KUNA

GLASGOW: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Representative, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, affirmed Kuwait's keenness to adopt a national low carbon strategy until 2050. During his speech at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26), the Amir's Representative said the national strategy is based on a circular carbon economy to promote the reduction, disposal, reuse and recycling of greenhouse gases. The strategy will be supported by the enactment of relevant legislation and laws to reduce emissions and adapt to their negative effects at the national level, in line with local, regional and international environmental obligations, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said.

Sheikh Sabah added climate change is one of the serious challenges facing the international community at this time, and combating it has become a priority for all countries. "The State of Kuwait, in compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement,

updated its contributions document on October 12, 2021, whereby Kuwait contributes to a package of development projects based on a vision that would avoid an increase in greenhouse gases equivalent to 7.4 percent of its total emissions until 2035," the Kuwaiti prime minister said.

Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait attaches great importance to diversifying the country's energy sources by introducing renewable energies and replacing fossil fuels with liquefied gas to ensure the sustainability of energy supplies for future generations. Moreover, he noted that Kuwait has distinguished regional and international contributions to the preservation of the environment and natural resources in the world. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has mitigated the environmental repercussions resulting from the receding of the Aral Sea in Central Asia and Lake Korley in Ghana, and the reduction of radiation resulting from the Chernobyl reactor blast, he said.

Recently, the fund contributed to implementing a project to reduce dust, sandstorms and cross-border dust between Kuwait and Iraq, with the aim of reducing approximately 40 percent of the chances of their occurrence, Sheikh Sabah added. On Monday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the COP26 summit. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the deep-rooted relations between the two friendly countries, and the latest developments on both regional and international arenas.

Meanwhile, dozens of countries yesterday joined a United States and European Union pledge to cut emissions of methane - the most potent greenhouse gas - by at least 30 percent this decade, in the most significant climate commitment so far at COP26. The initiative, which experts say could have a powerful short-term impact on global heating, followed an announcement earlier yesterday in which more than 100 nations agreed to end deforestation by 2030.

Continued on Page 2

News in brief

Booster shot without appointment

KUWAIT: The health ministry will administer booster coronavirus vaccine doses without previous appointments, provided that six months have passed since the second shot was taken. Those desiring to get the third shot should head directly to the Kuwait Vaccination Centre in Mishref, the ministry said, stressing the importance of taking this shot to help boost the immune system and provide better protection against the coronavirus. — KUNA

Iran FM tests positive for COVID

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign minister has tested positive for COVID at a key moment in diplomatic efforts to revive a nuclear agreement with major powers. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian "tested positive today for coronavirus", the Tasnim news agency reported late Monday. "His general health is satisfactory and he is continuing his daily duties from quarantine," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. — AFP

Lebanon's oldest English daily folds

BEIRUT: Lebanon's oldest English-language daily newspaper laid off its entire staff and became the latest casualty in the collapse of the country's once-flourishing press, employees said yesterday. The Daily Star's employees were notified a few days earlier that they were all being made redundant from Oct 31. The newspaper, which is co-owned by the family of former prime minister Saad Hariri, had halted its print edition early last year and stopped updating its website two weeks ago. — AFP

10 Egyptian peacekeepers wounded

BANGUI: Members of the Central African Republic's presidential guard fired on Egyptian peacekeepers in Bangui, injuring 10 of them, just two weeks before the end of their mandate. The MINUSCA mission said the Egyptian police contingent was unarmed at the time and travelling in a bus marked UN. In its attempt to leave the area, the bus "hit a woman who lost her life", MINUSCA added. — AFP

Iraq pays Kuwait another \$490m in war reparations

KUWAIT: Kuwait has received additional reparations of almost \$500 million for Iraq's 1990 invasion, the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait said. "Iraq on

October 26 paid Kuwait \$490 million, and it will work to pay off what is left in reparations due for the year of 2022, approximately \$629 million," the embassy said in a statement. Baghdad has paid around \$50 billion in reparations over the last three decades.

Iraqi forces under then-dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990, sparking international condemnation. They occupied the state for seven months before they were pushed out by a US-led international coalition in the first Gulf War

COVID global death toll passes 5m

PARIS: Five million people have died worldwide from COVID-19 since the disease first emerged in China nearly two years ago, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP. Monday's milestone, nearly four months after four million deaths were registered, came even as mortality rates slow thanks to a global vaccine rollout that has seen billions of people injected. While the number of daily deaths worldwide fell below 8,000 for the first time in almost a year in early

October, there remain blackspots globally.

"The total number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 is increasing for the first time in two months, due to the current increase in the epidemic in Europe," World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference on Thursday. In the 52 countries and territories that form the WHO's European region, the mounting death toll is mainly coming from the east.

Russia - a country with strong vaccine hesitancy - has seen infections and deaths reach new records, with average daily fatalities in excess of 1,000 since Oct 20. And according to the authorities themselves, this toll is largely underestimated.

Continued on Page 2

Iconic Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri dies

DAMASCUS: Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri, considered one of the most famous in the Arab world, died in Damascus yesterday at the age of 88, his son told AFP. Born in the northern province of Aleppo and hailed as one of Syria's greats, Fakhri was known for his masterful delivery of traditional Syrian songs that combined Arabic poetry with music.

The short stout man modified and

popularized the Qudud Halabiya - a traditional form of Aleppine music that combines lyrics based on the poetry of Al-Andalus with old religious melodies collected mostly by musicians from the northern Syrian city.

A symbol of the golden age of Arabic song, Fakhri was able to keep his audience in suspense for hours by tirelessly repeating the verses of classical or contemporary Arabic poems. In 1968, he broke a record singing for 10 straight hours on tour in the Venezuelan capital Caracas.

Fakhri memorized the Holy Quran when young and began reciting in mosques. Because of his powerful voice, Fakhri briefly worked as a muezzin in a mosque in Aleppo. — AFP (See Page 12)



YANTAI, China: Health workers guide travelers to a COVID-19 inspection station at Yantai railway station in Shandong province yesterday. — AFP



ABU DHABI: In this file photo taken on May 13, 2010, Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri performs at the "Angham min al-Sharq" (Sounds of Arabia) festival. — AFP

Local

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Assembly Speaker

Sheikh Nawaf congratulates UAE President on anniversary



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 National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Dar Al-Yamama yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. In addition, His Highness received Deputy

Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad and Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad at Dar Al-Yamama.

Meanwhile, His Highness Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to UAE's President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan

Al-Nahyan, congratulating him on the anniversary of assuming office. His Highness the Amir commended all the accomplishments UAE has achieved, wishing the President good health and the UAE further development and prosperity under his reign. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar congratulatory cables.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the death of Prince Saud bin Abdul Rahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

Prime Minister meets Kyrgyzstan President at COP26

GLASGOW: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov on the fringes of the United Nations climate conference (COP26) in Glasgow on Monday. The talks discussed bilateral relations and means to boost these ties. The two senior officials reviewed the topics on the talks' agenda, and the two countries' positions on these matters, alongside issues of mutual significance. The talks were held in the attendance of Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Naser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad met UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in Glasgow. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the deep-rooted relations between the two friendly countries and frameworks of developing them in all fields. They also focused on the latest developments on both regional and international levels. — KUNA



GLASGOW: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov. — KUNA photos



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Naser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

Kuwait to adopt national low...

Continued from Page 1

"One of the most important things we can do between now and 2030, to keep 1.5C in reach, is reduce our methane emissions as soon as possible," said Biden, referring to the central goal of the 2015 Paris agreement. He called the pledge, which has so far been signed by nearly 100 nations, a "game-changing commitment" that covered countries responsible for around half of global methane emissions.

European Commission head Ursula Von der Leyen said that the methane cut would "immediately slow down climate change". "We cannot wait until 2050. We have to cut emissions fast and methane is one of the gases we can cut the fastest," she said. Heads of state and government are gathered in Glasgow for a two-day high-level summit that host Britain is hoping will kick start ambitious climate action during the two-week COP26.

Organizers say the ensuing shuttle diplomacy and painstaking negotiation will be crucial for the continued viability of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and its goal to limit temperature rises to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius. While the summit's first day passed with much rhetoric but only lukewarm cli-

mate pledges, Yesterday's twin announcements were broadly welcomed by campaigners.

Decades of climate pledges have been rooted in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Yet methane (CH₄) is more than 80 times more potent than CO₂, and its sources, such as open pit coal mines and livestock, have received relatively little attention until now. The International Energy Agency estimates that the fossil fuel industry emitted 120 tons of methane in 2020, and much of it can be easily avoided.

A UN report from earlier this year showed that "available targeted methane measures" could see CH₄ levels reduced by 45 percent by 2030. This would shave 0.3C off projected warming, save a quarter of a million air pollution deaths and increase global crop yields by 26 million tons, the UN's Environment Program said. However, major emitters China, India, Russia and Australia did not sign the pledge.

Earlier yesterday, countries made a multibillion-dollar pledge to end deforestation by 2030. But the promise was met with skepticism from environmental groups, and although details were sparse, it appeared to largely resemble a similar pledge made by more than 200 countries and organizations in 2014. The British government said that the plan to drum up around \$20 billion in public and private funding had been endorsed by more than 100 leaders representing over 85 percent of Earth's forests, including the Amazon rainforest.



GLASGOW: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaks on the second day of the COP26 UN Climate Summit yesterday. — AFP

The summit pact to "halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030" encompasses promises to secure the rights of indigenous peoples, and recognize "their role as forest guardians". While British Prime Minister Boris Johnson described the pledge as "unprecedented", a UN climate gathering in New York in 2014 issued a similar declaration to end deforestation by 2030.

An assessment earlier this year found that seven years on from the pact, virtually no government was on course to fulfil their responsibilities. Trees continue to be cut down on an industrial scale, not least in the Amazon under the far-right government of Brazilian President Jair

Bolsonaro. Humans have already cut down half of Earth's forests, a practice doubly harmful for the climate when CO₂-sucking trees are replaced with livestock or monoculture crops. The laundry list for COP26 remains daunting, with pressure on leaders to commit to faster decarbonization and provide billions to nations already dealing with the fallout of climate change.

Meanwhile, chaotic scenes continued yesterday around the COP26 venue, with attendees queuing around the block awaiting security checks. By early afternoon, the UN organizers sent a text alert asking people to stay away from the venue "in order to ensure compliance with COVID-19 measures". — Agencies

COVID global death toll...

Continued from Page 1

The government's daily toll shows a total of 239,693 deaths as of Nov 1. However, national statistics agency Rosstat, which has a broader definition of COVID deaths, said at the end of September that the death toll was nearly 450,000.

After Russia, Ukraine and Romania are the two countries in Europe with the highest daily death toll - averaging 546 and 442 deaths per day, respectively, over the past seven days. Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's deadliest region (1,521,193 deaths since the start of the pandemic). But the number of daily deaths, currently around 840, has been declining since May.

In the United States, more than 1,400 deaths were recorded each day on average over the past seven days, 15 percent down on the previous week. With its total of 746,747 deaths, the country is bearing the brunt of the pandemic. The WHO estimates that the pandemic's real toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to COVID-19.

The Economist magazine looked at excess mortality and concluded around 17 million have died from COVID. "This figure seems more credible to me," Pasteur Institute epidemiologist Professor Arnaud Fontanet told AFP. Whatever the case, the death toll is lower than from other historical pandemics, such as Spanish flu that killed 50-100 million in 1918-1919.

Nonetheless, COVID has "caused a lot of deaths in a short period", said Jean-Claude Manuguerra, a virologist at the French institute. "It could have been a lot more dramatic without all the measures taken, particularly restrictions on movement of people and then the vaccinations," according to Fontanet. — AFP

Local

Kuwait government urges vaccinated people to take their booster shots

Cabinet reiterates backing of Saudi measures to ensure security

KUWAIT: Kuwait's government urged the public who have already been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to take the previously approved booster shot. This appeal came as the Ministry of Health announced offering booster coronavirus vaccine shots without previous appointments, provided that six months have passed since the second shot was taken. Those wanting to get the third shot should head directly to Kuwait's Vaccination Center in Mishref, the ministry stated, stressing the importance of taking this shot to help boost the immune system and provide better protection against the coronavirus.

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah had briefed the Cabinet on the country's COVID-19 pandemic situation, indicating "stability and continuing improvements" due to an unprecedented decline in cases, deaths and hospital bed and intensive care unit occupancy to their "lowest levels." He also reiterated the ministry's launch of the vaccination campaign for children in the 5-11 age group.

Houthi's threats

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti ministers reiterated the country's condemnation of Houthi attempts to threaten the security of Saudi Arabia, underlining their support for steps assumed by the neighboring Gulf kingdom to ensure its security, stability and sovereignty. During their weekly meeting on Monday at Seif Palace, led by Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Cabinet praised an address delivered at a previous meeting by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The address praised as "fruitful" the national dialogue held between the executive and legislative branches, and called for comprehensive reform and development of government assessment.

Ministers were later briefed on His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's attendance of the Middle East Initiative Summit in Saudi Arabia, where he pledged Kuwait's



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah (center) chairs the Cabinet's meeting. — KUNA

full commitment to Riyadh's environmental plans. Kuwait stands side-by-side with Saudi Arabia, he said, mentioning that his country is at the forefront of nations seeking to achieve human and environmental sustainability. This can be achieved through



Kuwait stands side-by-side with Saudi Arabia

strengthening carbon neutral pathways and increasing green spaces, as portrayed in Kuwait's 2035 development strategy, he said, highlighting the global need for sustainable strategies aimed at the protection of the environment. In turn, His Highness

the Amir's representative, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali briefed ministers on his attendance of separate Future Investment Initiative talks in Riyadh. At the meeting, he praised distinguished steps, made by Saudi Arabia, on several economic and social spectrums under the wise leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud as per the kingdom's 2030 development strategy.

Political affairs

Afterwards, the Cabinet discussed political affairs on both the Arab and international fronts. Ministers voiced Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of continued Houthi attempts aiming to target and threaten the security of Saudi Arabia's Najran, Abha International Airport and Jazan with two drones and ballistic missiles. The Cabinet said the continuation of these hostile practices and escalation against civilians and residential areas as well as Saudi Arabia and the region's security constitute

a flagrant violation of the rules of international humanitarian law. The Cabinet noted that such practices require a rapid and decisive action by the international community to deter these threats and hold the perpetrators accountable.

It reiterated that Kuwait fully stands with Saudi Arabia and supports it in all measures taken to maintain its security, stability and sovereignty. The ministers further deplored the cowardly terrorist bombing on the entrance of Yemeni Aden International Airport that killed and wounded dozens of people. It re-affirmed Kuwait's firm stance rejecting violence and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Cabinet reiterated Kuwait's solidarity with the Yemeni legitimate government, renewing its call for the international community to put pressure so as to reach the desired political solution to put an end to the Yemeni crisis, in line with the three agreed references. It finally expressed sincere condolence to the victims' relatives, wishing a speedy recovery to those injured. — KUNA

Three authorities' heads meet for third time this week

KUWAIT: For the third time this week, heads of the three authorities held a meeting yesterday at Seif Palace, 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, President of the Supreme Court and Chairman of the Court of Cassation Justice Ahmad Al-Ajeel, and Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, President of the Supreme Court Ahmad Al-Ajeel, and Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah meet at Seif Palace yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photo

Bullying led to teen's suicide, says initial probe

KUWAIT: Kuwait police are investigating the circumstances behind the death of a teenager who is believed to have committed suicide after being subjected to bullying. "A 15-year-old girl in Kuwait could not stand her colleague's repeated negative comments and bullying, so she decided the only way to end her anguish was to commit suicide," Al-Rai Arabic newspaper reported yesterday, quoting a security source with knowledge of the investigation.

Police and paramedics had responded to a call about the case, but when they arrived at the scene, they found the girl had already died, according to the source. Forensics experts were called and the victim's body was sent to the coroner, they added. According to the report, detectives said the girl was a Kuwaiti and subjected to bullying since her mother was Asian. The victim reportedly went to a nearby building and jumped from the terrace of a 14th floor apartment, detectives noted. While initial probe indicates that the girl had committed suicide, investigations are still ongoing to reveal the full circumstances behind her death, the newspaper's report reads.



KUWAIT: Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah meets UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Matar Al-Neyadi. — KUNA photos

Interior Minister meets ambassadors of UAE, Kyrgyzstan

KUWAIT: Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah yesterday discussed issues of mutual interests with UAE Ambassador to

Kuwait Matar Al-Neyadi. The discussion included bilateral cooperation and security coordination between the two countries and exchanging information in the field of expertise and security training. Ambassador Neyadi praised the topics discussed during the meeting, evaluating the Kuwaiti role to ensure the security and stability of the Gulf region, a statement issued by the General Administration of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior said. In the meantime, Interior Minister dis-



Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah meets Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Kuwait Karagulov Azamat.

cussed security cooperation between the two countries with Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Kuwait Karagulov Azamat. During the reception, Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah praised the fruitful and constructive cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Kyrgyz Republic. Ambassador Karagulov valued the issues discussed, expressing his country's aspiration for more security coordination and cooperation with Kuwait. — KUNA

EPA, Japan embassy help reduce heat at Mishref walkway

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the Japanese embassy cooperated on a project to thermally insulate the five-kilometer Mishref walkway via a coating that reduces heat by around 10 degrees Celsius. In a statement to the press at the walkway, Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Masato Takaoka indicated that the project had deepened relations with Kuwait within the environmental domain. He said that the project, which also came in commemoration of 60 years of Kuwaiti-Japanese relations, had managed to reduce the heat at Mishref walkway, an outlet dedicated to work out and leisure. With heat reaching around 50 degrees Celsius in Kuwait during the summer, it is important to help

protect people using the walkway, affirmed the Ambassador, adding that temperature taken yesterday at the walkway had shown that it was 38 degrees Celsius, while in regular cases it would be around 45 degrees Celsius. This environmental cooperation is not the first between the two countries, revealed the Ambassador, pointing out that the Japanese Society in Kuwait would be resuming on November 27th their annual "Operation Turtle", a beach cleaning campaign, which stopped during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director for Technical Affairs at the EPA Dr Abdullah Al-Zaidan affirmed that Kuwait was eager to apply this technology throughout the country to help manage the heat and protect the environment. Not only does the coating protect people from heat, but it also prevents surface material deterioration, he said, pointing out that the experimental project in Mishref walkway had proved to be successful. In a similar statement, director general of Mishref Co-Op Society Adel Al-Suryya said that they had



KUWAIT: Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Masato Takaoka (center) is seen at the Mishref walkway yesterday. — KUNA

cooperated with the EPA to apply the coating on Mishref walkway, indicating that the material was highly regarded and used around the world. In cooperation with a Japanese company, the coating

product was used to reduce the heat to around 30 percent, indicated the official who added that it was important to improve the safety of the walkway for the public. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

KIB concludes breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: As part of its overall strategy of putting its people at the forefront of its priorities, offering every segment every kind of support it may need, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently concluded its annual breast cancer awareness campaign, marking International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign, which was organized and held internally for all of the bank's female employees, aimed to introduce them to the risk factors associated with breast cancer, the means of prevention, and how to provide support for those undergoing treatment.

Under the slogan #APictureCanChangeYourLife, the integrated campaign featured several awareness activities including lectures, video presentations and panel discussions, conducted by prominent medical experts from the local health sector. Key topics of discussion included various aspects related to the disease, including risk factors and repercussions, as well as caring for and supporting breast cancer patients throughout their journey to recovery. Moreover, the campaign included free testing for the bank's female employees, emphasizing the importance of early detection through periodic self-examinations and annual mammograms.



Nawaf Najia

Commenting on this campaign, Executive Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We at KIB are well aware of the health risks that can be quite threatening to women at this time, including the physical stress and psychological burdens surrounding them, in addition to the pollutants and unhealthy substances that they are exposed to on a daily basis. Such causes can contribute to increasing the risk for various diseases, including breast cancer. Accordingly, we have dedicated a major share of our social responsibility program to developing initiatives that largely focus on supporting women in maintaining their physical and mental health, stemming from our strong belief in their fundamental role and core value in society."

Concluding his statement, Najia affirmed KIB's ongoing commitment to supporting every single employee in its organization - be they male or female and from the most junior to the most senior. Accordingly, the bank constantly strives to foster its employee's personal, professional, mental, and physical wellbeing. As a 'Bank for Life', KIB strongly believes that its employees should be a primary focus, given that they are the foundation on which this entire organization was built, and the main contributor to every successful achievement the bank has ever accomplished.

National Bank of Kuwait announces NBK Run's return

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will award six participants in the largest sports festival in Kuwait "NBK Run" alongside the grand draw for a new Nissan X - TERA car from Al-Babtain Group. NBK Run is scheduled to kick off on Saturday December 4, 2021. NBK Run is for athletes and beginners, in addition to enjoying a day of entertainment with the family. NBK Run will hold great surprises. Participants can register online, through nbk.com/nbkrun.

Applicants can then collect their assigned T-shirt and number at Al Shaheed Park Multi-purpose Hall in Phase 1, next to Starbucks between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm starting from Tuesday, 30 November until Thursday, 2 December 2021.

The bib-number for each participant will contain a step-counting chip to identify the winners' places. The top three winners will win: KD 1000, KD 700, KD 500 respectively. The results for NBK Run will be supervised and authorized by the Event Management Company (SUFFIX). Talal Al-Turki, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager said, "NBK annual sports festival is back, and we are extremely thrilled to take our involvement with this exciting event to a new level."

"Our commitment towards being connected with the community is the reason why we feel it is important for us to transform this health-sports annual initiative into a fun, challenging event in addition to enjoying a day of entertainment with your family," added Turki.

It is worth mentioning that the walk for both the female and male participants will start from the Green Island on the Gulf Road to the Shuwaikh Beach Park, parallel to the Gulf Road, next to KPC building for 11 kilometers.

NBK strongly supports sporting events and encourages sporting activities as means to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for members of the community. Throughout the years, NBK also organized several social awareness programs including educational, environmental, health and many other active initiatives.



Talal Al-Turki

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Students are seen at Kuwait University yesterday. Kuwait University halls witnessed students' elections held for the first time in campus since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Zain Esports partners with Kuwait Olympic Committee to develop gaming ecosystem

Esports competition to be hosted between November 12 and December 4



KUWAIT: Abdulla Al-Mojil, Head of the Kuwait Olympic Esports Committee (left) and Malek Hammoud, Zain Group Chief Investment and Digital Transformation Officer.



Abdulla Al-Mojil and Malek Hammoud (center) with the Zain Esports management team.

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces that Zain Esports has partnered with the Kuwait Olympic Committee to manage a four-weekend esports event commencing November 12 and ending December 4, 2021.

The partnership and competition are the first-of-their-kind to be held in Kuwait and will take place at the Olympic Committee's headquarters, with the ultimate goal of unlocking the potential of local talent and create the Kuwait esports team that will participate in future Olympic Games and other competitions across the globe.

The partnership seeks to promote esports and the overall gaming ecosystem within Kuwait, with the event positioned to fuel further interest from the community. For its part, Zain has been wholehearted in its embrace of the opportunity provided by esports gaming, having established Zain Esports in November 2020 marking the beginning of a year-long calendar of large and exciting regional online esports tournaments, and regular community tournaments with attractive prize pools.

Zain Esports is inspired by the competitive spirit of the 18,000 professional and amateur gamers who have played in the various tournaments held so far and the enormous social media following that has been garnered, which exceeds 35 million views on Zain's YouTube, Twitch and other social media channels.

Commenting on the collaboration with the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Malek Hammoud, Zain Group Chief Investment and Digital Transformation Officer said, "The Middle East is one of the fastest-growing gaming regions in the world and we are keen to unlock the potential of aspiring Kuwaiti gamers to compete on the global stage. This pioneering partnership with the Kuwait Olympic Committee reconfirms the momentum



Mideast one of fastest-growing gaming regions

being gathered in gaming, and Zain Esports aims to foster the growth of the esports ecosystem in Kuwait and beyond."

Zain Esports' presence as a gaming powerhouse engaging with the gamers and youth across the region is creating an ecosystem that reduces reliance on traditional telco services and opens growing opportunities for fast-growing and lucra-

tive digital services and online gaming. Gaming is one of the largest use cases for mobile and home broadband services and is destined to help Zain operating companies connect to the gaming community through its state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Abdulla Al-Mojil, Head of the Kuwait Olympic Esports Committee said, "This new partnership is an exciting development for the Olympic Committee as we continue to adapt and evolve the notion of esports and participation. We have witnessed the growth of esports globally and it will be an invaluable and exciting four-weekend event that shall be held in collaboration with Zain Esports, a regional gaming powerhouse."

Zain Esports was recently presented with an award at the prestigious Samena Council-endorsed MEA Business Technology Achievement Awards 2021, in the category of Innovation Collaborations and Partnerships for its efforts in fostering the gaming ecosystem.

Apart from this Kuwait Olympic endorsed event, Zain Esports continues to hold multiple campaigns and gaming events, with the aim of unlocking the potential of regional talent - players, casters, analysts, and commentators alike.

Of note, for the Kuwait Olympic event, Zain Esports has partnered with Deliveroo, one of the leading food delivery platforms in the region, to be the official F&B partner. Aspiring esports gamers in Kuwait are invited to contact esports@zain.com.

Diplomatic Women's Committee members go on cruise trip

KUWAIT: Upon the decision of the Council of Ministers for return to normal life, the Diplomatic Women's Committee held a cruise trip for lady diplomats, lady ambassadors and spouses of ambassadors accredited in the State of Kuwait around the Kuwait marine area to observe some historical landscape from the seaside and learn about the Kuwaiti marine heritage as the Gulf had a great impact on social and economic life in the history of Kuwait. Since the COVID-19 pandemic imposed itself on people staying in their homes for around 20 months, and with the start of the return to normal life, the Diplomatic Women's Committee launched its new cultural exchange season 2021-2022 in



November with a series of social and cultural activities. DWC, within this cruise trip, presented cultural

and social activities introducing Kuwaiti music, art and culture through some recreational compe-

titions, and displayed Kuwaiti social life and the importance of the Gulf to Kuwaiti society.

International

‘Delivery Boys’ mobilize against attacks

New York food delivery workers defend themselves



NEW YORK: A bicycle with stolen parts is seen attached to a bike rack in the Manhattan borough of New York. — AFP

NEW YORK: “A colleague needs help to recover his bicycle!” says a message in the WhatsApp group of the Delivery Boys United, a team of food delivery workers in New York who are organizing to defend themselves following attacks and thefts. Vicente Carrasco, a 39-year-old from Mexico, formed the group in March after he was assaulted. They aim to protect themselves and their electric bikes, which cost around \$3,000 and, along with their phones, are their livelihoods.

Every night after a long day riding around the Big Apple, Carrasco and other “deliveristas,” mostly men, meet under the Queensboro Bridge on the Manhattan side of the East River where they wait to come to the aid of any colleague in trouble. “If there is a bicycle stolen with GPS we follow it,” he tells AFP, stressing they never go alone. “When there are many of us, we will always try to get it back. We don’t want to risk our lives too much. You don’t know if people are armed. We do what we can do.”

There have been several reports of attacks on delivery personnel in New York this year. In October a 51-year-old rider was stabbed to death and had his e-bike stolen in Chinatown. In April, a deliverista was shot dead in a Harlem. That same month, another on his scooter was hit by a vehicle in Queens. Eric Adams, expected to be elected New York’s next mayor Tuesday, has pledged to make the city’s streets safer should he take office in January.

For now, Carrasco’s group is working alongside three other organizations that bring together more than 1,000 delivery riders across Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. “This is my way of life,” says another organizer Jose Rodrigo Nevares, whose friend was killed during a theft of his bicycle. “With my bike, I feed my family, I pay my rent. I can’t just leave it so someone takes it away,” he adds. There

are roughly 65,000 deliveristas in New York, according to official figures.

With their frustration building over how police have handled cases, Carrasco and the other groups decided to take safety into their own hands. “We did this because when you call the police when you’ve been robbed, they never arrive,” he says. “We organize ourselves to be able to defend ourselves, to be faster.” For its part the New York Police Department says its “Operation Identification” helps recover registered stolen bicycles, and that NYPD duly investigates such crimes.

“The NYPD takes these crimes very seriously and will exhaust all leads available in order to catch those responsible,” spokesman Sergeant Edward Riley tells AFP. Some 80 percent of the deliveristas are undocumented immigrants, according to rights groups, meaning they are often reluctant to contact police. Nevares, who became a deliverista after losing his waiter job during the Covid-19 pandemic, says that reluctance is “out of fear, because you know that you are going to get into trouble.”

‘Not violent’

While Carrasco’s group sometimes recovers stolen bikes on their own, the operations have raised safety concerns. “Our fear is that someone will end up injured,” says Ligia Gualpa, from the Labor Justice project, who has been fighting for years to improve conditions for undocumented workers.

Many who support the workers distance themselves from the self-defense groups. But Carrasco dismisses suggestions that the men are vigilantes. “We are not violent,” he states. Food delivery workers - many of whom are of Latino, African or Asian origin - average \$2,345 a month, below the hourly \$15 minimum wage in New York’s service sector.



NEW YORK: A delivery worker rides his bike in the Manhattan borough of New York. —AFP photos

They receive no social security, no health insurance and no overtime. Nor do they have a right to unionize. Gualpa calls the working conditions “inhumane.”

Only from next year will they be allowed to use the restrooms of restaurants where they collect food, after a campaign by Gualpa’s organization. Revenue from food delivery apps has surged more than 200 percent over the past five years, with profits skyrocketing during the lockdown. It’s been a win-win for the apps, which earn fees from customers and restaurants while having no commitments to the freelance deliveristas, according to a 2020 survey

conducted by the Labor Justice Project and Cornell University.

Activists say it’s time to give the riders the same protections as other workers. Almost half of the survey’s 500 respondents said they had had an accident, including being run over, while working - and three quarters of those paid their medical expenses themselves. Fifty-four percent of respondents had their bicycles stolen - and one third of them had been victims of assault during the robbery. “We have to change the system, otherwise we are not changing the root problem,” says Gualpa. — AFP

19 killed in suicide attack on Kabul military hospital

KABUL: At least 19 people were killed and 50 others wounded in an attack on a military hospital in Kabul yesterday, the latest assault to rock Afghanistan since the Taliban seized power. The attack got under way when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the entrance of the sprawling site. Gunmen then broke into the hospital grounds, firing their weapons there, the Taliban said. “Nineteen dead bodies and about 50 wounded people have been taken to hospitals in Kabul,” a health ministry official who asked not to be named said. The Taliban spent 20 years waging an insurgency against the ousted US-backed government.

Now they face the struggle of bringing stability to Afghanistan, which has been hit in recent weeks by a series of bloody assaults claimed by the Islamic State group’s local chapter. Yesterday’s attack has not yet been claimed by any group. “All the attackers are dead. The attack was initiated by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle who blew himself up at the entrance of the hospital,” a Taliban official from the media team said. “Some attackers entered the hospital compound.”

Two explosions targeted the hospital area, he had earlier said in a statement. AFP staff in the city heard a second explosion some 30 minutes after the first was reported. “I heard a big explosion coming from the first checkpoint. We were told to go to safe rooms. I also hear guns firing,” a doctor at the Sardar Mohammad Daud



KABUL: Taliban fighters stand guard near the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan military hospital in Kabul yesterday after at least 19 people were killed and 50 others wounded in an attack on a military hospital. — AFP

Khan hospital in Kabul told AFP while the attack was being carried out. “I can still hear gun firing inside the hospital building. I think the attackers are going from room to room... like the first time it was attacked,” the doctor added.

Ambulances speeding

The hospital, which treats wounded soldiers from both the Taliban and former Afghan security forces, was previously attacked in 2017, when gunmen disguised as medical personnel killed at least 30 people in an hours-long siege. Although both IS and the Taliban are hardline Sunni Islamist militants, they differ on details of religion and strategy.

IS have claimed four mass casualty attacks since the Taliban takeover on August 15, including suicide bomb blasts targeting Shiite Muslim mosques. The group regards Shiite Muslims as heretics.

In the 2017 attack on the military hospital, militants went room to room killing people, switching to knives when they ran out of ammunition. That attack was claimed by the Islamic State group, and the Taliban denied responsibility. However, survivors told AFP that the attackers chanted “Long live Taliban” in Pashto and attacked all but two wards on the hospital’s first floor where Taliban patients were admitted. — AFP

British officers admit sharing murder victim photos online

LONDON: A judge warned two British police officers yesterday they faced potentially lengthy jail terms after they admitted sharing crime scene photographs on WhatsApp of two murdered sisters. The guilty pleas came after another serving officer with the Metropolitan Police was recently jailed for life for the kidnap, rape and murder of a woman earlier this year. Both cases have threatened to undermine public confidence in the London force, and have piled pressure on its commissioner, Cressida Dick, to resign.

Bibaa Henry, 46, and Nicole Smallman, 27, were found dead in bushes in Fryent Country Park in Wembley Park, northwest London, last year. Danyal Hussein, 19, was last week sentenced to life in prison for murder after telling the court he had made a pact with “a demon” to kill women. Officers Deniz Jaffer and Jamie Lewis were tasked with protecting the scene, but instead took “inappropriate” and “unauthorized” photographs and shared them on social media. Jaffer, 47, took four pictures and Lewis, 33, took two, the Central Criminal Court in London was told.

“Lewis edited one of the pictures by superimposing his own face onto the photograph with the victims in the background,” said prosecutors. “He sent the resulting image to Jaffer, who then forwarded it unsolicited to a female officer also present at the

scene.” They both admitted misconduct in a public office by entering a crime scene without authorization, sending information about their attendance to members of the public and taking photographs of the crime scene.

Judge Mark Lucraft granted the defendants conditional bail and adjourned sentencing until December. “These matters are extremely serious and you should be under no illusions when you return for sentence it is extremely likely you will receive custodial sentences, custodial sentences of some length for your conduct,” he warned them. The Met has already apologized to the victims’ family, who accused their investigation of being tarnished by racial bias. Last week, the force said it was sorry “for the way we responded when the sisters were reported missing”.

But the women’s mother Mina Smallman, a retired Anglican priest, told Channel 4 News: “The time for apologies has long gone.” Smallman, a 27-year-old freelance photographer, and Henry, a 46-year-old social worker, were killed in June last year as they celebrated Henry’s birthday at a late night picnic. The women were reported missing by friends and relatives, but police officers failed to properly record and act on this information. As a result, the sisters’ family and friends went out to search themselves and the next day found their bodies in the park. — AFP

International

Relatives desperate for news after Lagos building collapse

At least 7 dead, more trapped after Lagos high-rise collapse

LAGOS: Nigerian rescue crews pulled two more survivors out of a collapsed Lagos high-rise building yesterday and were communicating with others buried inside the rubble, a day after the disaster killed at least seven and left many more trapped. The 21-storey building was still under construction when it fell abruptly into a pile of concrete slabs on Monday in the wealthy Ikoyi district of Nigeria's commercial capital.

Rescuers say they have so far managed to pull seven survivors out of the wreckage, but construction workers fear dozens of their colleagues are trapped inside. Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) told AFP at the scene that two of the seven were rescued earlier yesterday. "There is still hope many more are inside. I spoke to some of them just minutes ago and their voices are strong."

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari in a statement late Monday urged "the authorities to step up efforts in rescue operations" for the victims. But relatives were desperate for news of those missing a day after the collapse. Sitting on the pavement near the crushed remains of the building, brothers Fawas Sanni, 21, and Afolabi Sanni, 17, were shell-shocked as they waited for news of their sibling. "Our sister is inside," said Fawas, a tear rolling down his cheek.

Their 25-year-old-sister Zainab was posted on September 6 to the construction site by the National Youth Service Corps, they said. "I was the last one who spoke to her before she went to work yesterday morning," said the older brother, covering his head with his hands. Enahoro Tony, a volunteer rescuer, was angry with the rescue opera-

tion. "I retrieved three bodies, then we were chased away by the army," he said. "What is going on in this country? I hate this country," he fumed.

'Still have hope'

Lagos state police say it is too early to determine why the Ikoyi building collapsed, but Lagos emergency management agency manager Femi Oke-Osanyintolu said infractions had been committed in its construction. "We are going to get to the roots of the matter to prevent a recurrence," he told AFP. Lagos State Governor has ordered an investigation.

Two excavators were digging in the pile of concrete early yesterday, as the crowd outside the



'There is still hope many inside'

building grew. A man who declined to give his name said he spoke to relatives and friends, collecting names of those still trapped under the rubble. Across the street from the site, Moses Oladipo, 65, was waiting for news from his 50-year-old son, who has three children. "He just came here to visit his friend, before his flight back to the US where he lives," said the father, crouching on the ground close to the



IKOYI, Nigeria: Rescue workers search for survivors still trapped under the rubble at the site of the collapsed 21-storey building in Ikoyi, Lagos yesterday. —AFP

entrance. "They rescued a man last night... I thought it was him, but no," he said. "I still have hope."

Building collapses are tragically common in Lagos and across Africa's most populous nation where substandard materials, negligence and a lack of enforcement of construction standards are major problems. In one of Nigeria's worst building disas-

ters, more than 100 people, mostly South Africans, died when a church guesthouse crumbled in Lagos in 2014. An inquiry found the building had been built illegally and had structural flaws. Two years later, at least 60 people were killed when a roof fell in on a church in Uyo, the capital of Akwa Ibom state, in the east of the country. —AFP



GLASGOW: US President Joe Biden (left) and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson (right) react during a meeting on 'the Build Back Better World (B3W)', as part of the World Leaders' Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow yesterday. —AFP

Laughing or crying, Biden wears heart on sleeve

GLASGOW: He laughs, he cries, he says sorry. For the most powerful man in the world, President Joe Biden sure shows his soft side a lot. On Monday, he was apologizing in Glasgow on behalf of the United States for Donald Trump, whom he defeated exactly a year ago. The day before, in Rome, Biden came close to tears when talking about his dead son and the pope.

And that was just during his Europe trip, attending twin G20 and UN climate summits before flying home later. Trump was all macho bluster and Barack Obama oozed smooth self-confidence, but Biden wears his heart on his sleeve. Ignoring the politician's credo that apologies demonstrate weakness, he says sorry all the time. He's sorry for being late, for talking too long, for being boring, or for not being as good as those around him.

Often the apologies are part of gentle self-deprecation. "Hey everyone, I'm Jill's husband," goes his favorite opening line, whenever First Lady Jill Biden is around. His response to bad news - there's a lot of it for Biden these days - is largely to flash a smile and chuckle. When it became clear last month that he'd failed to get congressional backing for providing all Americans free community college, the 78-

year-old joked that Jill, herself a community college professor, was kicking him out of bed. "The White House has a lot of bedrooms," he said.

Sorry for being sorry

Monday's apology for the fact that Trump had yanked the United States from the Paris Accord on saving the planet from global warming was classic Biden: he began by apologizing for apologizing. "I guess I shouldn't apologize but I do," he said. His emotional remarks the previous day about his beloved son Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015, were extraordinary for their sheer openness.

He initially suggested that he wouldn't answer a reporter's question about what his meeting at the Vatican with Pope Francis had meant to him, saying it was "personal." But the floodgates opened as he recalled how the pope, while on a visit to the United States, had reached out to support his family in the wake of Beau's death. The "wounds were still raw" and the pope had "such a cathartic impact," he said, his voice cracking.

Biden's emotional approach is not just his personality. It's a political brand. Pitching himself as "middle class Joe," a train-and-cars buff with rough-edged roots in Scranton and Delaware, he's too real to put on the airs of a regular politician. That's the idea. Given his age and now immense responsibility, the public persona has evolved into something like the wise, yet still playful elderly uncle. Does it work? Not for everyone. Milder detractors say Biden is too feeble for the savage political infighting in Washington. —AFP

against the staff member, the public prosecutor has "developed measures to make it more difficult to gain access to such information about probes... this must never happen again".

Hildmann, who has both German and Turkish nationality, has faced possible criminal charges since last year including incitement and resisting arrest. However he is believed to be in Turkey, which does not extradite its citizens. Using his Telegram channel, Hildmann has claimed to tens of thousands of followers that the "socialist" Angela Merkel was "worse than Hitler" due to the coronavirus restrictions her government imposed. The alleged mole is believed to belong to the so-called Querdenker ("Lateral Thinker") movement, which emerged last year as the loudest voice against the government's pandemic curbs.

Its large protests have attracted a wide mix of people including vaccine sceptics, neo-Nazis and members of the far-right AfD party. A public prosecutor's office spokesman told AFP that the woman came to the authorities' attention due to her participation in such rallies and suspicious searches she had conducted in the office's databases. Digital documents about the Hildmann case the suspect allegedly passed on to him were found in her apartment during a search in July. She also reportedly visited Hildmann in Turkey earlier this year. —AFP

German prosecutors probe 'mole' leak to conspiracy theorist

BERLIN: German prosecutors have opened a probe against a suspected mole accused of illicitly passing on information to a well-known conspiracy theorist who has agitated against government pandemic measures, officials said Monday. Attila Hildmann, a former vegan celebrity chef who has railed against shutdown restrictions and vaccines and spread outlandish propaganda, is believed to have received information about an investigation against him from the suspect.

Berlin's top justice official Dirk Behrendt confirmed media reports of a probe against a former employee from the local public prosecutor's office on allegations of violating her duty to protect official secrets and attempted obstruction of justice. The 32-year-old IT department staffer has since been sacked but is not in custody. "There has never been a comparable case in the Berlin justice system in my memory," Behrendt tweeted. Beyond the criminal investigation

ANC faces worst post-apartheid election result

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's ANC yesterday looked set to deliver its worst ever electoral performance since the end of apartheid, with support expected to dip below 50 percent in local government polls. With around 30 percent of polling stations reporting following Monday's fiercely contested elections, the African National Congress stood at 46 percent of the vote, according to electoral commission figures.

Voters were called to elect local representatives responsible for hot-button issues including electricity, housing, water and sanitation. Poor service delivery has dogged South African for years while senior party members, including ex-president Jacob Zuma, face corruption investigations, and unemployment has hit 34.4 percent. Frustrations with the ANC government played out in July when widespread rioting and looting erupted following Zuma's imprisonment for contempt after refusing to testify in a corruption investigation.

The unrest claimed at least 354 lives. Until 2016, the ANC had won more than 60 percent at every election since the country's first multi-racial vote in

1994 when Nelson Mandela was sworn in as president. Its support slipped from 62 percent in the 2011 municipal elections to 54 percent during the 2016 vote. Pollsters forecast the ANC to win 46 percent overall in the local polls held every five years.

"The national picture is that we see the ANC dropping from their 2016 performance of 54.1 percent to 46.8 percent," Xolisa Ngwadla, statistics analyst with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), told AFP. The largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, also looked set to lose support with forecasters seeing it drop from 29.9 percent in previous polls to 22.7 percent in the current election, said the CSIR, a government research institution, whose prediction model typically has a 0.5 percent margin of error.

Contesting its second municipal elections, the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters is expected to enjoy a boost, from 7.1 percent to 10.6 percent. In 2016 the ANC lost control for the first time of the country's economic hub and its largest city Johannesburg, as it did the capital Pretoria and the southern city of Port Elizabeth, now renamed Gqeberha.

The losing streak has continued, with the ANC's support forecast to erode further in Johannesburg from the 44.7 percent it garnered in the previous vote to 36.3 percent. In the Pretoria capital region, "we project the ANC to land at around 34 percent, which is a decline from a previous 38.1 percent," Ngwadla said. —AFP



JOHANNESBURG: An electoral commission official marks a voter's finger with special ink at a polling station at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in Johannesburg during South Africa's local elections. —AFP

Climate change 'main cause' of fires in US west

LOS ANGELES: Climate change caused overwhelmingly by human activity is the primary source of the unprecedented forest fires regularly ravaging the western United States, according to a study published Monday. Fires destroyed an average of 13,500 square kilometers per year in the American west between 2001 and 2018 - twice as much as between 1984-2000. "It's happened so much faster than we previously anticipated," Rong Fu, who led the study published by the US National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), told the Los Angeles Times.

In order to understand what contributed to such a significant deterioration of conditions in such a short time, a team of American researchers led by Fu analyzed various factors at work in the "vapor pressure deficit" (VPD), which indicates how dry the air is. The VPD represents the difference between the amount of water actually present in the atmosphere and the maximum that the atmosphere could hold. The greater the deficit, the more water is drawn into the air from soil and plants, drying them out and creating conditions that are increasingly conducive to fires.

Scientists have determined that the increase in

wildfires in the western United States is closely linked to this deficit during the warm season. Between May and September, the number of days with a high VPD increased 94 percent between 2001 and 2008 compared to the previous period, the study said. According to Fu and her colleagues' calculations, "natural" atmospheric variations were only responsible for an average 32 percent increase in VPD.

The remaining 68 percent of the increase in atmospheric water deficit over the past 20 years is due to global warming, which is largely caused by human activities. "Prior to 2000, we can explain this fire weather pretty well just using weather patterns," said Fu, a climatologist at the University of California UCLA. "But now we can only explain 30 percent of what we see with fire weather." Some models show anthropogenic, or human-originated, warming could explain up to 88 percent of the anomalies seen in the VPD, the study found. —AFP

In August 2020, when California suffered the largest fire ever recorded in the region - the August Complex Fire, which alone burned nearly 4,200 square kilometers - so-called anthropogenic warming was responsible for about 50 percent of the "unprecedented high" moisture deficit, the study said. According to climate experts, due to greenhouse gases generated by human activity, primarily fossil fuel use, the planet has already warmed about 1.1 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era. Most of the warming has occurred in the last 50 years. —AFP

Business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

KFH wins World's Best Islamic Financial Institution 2021 award

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won the World's Best Islamic Financial Institution 2021 Award from Global Finance Magazine at its 14th annual awards for the World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions for this year.

In addition to this award, KFH has also received four prestigious awards: World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider, World's Best Islamic Financial Institution 2021 in Turkey for KFH-Turkey, World's Best Islamic Financial Institution in Europe for KT Bank AG-Germany, and World's Best Islamic Takaful for KFH Takaful.

Acting Group Chief Executive Officer at KFH AbdulWahab Al-Rushood received the awards at the Global Finance Awards 2021 dinner held in Dubai. On the sidelines of receiving the awards, Al-Rushood said that the World's Best Islamic Financial Institution Award confirms the success of KFH's efforts in providing the highest standards of Islamic financial services, while contributing to the development of the banking industry. This is in line with the methodological and shariah support that KFH is keen to provide to spread the Islamic finance industry.

He added that the awards KFH received were well-deserved in view of the bank's contribution to the growth of the Islamic finance industry in the markets it operated in, its success in meeting the customers' needs of Sharia-compliant products and establishing sustainable future growth with high efficiency for the Islamic finance industry and keeping up with the latest financial and banking technology.

Al-Rushood pointed out that KFH is moving forward in its digital transformation strategy, adopting the state-of-the-art technological financial services (fintech) and applying AI and robotic technology in banking transactions. KFH succeeded in offering several digital services on



DUBAI: Acting Group Chief Executive Officer at KFH AbdulWahab Al-Rushood receives the awards at the Global Finance Awards 2021 dinner.

- KFH wins World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider award
- KFH-Turkey wins Best Islamic Financial Institution in Turkey award
- KFH-Germany wins Best Islamic Financial Institution in Europe award
- KFH-Takaful wins World's Best Islamic Takaful award

the mobile app KFHonline and on various alternative channels including KFH Go smart branches in several areas of Kuwait. This helps enhance the customer's digital experience and lead digital development in the banking industry.

Al-Rushood indicated that the World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider award confirms the wide experience of KFH in the Islamic finance industry, sukuk issuance for many banks, corporates and governments and arranging major

financing deals for mega infrastructure development projects including vital sectors, as well as contributing to driving economic growth and developing many financial products and alternative funding options which are currently used in international markets.

He went on to say that the Group subsidiaries' awards reiterate the capability and efficiency of the Group subsidiaries, while reflecting their harmony and consistent performance. Al-Rushood said KFH succeeded in strengthening its roles and expanding its activities locally and globally, represented by Kuwaiti market and Group's markets. Being the first Islamic bank in Kuwait, KFH achieved many successes in several areas, including building solid economic basics depending on developing human resources, and offering products and services that meet the market's requirements.

All selections of the awards were made by the highly professional team of Global Finance, after extensive consultations with bankers, corporate finance executives and analysts throughout the world. The stringent criteria of giving the awards included new business development and product innovation, meeting all customer requirements, geographic reach and strategic relationships. Also, among the criteria considered were reputation, the adherence to ethical standards and customer satisfaction.

It is worth noting that Global Finance magazine is headquartered in New York and founded in 1987. It has readers in more than 190 countries and 34 years of experience in international financial markets. The magazine is an international reference in the financial sector, covering topics of corporate finance, joint ventures, capital markets, currencies, banks and risk management.

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House



Your trust.. First award



World's Best Islamic Financial Institution
KFH Kuwait

World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider
KFH Kuwait

World's Best Islamic Takaful
KFH Takaful Kuwait

Best Islamic Financial Institution in Turkey
KFH Turkey

Best Islamic Financial Institution in Europe
KFH Germany

Thank you, we have been chosen as the World's Best Islamic Financial Institution by the international leading Global Finance magazine.

Your continued trust is vital for our continued success.

Business

Yahoo, Fortnite exit China as tech crackdown bites

Tech giants flee amid Beijing's strict regulatory clampdown

BEIJING: US internet services company Yahoo said yesterday it has pulled out of mainland China, becoming the latest tech firm to withdraw as a crackdown by Beijing on the industry gathers pace. The move comes just days after American gaming giant Epic said it will shut its popular game "Fortnite" following the imposition of strict curbs on the world's biggest gaming market.

Beijing has embarked on a wide-ranging regulatory clampdown on a number of industries in a drive to tighten its control of the economy, with tech firms taking the brunt. The push has seen a number of US-based companies withdraw major products from China in recent weeks, with Microsoft in October announcing the closure of its career-oriented social network LinkedIn.

"In recognition of the increasingly challenging business and legal environment in China, Yahoo's suite of services will no longer be accessible from mainland China as of November 1," Yahoo said in a statement emailed to AFP.

"Yahoo remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet. We thank our users for their support." Foreign tech companies have long walked a tightrope in China, forced to comply with strict local laws and government censorship of content.

Google shut down its search engine in China in 2010, refusing Beijing's requirement to censor search results. Reports in 2018 of a plan by Google executives to explore reopening a site in China sparked a backlash from rights groups and Google employees warning that a censored search engine would set a "dangerous precedent".

Yahoo China was launched in 1999, when the company was among the world's most important

internet firms. Its presence in the country has shrunk in recent years, with Yahoo shutting down its Chinese mail service in 2013.

Yahoo's latest statement echoes Microsoft's complaint in October that it faced an increasingly "challenging operating environment and greater compliance requirements".

Gaming clampdown

China's crackdown has also hit the video gaming sector, with officials in late August saying they wanted to curb addiction by announcing drastic cuts to the amount of time children can spend playing online.

On Sunday gaming giant Epic said it had pulled the plug on "Fortnite", saying it will shut down the Chinese version of the massively popular game on November 15. The action-packed shooter and world-building game is one of the most popular in the world, boasting more than 350 million users.

"Fortnite China's Beta test has reached an end, and the servers will be closed soon," a statement from the firm said. "On November 15 at 11am, we will turn off game servers, and players will no longer be able to log in." The move brings an end to a long-running test of Epic's version of "Fortnite" specifically created for the Chinese market, where content is policed for excessive violence.

The Chinese test version was released in 2018, but "Fortnite" never received the government's green light to be formally launched and monetized as approvals for new games slowed.

Daniel Ahmad, senior video game analyst at Niko Partners, said fighting games such as "Fortnite" had faced tighter approval requirements in recent years. "We believe the lack of approval is the main reason



BEIJING: In this file photo, pedestrians walk past a Yahoo billboard in Beijing. —AFP

why Tencent and Epic decided to close the game at this point," Ahmad said, despite the developers making numerous changes to tone down the bloodier aspects of the game.

In September, scores of Chinese video game makers including Tencent vowed to better police their products for "politically harmful" content and enforce curbs on underage players, as they looked to fall in line with government demands. The 213 gaming

firms promised in a joint statement to ban content that was "politically harmful, historically nihilistic, dirty and pornographic, bloody and terrifying".

Epic's announcement was met with sadness from fans in China, who took to social media to mourn the loss of the game. "I'm genuinely crying so hard—I was just playing with my boyfriend and was really looking forward to what was coming next," one Weibo user wrote. "This is just so sudden." —AFP

Whistleblower blasts FB's Meta rebrand

LISBON: Whistleblower Frances Haugen issued a stinging rebuke of Facebook's "Meta" rebrand, accusing the company of yet again prioritizing expansion over people's safety. The former Facebook engineer, who leaked a trove of internal documents that have sparked weeks of criticism of the social media giant, also called on its chairman and CEO Mark Zuckerberg to step down.

Speaking at the Web Summit tech conference in Lisbon, Haugen said it was "unconscionable" that Facebook was trumpeting its ambitions to develop the "metaverse"—a virtual reality version of the internet—rather than focusing on fixing existing problems. "Over and over again Facebook chooses expansion in new areas over sticking the landing on what they've already done," she told an audience of tens of thousands in the Portuguese capital.

"Instead of investing in making sure their platforms are a minimum level of safe, they're about to invest 10,000 engineers in video games." Facebook last month announced that it will hire 10,000 new staff in Europe over the

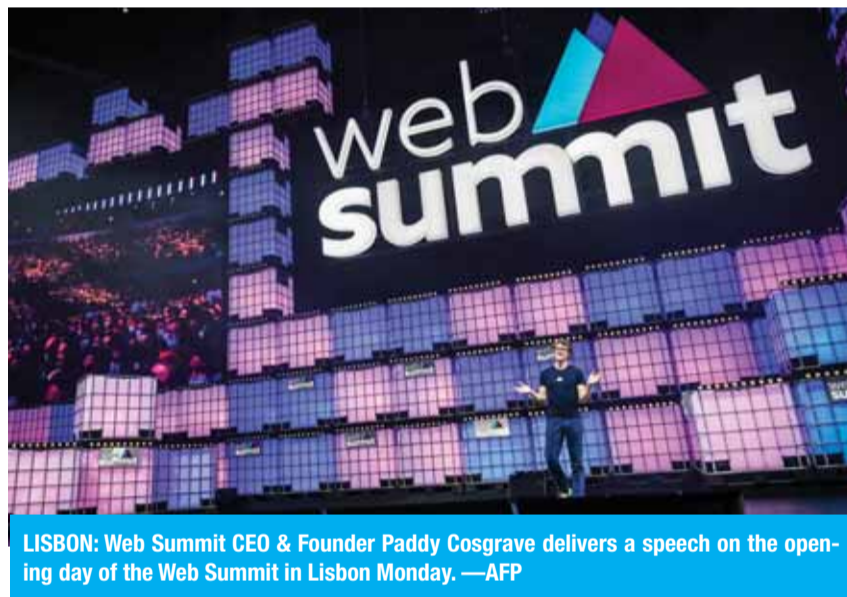
next five years in its bid to build the metaverse, which would use virtual reality to make online experiences—like chatting to a friend, or attending a concert—feel face-to-face.

The company last week announced it was changing the name of Facebook's parent company to "Meta" to signal the change in focus. Critics have derided the rebrand as an attempted distraction from the avalanche of damaging revelations from Haugen's leaked documents.

The "Facebook Papers" show that company executives knew of their sites' potential for harm on numerous fronts, including the uncontrolled spread of hate speech in developing countries as well as Instagram's impact on teens' mental health. Haugen has accused Facebook of ignoring concerns raised by its own employees in the pursuit of profit.

'Overwhelming'

Asked if Zuckerberg should step down, she said: "I think Facebook would be stronger with someone who's willing to focus on safety, so yes." She went on: "It doesn't make him a bad person to have made mistakes, but it is unacceptable to continue to make the same bad mistakes after you know that those are mistakes." Haugen has testified before US and UK lawmakers in recent weeks, but the Web Summit—which she offici-



LISBON: Web Summit CEO & Founder Paddy Cosgrave delivers a speech on the opening day of the Web Summit in Lisbon Monday. —AFP

ally opened, with an explosion of confetti raining down from the ceiling—marked her first appearance before a wider public.

She said it was "overwhelming" to speak in front of so many people, telling the crowd: "Right now my heart is beating about as fast as I can imagine." Facebook vice president Nick Clegg, who is due to address the Web Summit on Tuesday, will likely reject Haugen's suggestion that the metaverse project equates to a mass investment in "video games".

Zuckerberg last week showcased a

much-mocked promo of what the metaverse could eventually look and feel like—flying was indeed playful, involving flying koi carp and a card game with a robot.

But Silicon Valley enthusiasts believe the metaverse could represent the next great leap in the evolution of the internet, eventually blurring the digital world seamlessly with the physical one, creating a wealth of new economic opportunities. The metaverse is the theme of numerous events at this year's Web Summit, which runs through Thursday. —AFP

Toyota joins opposition to US EV tax credit

WASHINGTON: Toyota urged Washington yesterday not to "play politics" with environmental issues by offering tax credits for US-made electric vehicles, joining a chorus of foreign opposition to the issue. President Joe Biden's focus on helping blue-collar American workers led to a proposal in his Build Back Better legislation to offer \$4,500 in tax credits for electric vehicles built in the United States by union workers. Toyota, with 10 US-based auto plants employing 36,000 workers, favors "incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles to speed the transition" to all-electric, the company said in a statement.

However, the Japanese automaker said the proposed credits for union-made vehicles devalue the



LOS ANGELES: In this file photo, Toyota's electric Prius V is on display during the 26th International Electric Vehicle Symposium EVS26on in Los Angeles. —AFP

work of those who chose not to join a union, and send a message that promoting unions is more important than combating climate change.

"Let's not play politics with the environment, the American autoworker or the American consumer,"

in 10 Indian languages and has a price tag of 6,400 rupees (\$87), with customers able to put down an initial 1,999 rupees (\$27) and the rest payable in instalments. Ambani said in a statement that the handset was a "breakthrough device" that would "empower common Indians... and take their digital journeys to the next level". But Emkay Global Financial Services analysts Naval Seth and Sonali Shah said in a note that the price tag was currently not yet "lucrative enough for (the) masses".

They said Reliance's telecoms arm Jio had cut prices of previous phones multiple times "which accelerated acceptance". "We believe that there is a possibility of it doing the same through various promotional schemes, if the sales are not up to expectations," they added. Jio is India's biggest mobile network operator with 398.3 million subscribers, having upended the market with free calls and ultra-cheap data when it launched in 2016. The

Toyota said. "This isn't fair. This isn't right."

Washington's major trading partners Canada and Mexico also sent letters to American congressional leaders in the past week objecting to the tax credits, saying they violate US commitments under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement governing trade. Canadian Trade Minister Mary Ng also warned the action would undermine the highly integrated continental auto industry.

"If passed into law, these credits would have a major adverse impact on the future of EV and automotive production in Canada, resulting in the risk of severe economic harm and tens of thousands of job losses in one of Canada's largest manufacturing sectors," Ng said.

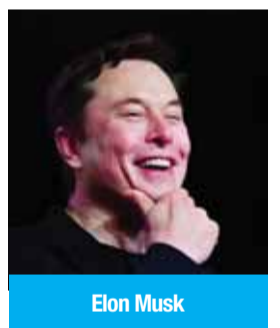
"US companies and workers would not be isolated from these impacts." A letter from Mexico's US ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragan and two dozen other ambassadors said the tax credit "conflicts with the goal of the quick deployment of new sustainable technologies" since it would apply to only two vehicles out of over 50 electric vehicles currently available. —AFP

Tesla's Elon Musk downplays deal to supply cars to Hertz

LISBON: Tesla shares sunk in early trading yesterday after founder Elon Musk cast doubt on a deal to supply Hertz with rental cars. The Hertz announcement last week of an agreement for Tesla to supply the car rental firm with 100,000 of its electric autos helped push Musk's company to a \$1 trillion market valuation alongside tech titans like Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Apple.

But Musk on Monday said no agreement had been finalized. "If any of this is based on Hertz, I'd like to emphasize that no contract has been signed yet," Musk tweeted in response to a chart showing Tesla's share price ascending.

"Tesla has far more demand than production, therefore we will only sell cars to Hertz for the same margin as to consumers. Hertz deal has zero effect on our economics." Tesla shares were trading 2.3 percent lower just after the open on Wall Street. Separately, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration yesterday announced the recall of nearly 12,000 Tesla cars due to errors with their communication software. —AFP



Elon Musk

BoE eyes first rate rise since 2018 as inflation surges

LONDON: The Bank of England could this week raise its main interest rate for the first time in more than three years to rein in surging inflation as economies reopen from pandemic lockdowns, analysts say. Economists are predicting that the BoE led by governor Andrew Bailey could hike borrowing costs from a record low of 0.1 percent to 0.25 percent at a regular policy meeting tomorrow.

Other central banks across the globe have recently tightened policy to cool soaring prices and still more are considering following suit. Monetary policymakers must also decide whether to taper huge emergency cash stimulus support that has kept economies afloat during the pandemic.

The US Federal Reserve is expected today to announce plans to begin tapering its stimulus as the world's biggest economy recovers. The European Central Bank and Bank of Japan are holding fire for now on rates and stimulus, but central banks in countries such as Brazil, Singapore, South Korea and New Zealand have all increased borrowing costs recently.

The Bank of Canada has ended its vast bond-buying stimulus program, and has flagged an interest rate hike earlier in 2022 than envisaged. In the UK, the Bank of England may raise its interest rate tomorrow as it "appears more worried about the upside risks to inflation from rising underlying wage growth and higher inflation expectations than... a month ago", said Paul Dales, economist at Capital Economics.

The BoE's new chief economist Huw Pill told the Financial Times in late October that the UK annual inflation rate risks shooting above 5.0 percent in the coming months from 3.1 percent currently. For its part, the British government is forecasting an annual average rate of 4.0 percent over the next year after energy costs soared and reopening economies suffer from supply shortages. —AFP

Google and Indian billionaire launch budget smartphone

MUMBAI: Online giant Google and Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani opened advance orders in India for an entry-level smartphone billed as the world's most affordable, joining the race to tap into the booming budget market.

Ambani's conglomerate Reliance Industries announced in July last year that it would partner with Google to launch the 4G smartphone, competing with Chinese and South Korean manufacturers that already have a strong foothold in the South Asian nation. The JioPhone Next will offer content



MUMBAI: A new JioPhone Next handset is pictured during its media preview in Mumbai Monday. —AFP

launch of the new phone comes in the run-up to Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights later this week, which is traditionally the biggest shopping period of the year in India. —AFP

Business

Gulf Bank wins 'Best Innovation in Customer Experience' award

Bank honored at the Future Enterprise Awards 2021 during GITEX 2021

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank announced that it received the "Best Innovation in Customer Experience" award at the Future Enterprise Awards 2021, which took place in the last week of GITEX 2021.

This award was granted to Gulf Bank in recognition of its efforts to enhance customer experience through the different channels. Gulf Bank has recently announced the launch of a revolutionary new feature, enabling customers to open bank accounts in just under a minute, via the Bank's website or mobile application.

The launch of the new feature marks the beginning of a new era of digital banking services for Gulf Bank's customers, as opening an account with Gulf Bank is now the simplest and fastest account registration process in Kuwait. The feature is available for all types of bank accounts at Gulf Bank, and is available to all customer segments, and both individuals and corporations. Gulf Bank is constantly striving to provide simpler, more convenient and more secure banking services compared to the traditional banking experience. The new initiative is only the beginning of Gulf Bank's digital and technological transformation and is part of the Bank's new strategy to give customers the option of conducting their banking transactions anytime, anywhere - be it from the comfort of home or the office.

In an effort to further enhance customer satisfaction, Gulf Bank underwent major systems enhancements, effectively providing customers with a more tailored banking experience. Gulf Bank customers are now more likely to have products recommended to them based on their profiles and preferences. As part of these efforts, the Bank also shifted its focus to customers residing out-



Mohammed Al-Qattan (center) and GBK team at the awarding ceremony

side of Kuwait, improving their banking experience through the various channels available to them.

General Manager of the Retail Banking Group at Gulf Bank Mohammed Al-Qattan said: "We are pleased with this recognition for our work and our continuous efforts to improve the customer experience. At Gulf Bank, we are always keen to provide an unparalleled banking experience to customers, while achieving the highest levels of flexibility in service and the availability of transactions across various digital means to facilitate the lives

of our customers and respond to their needs. We promise customers more innovations during the next phase to make Gulf Bank the bank of the future."

Gulf Bank's new strategy is based on a comprehensive digital transformation, and aims to assert the Bank's pioneering position as the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. After wrapping up multiple successes and achievements on the operational front which, in turn, have created increased value for shareholders and allow the Bank to turn to the future, laying down a new strate-

gy, providing customers with simple and innovative services in order to facilitate customers' lives and achieve sustainable growth.

Gulf Bank's new strategy aims to provide customers with an unprecedented banking experience in Kuwait, based on digital transformation processes already underway both at the customer service level and internal operations level. One of the key pillars of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy is the investment in integrated technological solutions, a transformation which will be tangible to all those who are connected with Gulf Bank. Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the Bank. The Bank also supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various relevant parties to achieve it.

For more information on Gulf Bank's various initiatives and activities, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's branches or log on to Gulf Bank's Online/Mobile Banking services.

In Iceland, CO2 sucked from air is turned to rock

ON THE HENGILL VOLCANO, Iceland: At the foot of an Icelandic volcano, a newly-opened plant is sucking carbon dioxide from the air and turning it to rock, locking away the main culprit behind global warming.

Orca, based on the Icelandic word for "energy," does its cutting-edge work at the Hellisheidi geothermal power plant in southwest Iceland. It is the world's largest plant using the direct air capture technology (DAC) increasingly lighting up the imagination as the world struggles to avert catastrophic global warming.

Yet DAC is the least developed of the carbon removal technologies promoted as the key to compensating for the slow switch away from fossil fuels. Climeworks, a Swiss start-up that has just built the plant around 30 kilometers from the capital Reykjavik in a tie-up with Icelandic companies, is not deterred.

"You have to learn to walk before you can run," said Julie Gosalvez, in charge of marketing for the company. Her firm works with Iceland's Carbfix, which has pioneered underground carbon storage, and ON Power, a local geothermal electricity provider.

The enterprise uses Carbfix's method that mimics, in accelerated format, a natural process that can take hundreds of thousands of years. By pulling CO2 from ambient air, the plant is different from more traditional types of carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects at highly-polluting industrial smokestacks. The giant steel structure resting on cement slabs and linked to a maze of pipes is powered by the nearby geothermal power plant.

The facility is made of eight containers similar to those used in maritime transport, stacked up in pairs.

Fans in front of the collector draw in ambient air and release it, largely purified of CO2, through ventilators at the back. Project manager Lukas Kaufmann said "very selective filter material inside our collector containers" catch carbon dioxide.

Turned to rock

"As soon as the filter is full, we close it off, and then we heat it up to around 100 degrees Celsius" to separate the pure gas, Kaufmann added. Once free of impurities after treatment in the adjoining process hall, the carbon dioxide is then piped underground a distance of three kilometers (1.8 miles) to an area where grey, igloo-shaped domes dot a lunar-like landscape. Dissolved in fresh water, the gas is then injected under high pressure into the basalt rock between 800 and 2,000 meters underground.

The solution fills the rock's cavities and the solidification process begins—a chemical reaction turning it to calcified white crystals that occurs when the gas comes in contact with the calcium, magnesium and iron in the basalt. It takes up to two years for the CO2 to petrify. Carbfix insists the method is the safest and most stable to stock carbon for now. The carbon dioxide would only be re-released into the air if the rock were to heat up to very high temperatures, as in a volcanic eruption. Didier Dalmazzone, head of the chemistry laboratory at French engineering school ENSTA Paris, said —AFP.



REYKJAVIK: Climevents factory with its fans in front of the collector, drawing in ambient air and release it, as largely purified CO2 through ventilators at the back is seen at the Hellisheidi power plant near Reykjavik. — AFP



BHALOJI, India: A solar plant owned by farmer and doctor Amit Singh in Bhaloji village, in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan. — AFP

Greening deserts: India powers renewable goals with solar push

BHADLA, India: As camels munch on the fringes of Thar desert, an oasis of blue solar panels stretches further than the eye can see at Bhadla Park—a cornerstone of India's bid to become a clean energy powerhouse. Currently, coal powers 70 percent of the nation's electricity generation, but Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged that by 2030, India will produce more energy through solar and other renewables than its entire grid now. "First, India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts... Second, by 2030, 50 percent of our energy requirements will come from renewable resources," Modi told the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

The arid state of Rajasthan, where Bhadla Park takes up an area almost the size of San Marino, sees 325 sunny days each year, making it perfectly placed for the solar power revolution, officials say. Once an expanse of desert, authorities have capitalized on the sparsely populated area, claiming minimal displacement of local communities. Today robots clean dust and sand off an estimated 10 million solar panels, while a few hundred humans monitor. This pursuit of a greener future is fuelled by necessity. India, home to 1.3 billion people and poised to overtake China as the most populous country, has a growing and voracious appetite for energy—but it is also on the frontline of climate change.

In the next two decades, it has to add a power system the size of Europe's to meet demand for its swelling population, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), but it also has to tackle toxic air quality in its big cities. "India is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world for climate change and that is why it has this big push on renewables to decarbonize the power sector, but also reduce air pollution," Arunabha Ghosh, climate policy expert from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, told AFP. But experts say the country—the world's third-biggest carbon emitter—is some way from reaching its green targets, with coal set to remain a key part of the energy mix in the coming years.

'Huge transformation'

Although India's green energy has increased five-fold in just over a decade to 100GW this year, the sector now needs to grow by the same proportion again to meet its 2030 goals. "I believe this is more of an aspirational target... to show to the world that we are moving in the right direction," Vinay Rustagi from renewable

energy consultancy Bridge to India, said. "But it would be a big stretch and seems highly unrealistic, in view of various demand and supply challenges," Rustagi said. Proponents point to Bhadla Solar Park, one of the largest in the world, as an example of how innovation, technology, and public and private finance can drive swift change.

"We've huge chunks of land where there's not a blade of grass. Now you don't see the ground anymore. You just see solar panels. It's such a huge transformation," Subodh Agarwal, Rajasthan's additional chief secretary for energy, told AFP. Authorities are incentivizing renewables firms to set up in the region, known as the "desert state". Agarwal says demand has "accelerated" since 2019. "It will be a different Rajasthan. It will be the solar state," he said of the next decade.

If this surge is sustained then coal-fired power for electricity generation could peak by 2024, according to Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) projections. Currently, solar power accounts for four percent of electricity generation. Before Modi's announcement the IEA estimated solar and coal will converge at around 30 percent each by 2040 based on current policies. India's billionaires, including Asia's two richest men Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, are pledging huge investments, while Modi is setting up a renewables park the size of Singapore in his home state of Gujarat.

But reshaping an entire power network takes time and money, analysts warn. Around 80 percent of India's solar panels are still imported from China, the world's biggest producer. Gyanesh Chaudhary, chief executive of Indian panel manufacturer Vikram Solar, insisted there should be "more than 30" local firms like his already. "That's the kind of demand (and) ecosystem that India would essentially need... It should have happened sooner." Experts say domestic growth has been stymied by insufficient policies, funding shortages, cheaper panels from China, and infrastructure and energy storage issues.

"A lot of these plants are located at very long distances from power stations, so you have to think of linking them," explained Apurba Mitra, World Resources Institute India's climate policy chief. Modi, who announced at COP26 that India would be carbon neutral by 2070, made it clear that such emissions-cutting pledges would require finance from rich, historic emitters. —AFP

Reinventing steelmaking for a green revolution

LULEA, Sweden: In a gleaming new building in the northern Swedish town of Lulea, steelmaker SSAB is using a new manufacturing method that could revolutionize the highly-polluting industry by eliminating nearly all its CO2 emissions. But making the method work at scale poses major challenges and the technique may not be the 'silver bullet' everyone is hoping for. Critics argue it may just push emissions elsewhere. Finding ways to decarbonize steel, an indispensable component of modern industry, is one of the keys to drastically reducing carbon emissions to meet climate goals.

Among heavy industries, iron and steel production is the number one contributor to CO2 emissions, according to the International Energy Agency. The World Steel Association estimates the industry accounts for about seven to nine percent of man-made emissions worldwide, with an estimated 2.6 billion

tons of CO2 emitted in 2020. In Lulea, the sterile appearance of the new building stands in stark contrast to the nearby soot-covered blast furnace it's meant to replace. Alight with the signature orange glow of melted metal as liquid iron spews out, the blast furnace is the main method for producing steel today. "By switching technology from a normal blast furnace where we use coal and emit CO2, we end up with regular water instead," SSAB site manager Monica Quinteiro tells AFP during a visit to the HYBRIT pilot facility. "We can reduce the CO2 emissions from steelmaking by 90 percent," she adds. HYBRIT is a collaboration between steelmaker SSAB, state-owned utility Vattenfall and mining company LKAB.

The iron ore that comes out of a mine is usually rich in oxides, chemical compounds made up of iron and oxygen, the most well-known form of which is rust.

To make steel, that oxygen needs to be removed. Air heated to more than 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 F) is fed into the blast furnace, causing coke to react with the oxygen which is then released as CO2, resulting in nearly two tons of CO2 for every ton of steel produced. In the HYBRIT facility, the oxygen is removed differently. "Instead of using heated air, we are circulating hot hydrogen gas," Quinteiro explains. —AFP

شركة الخليج للكابلات والصناعات الكهربائية ش.م.ك.ع.
Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries Co. k.s.c.p.

URGENT HIRING

PROGRAMMER / DEVELOPER (POWER BUILDER)

- Excellent understanding in coding, innovations, developing applications.
- Can handle project independently, self-motivated, and able to communicate with the users, team & management.
- Databases: SQL Anywhere, MS SQL, Oracle etc.
- Experience on web developing, MS Visual Studio, Oracle, ASP.Net & C# will be preferred.
- Managing of documentations - records, reports, logs, correspondence etc.
- Presentation skills, orienting, guiding, and providing training to the users.
- Handling of any other related task.

IT Helpdesk Specialist / Senior IT Coordinator

- Evaluating new technology and innovations.
- Installing, upgrading, & troubleshooting of OS, applications, devices, and peripherals.
- Exhausting all possible solutions to resolve the issue.
- Assisting, orienting, guiding the users.
- Managing and inventory of hardware, devices and peripherals, licenses, consumables, and other supplies.
- Managing of documentations - records, reports, logs, correspondence etc.
- Handling of any other IT related task.

IT COORDINATOR FOR IOS (Network) SECTION

- Install configure troubleshoot Switches, Access points, IP Phones & IP Cameras etc.
- Configurations & troubleshooting of ports, VLANs, Trunking, IP's, DNS and DHCP.
- Cable management & terminations.
- Installing & troubleshoots of Outlook & network related software's.
- Managing of documentations - records, reports, logs, correspondence etc.
- Handling of any other IT network, pc and devices related task.

EDUCATIONAL / SKIL SREQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree (Computer Science/ Related course)
- 25 to 40 years old
- With minimum 3-5 years of related experience
- Work Permit copy
- Transferrable visa is a must

HR@gulfcable.com

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
For other career opportunities please visit www.gulfcable.com

Business

Toyota Mirai sets new Guinness World Record with 1,360km zero emission journey

Flagship Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle's class-leading range establishes new benchmarks for sustainability



KUWAIT: Toyota's deep-rooted commitment to sustainable mobility was in the spotlight recently as the 2021 Toyota Mirai set a new world record for the longest distance travelled by a hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) without refueling. The class-leading vehicle achieved an unprecedented 1,360 km on a single, five-minute complete fill of hydrogen during a roundtrip tour of Southern California to claim the Guinness World Records title and set a new distance milestone for zero emission vehicles.

The official record attempt was closely monitored by Guinness World Records in accordance with its strict rules and documentation procedures. The efficiency-focused journey took place on August 23 and 24, with the Mirai logging an impressive 64.6 km/L and producing water as its only emission. To ensure total transparency, Guinness World Records adjudicator Michael Empric validated the vehicle's fuel tank with a seal at both the beginning and end of the journey.

"We are delighted to achieve this landmark for sustainable mobility with the Mirai, a pioneering vehicle that heralds a new era of efficient electrified and hydrogen-driven transportation. This comes as part of our continuing drive to develop diversified mobility solutions that offer people more ways to move safely, responsibly, and in harmony with the environment," said Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "With car buyers around the world becoming increasingly eco-conscious, we are confident that the Mirai will set a precedent for future vehicles that will help to create a carbon-neutral society where people can enjoy a happy, healthy, and sustainable life, with greater mobility for all. I would like to thank our customers for their support, which continues to inspire us on our journey to develop 'ever-better' cars for a more sustainable tomorrow."

The Mirai was driven by professional hypermiler Wayne Gerdes and co-piloted by Bob Winger. Its



two-day trip commenced at the Toyota Technical Center (TTC) in Gardena, California, home of Toyota's fuel cell development group. The duo traveled south to San Ysidro and then north to Santa Barbara cruising through Santa Monica and Malibu beach along the Pacific Coast Highway. The vehicle returned to TTC that evening having logged 761 km with only two driver swaps.

On the second day, the team pushed through 599 more kilometers of morning and afternoon rush hour traffic on the San Diego freeway until the Mirai had no hydrogen left and coasted into TTC with a grand total of 1,360 km driven, as witnessed by Guinness World Records adjudicator Michael Empric.

"As a Guinness World Records adjudicator for 10 years, I've had the opportunity to witness incredible attempts, including several distance-related feats," said Empric. "The Toyota Mirai's journey without the need to refuel showcases the power of fuel cell electric technology. This technology and the design ingenuity by the team at Toyota led to a history-

making moment."

By the end of the trip, the Mirai had consumed a total of 5.65kg of hydrogen and passed a total of 12 hydrogen stations along the drive routes without refueling. The Mirai was driven mainly during rush hour traffic in temperatures between 18 to 28 degrees Celsius. It emitted zero pounds of CO₂, whereas a standard internal combustion engine vehicle would have emitted about 301 kg of CO₂ over the same distance.

The 2021 Toyota Mirai is a rear-wheel-drive sports-luxury FCEV that offers a combination of striking design, cutting-edge technology, and premium driving performance. Toyota's advanced technology enables the vehicle to produce its own electricity using an onboard fuel cell. First developed in 1992, FCEV technology converts hydrogen and oxygen into electricity to power an electric motor, with only water as a by-product. The new-generation Mirai offers a class-leading cruising range and can be refueled in just three to five minutes.

stc ranked 1st in Kuwait as 'Best Leading Corporate for Investor Relations for 2021'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announces winning the 1st position as "the Leading Corporate Investor Relations", in addition to its position amongst the top 5 companies in the Middle East, at the Middle East Investor Relations Association "MEIRA" Annual Conference and Awards held on 25th October 2021.

stc's CEO, Eng Maziad Alharbi, was selected amongst the top 5 CEOs for Investor Relations in the Middle East for the year 2021 across various industries. On the other hand, stc's Investor Relations and M&A General Manager, Wassim M El Hayek, was ranked the 1st as the Best Investor Relations Professional in Kuwait in addition to ranking stc's Digital Annual Report in the second position for mid cap companies in the MENA region for the year 2020.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, digital platforms were the major communication channel between IR professionals of leading corporates and investors around the world. However, with the start of the gradual return to normal life all around the world, this year MEIRA was able to enhance the communication between the concerned parties by holding the annual conference in Dubai - United Arab Emirates, in the presence of the largest listed shareholding companies on the stock exchanges in the GCC and the Middle East Region from all sectors such as banking, oil, telecommunications, real estate and others. Whereby, Wassim El Hayek, Investor Relations and M&A General Manager at Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) received the Awards.

MEIRA is considered the largest event covering the Investor Relations' best practices in the MENA region in addition to demonstrating the importance of incorporating transparency and corporate governance practices in the Investor Relations functions of listed companies. The event honors and awards each of the leading companies, investor relations professionals, CEOs and CFOs who demonstrate dedication to apply the highest professional standards in investor relations.

On this occasion, stc is proud to highlight the methodology adopted by MEIRA to classify the respective companies, their IR functions, executive management and Investor Relations officers. Whereby, the votes of each of the financial analysts as well as the international portfolio and fund managers were considered in the ranking process. The voting survey included a number of major attributes, which contribute in enhancing the trust between the investors and companies' executive management, in order to rank the executives of each company. Those attributes included, but are not limited to, leadership, credibility and communication, in addition to other well-known leadership traits. Meanwhile, classification of the IR functions was based on several areas, the most important of which are the quality of earnings call, knowledge, responsiveness and credibility in communication in addition to tim-

ing to market, consistent and granular financial information.

Engineer Maziad Alharbi, stc's Chief Executive Officer, stated, "Being a leader in the telecom industry and one of the pioneers in providing the digital transformation services in the Middle East, stc has been always keen on applying the best practices and professional standards across all company functions in order to support its employees in achieving the optimal level of operational activities. To achieve its 2021 corporate strategy that has been revised to reflect the latest developments in the ICT and Telecommunications market, and which focuses on building strategic partnerships in the industry, stc has not only considered incorporating the industry's best practices but it also ensured to maintain the highest level of transparency with the current and potential investors in addition to applying the corporate

of the MENA region reflects the sincerity, dedication and creativity of stc's skilled employees across all the Company's sectors, as well as their diligence and hard work in supporting the Investor Relations team to complete their operations and provide the necessary services to the investment community. Accordingly, this has helped stc to maintain transparency and adhere to the corporate governance rules and regulations imposed by local regulators."

He continued, "These achievements also translate stc's significant role in implementing the corporate governance framework within the Company and adhering to Kuwait's regulatory bodies' rules and regulations in order to ensure a smooth flow of information with stc's shareholders and investment community."

Throughout the pandemic, which had a strong impact on the communication standards between listed companies and investors around the world, stc proved its ability to overcome the economic challenges and potential risks, while serving the investment community and company shareholders virtually leveraging on the digital platforms and communication channels. stc's digital transformation



Eng Maziad Alharbi



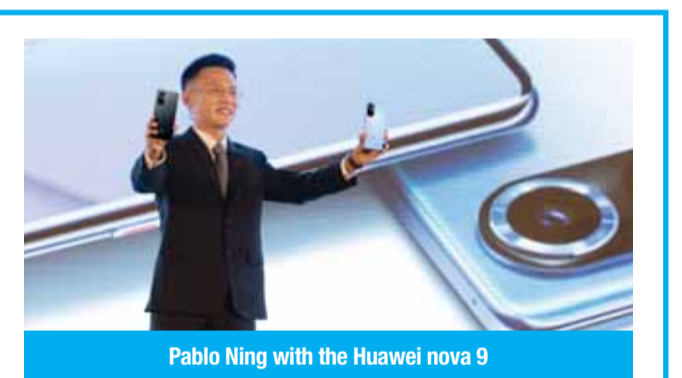
governance principles across all company activities.

Being ranked the 1st in Kuwait as a Leading Corporate for Investor Relations and amongst the top 5 companies in the Middle East, demonstrates the great efforts of stc's Investor Relations team in fulfilling the needs of the investment community in an efficient, transparent and timely manner. Furthermore, positioning stc as one of the leading companies in the Investor Relations' activities in the MENA region as well as amongst the top targeted companies during the COVID-19 crisis, illustrates the executive management's and Investor Relations department's leading role in stc's IR activities which meets the global best practices in this area."

Alharbi added, "It is worth mentioning that positioning stc's Digital Annual Report in the second place amongst the leading corporates

corporate strategy played a significant role in stc's success with this regard, in addition to its focus on providing the necessary ICT and technical solutions to individuals and enterprises. Throughout 2021 and during the period of uncertainty, the IR Department was able to ensure that the investment community was fully informed with the latest developments about the Company's operational and financial performance in addition to stc's plans to overcome the challenges resulting from COVID-19 crisis."

Alharbi concluded, "At stc, we are open to communicate the Company's market position, competitive advantages, corporate strategy, as well as financial and operational performance to the investment community. As a result, stc's prudent management was able to maintain effective communication and transparency with the Company's relevant stakeholders during 2021 and succeeded in earning their trust and support."



Pablo Ning with the Huawei nova 9

Huawei launches trendy flagship and camera king nova 9 in MEA

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group announced the new Huawei nova 9, the Trendy Flagship & Camera King to consumers in Middle East and Africa during a regional launch event that took place in Dubai. Defined by innovative features and fashion forward design elements, Huawei's latest nova device will spark new inspirations thanks to its powerful camera system and all new videography features, which create new possibilities for users as they record moments in their lives.

The Huawei nova 9 will be available in the all-new Color No 9 and Black in Kuwait on 11 November with pre-orders starting on 4th November from Huawei's online platforms as well as certified retailers.

Huawei nova 9 debuts with a new colorway - color No 9. It boasts a range of flagship-grade camera technology including a 50MP Ultra Vision Camera system, along with the RYYB color filter array (CFA) and XD Fusion Engine. The camera enables users to capture impressive images and videos, even in low-light situations. The responsive 120Hz Original-Color Curved Display, powerful processor, excellent battery life and support for blazing fast charging speeds with 66W Huawei SuperCharge¹ ensure a fluid experience for avid mobile gamers, while the Super Device capabilities seamlessly facilitate synergy between the handset and other Huawei products.

Huawei nova 9

Pablo Ning, President of Huawei Consumer Business Group - Middle East and Africa said: "Connecting Huawei with a younger generation of consumers, the nova Series is designed to be the most outstanding of products. Through powerful hardware updates and operating system integration, the Huawei nova 9 introduces an exciting array of features including a remarkable design with an all-new color way - Color No. 9, a staggering 50MP Ultra Vision Camera system, 66W Huawei SuperCharge and futuristic Super Device capabilities. Moreover the 4K selfie video and Continuous Front/Rear Recording offer more ways for users to create engaging videos and respond to the rising demand of vlogging."

The Huawei nova 9 is an elegant smartphone. It introduces a new color No 9 colorway, which is created with an all-new Starry Flash AG Glass process that adds a unique texture to the chassis and highlights the iconic camera module, giving it greater visual emphasis. Under a spotlight, the whole device shines and sparkles. It also has a stunning 6.57-inch 120Hz original-color curved display with a tapered surface that flows like a waterfall, minimizing the left and right bezels for more immersive viewing. It can display 1.07 billion colors, features a refresh rate of up to 120Hz and 300Hz touch sampling rate for improved responsiveness.

KFH earnings Webcast for Q3-2021

KFH enjoys high liquidity ratio, solid capital base: Al-Rushood

Significant role in sustainability through issuing Green Sukuk

KUWAIT: Acting Group Chief Executive Officer at KFH AbdulWahab Al-Rushood highlighted the Bank's financial performance until end of Q3 2021, indicating KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported KD 168.1 million net profit for shareholders until end of Q3 2021; an increase of 66.1 percent compared to the same period last year.

Earnings per share reached 20.08 fils; an increase of 66.0 percent compared to the same period last year. Financing receivables reached KD 11.3 billion an increase of 5.6 percent compared to end of year 2020. Depositors' accounts reached KD 16.0 billion an increase of 4.5 percent compared to end of year 2020.

Total assets reached KD 21.97 billion, an increase of KD 469 million or

6.5 million or three percent is mainly from our subsidiary in Turkey due to impact of the increase in benchmark rates by Central Bank of Turkey (CBT). CBT benchmark rate as of Sept 2021 was 18 percent compared to 10.25 percent in Sept 2020.

Net Operating income at KD 364.3 million decreased by KD 37.5 million or 9.3 percent compared to same period last year; the decrease is mainly from Investment income by KD 34.2 million.

The decrease in investment income by KD 34.2 million is mainly due to loss on Islamic derivative transactions (mainly currency and commodity swaps entered by our subsidiary Kuwait Turk) partly offset by increase in other investment income. Zahran pointed out that despite the decrease



AbdulWahab Al-Rushood

and local conventional Banks average of 40.6 percent (calculated from published financials for H1-21). Zahran indicated that Average Yielding Assets is up by 5.4 percent compared to FY2020 and 6.1 percent for 12 months as compared to Sept-20, resulted mainly from the growth in Financing

Group has continued to adopt conservative approach towards provisioning and recorded precautionary general provision. Zahran said: "As we used to highlight KFH group credit provisions as of 30th Sept 2021 exceeds required IFRS 9 ECL as per CBK by KD 314 million.

Total assets at KD 22 billion increased by KD 0.5 billion or 2.2 percent as of the end of 9M-21. Financing receivables at KD 11.3 billion increased by 5.6 percent. Growth in financing receivables mainly in Kuwait from both Corporate and Retail, while a slight decline in Turkey mainly due to devaluation of Turkish Lira. Overall growth in financing receivable excluding the impact of TL devaluation was around 8.3 percent. Investments in

favorable deposits mix with healthy contribution from CASA deposits at 53 percent of total group deposits as of the end of 9M-21 compared to 52.4 percent as of Sept 2020.

Customer deposits as a percentage of total funding at 84.9 percent reflects healthy funding mix and shows robust liquidity. Zahran pointed out that the key performance ratios which reflects improvement in profitability except for the C/I ratio which deteriorated as explained earlier.

- ROAE from 6.94 percent to 11.82 percent
- ROAA from 0.87 percent to 1.31 percent
- EPS from 12.10 fils to 20.08 fils

NPL ratio improved to reach 1.88 percent (as per CBK calculation) in 9M-21 compared to 2.20 percent for 2020. Provisions Coverage ratio for Group is 289 percent in 9M-21 compared to 223 percent for 2020.

Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem - Group Chief Strategy Officer

Meanwhile, Group Chief Strategy Officer at KFH Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem highlighted the Kuwait operating environment with an overview on KFH and its strategy.

Al-Mukhaizeem said that Kuwait's coronavirus vaccination program began in December 2020, and as of late September over 60 percent of the population had received a first dose, and more than 20 percent of the population is now fully vaccinated. The main economic benefits of high vaccine coverage are likely to be felt in the final quarter of 2021. According to the latest forecasts to the International Monetary Fund, Kuwait's economy will continue its post-pandemic recovery in 2022 with a 4.3 percent growth, supported by external economic conditions and a further rise in global oil prices.

For interest rates, Al-Mukhaizeem indicated that the Central Bank of Kuwait kept the interest rate at 1.5 percent after the last cut of 100 basis points on the 16th of March 2020. Al-Mukhaizeem pointed out that "KFH" enjoys a high creditworthiness, indicating Fitch Ratings affirmed Kuwait Finance House Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'A+' with a Negative Outlook as a result of revising the outlooks on 11 Kuwaiti banks to Negative from Stable, following a similar action on Kuwait's sovereign rating in February 2021, and Moody's assigned an A2 long-term deposit rating with a Stable Outlook.

He added that KFH Group has recently been named as the Best Islamic Financial Institution in the World by Global Finance Magazine, the Bank of the year in the Middle East and in Kuwait by The Banker, and the Best Domestic bank in Kuwait by AsiaMoney. Al-Mukhaizeem said that the leading role KFH plays in its social responsibility continues as the bank focuses on education, health and environmental activities, workforce, youth and entrepreneurs support, as well as dealing with society as corner stone of the Bank's strategy. Further, as per the MSCI ESG Ratings Kuwait Finance House is the highest rated entity within Kuwait compared to its peers.

Al-Mukhaizeem said that KFH adopts an innovation strategy for its banking solutions with the number of e-banking transactions implemented by KFH customers through KFHOnline on the website or the mobile app exceeded 113 million transactions for the first nine months of 2021, an increase of 26 percent compared to the same period last year. The high demand from customers for digital services reaffirms the importance of providing diversified solutions that match customer needs.

He went on to say that KFH continues to play a pivotal role in the local and regional economies within which it operates.



Shadi Zahran

Key performance ratios reflect improvement in profitability

2.2 percent compared to end of year 2020. Shareholders' equity reached KD 1.9 billion; same level as end of year 2020.

Al-Rushood pointed out that KFH has successfully achieved solid financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2021 despite the challenges Coronavirus imposed on the operating environment locally and globally. KFH enjoys high liquidity ratio and solid capital base that support business growth and adherence to regulatory requirements. Also, the importance of continuous improvement of asset quality and developing credit facility policies and governance systems within best practices.

He underlined KFH's role in sustainability through issuing Green Sukuk, indicating that the bank has succeeded in arranging sustainability sukuk issuance transaction for KFH-Turkey amounting to \$350 million. The sustainability sukuk issuance is considered as the first of its kind to be issued by an Islamic financial institution and the first tier 2 sustainability sukuk issuance transaction globally.

Al-Rushood highlighted the successful issuance of \$750 million AT1 Mudaraba Sukuk by KFH, which is the largest issuance in Kuwait in terms of size, with its subscription orders exceeding \$2 billion, by close to three times the targeted issue size.

He mentioned that KFH is moving forward in its leading national role through supporting and financing the government development projects, providing wide range of retail and corporate banking and financial solutions as well as SMEs. KFH has a diversified financing portfolio that covers different vital sectors including energy, water, power, infrastructure, and construction.

Shadi Zahran- Group CFO

Meanwhile, Group Chief Financial Officer at KFH Shadi Zahran presented the financial performance of KFH Group until end of Q3 2021, saying the Group has achieved Net Profit After Tax attributable to Shareholders for the period ended 30th September 2021 of KD 168.1mn higher by KD 66.9 million or 66.1 percent compared to 9M-20 of KD 101.2 million.

The higher profits are mainly from lower provisions offset by lower investment income and net finance income. Zahran added that net financing income has witnessed a decrease by KD 7.5 million or 1.7 percent compared to same period last year mainly due to increase in COF and drop in the yield.

He said that the increase in COF by

in net financing income, contribution of net financing income to operating income increased from 72 percent to 75 percent due to lower investment income.

At KFH-Kuwait, C/I ratio at 30.65 percent is still below both to the local Islamic Banks average of 43.2 percent

receivables. Avg. financing receivables is up by KD 0.6bn compared to 2020 and by KD 1bn compared to 9M-20.

Looking at provisions and impairments, Zahran explained that the Group total impairment charge decreased by KD 127.7 million or 52 percent to reach KD 118.2 million for 9M-21.



Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

KFH is the highest rated entity within Kuwait compared to its peers as per the MSCI ESG Ratings



ICONIC SYRIAN SINGER SABAH FAKHRI DIES IN DAMASCUS



In this file photo taken on July 27, 2010 Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri performs during the 46th International Carthage festival at the Roman theatre in Carthage, near Tunis.



In this file photo taken on May 13, 2010 Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri performs at the 'Angham min Al-Sharq' (Sounds of Arabia) festival in Abu Dhabi. — AFP photos

Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri, considered one of the most famous in the Arab world, died in Damascus yesterday at the age of 88, his son told AFP. "He died a natural death in Damascus. His heart stopped beating," said Anas Fakhri, lamenting his father's passing as a "huge loss for Syrian art." Born in the northern province of Aleppo and hailed as one of Syria's greats, Fakhri was known for his masterful delivery of traditional Syrian songs that combined Arabic poetry with music.

The short stout man modified and popularized the Qudud Halabiya—a traditional form of Aleppo music that com-

bines lyrics based on the poetry of Al-Andalus with old religious melodies collected mostly by musicians from the northern Syrian city. "He was a living legend and legends do not die," his son said. "He will continue to be the legend of Syria and Aleppo." A symbol of the golden age of Arabic song, Fakhri was able to keep his audience in suspense for hours by tirelessly repeating the verses of classical or contemporary Arabic poems. In 1968, he broke a record singing for 10 straight hours on tour in the Venezuelan capital Caracas. — AFP

Foreign film thriving in pandemic, says Michael Mann

The growth of streaming and binge-watching during the pandemic have switched more audiences onto foreign cinema, veteran director Michael Mann said Monday at the launch of Hollywood's French film festival. "Heat" and "The Last of the Mohicans" director Mann was speaking at the 25th anniversary opening night of COLCOA, which celebrates French movies in Los Angeles, but was canceled last year due to COVID-19. This year's edition is somewhat scaled back, in part as a ban on European travelers imposed at the start of the pandemic remains in place until next week. But COLCOA still boasts a field of 55 movies and series designed to showcase the best in Gallic cinema.

It opened Monday with "Between Two Worlds," in which Oscar-winner Juliette Binoche—alongside a largely non-professional cast—goes undercover to expose the insecurity of the gig economy. "I think the combination of streaming and Covid, where people spend so much time watching video on-demand and streaming, has opened up the whole world of cinema in a really terrific way," Mann told AFP on the red carpet. The debut earlier this year of French-language TV mystery

"Lupin" became Netflix's third most-watched season. Even that was recently dwarfed by the success of South Korea's "Squid Game," watched by 111 million accounts less than a month after its September release.

Thanks to a new generation of filmmakers and streaming platforms, "there is a way to consume, to discover and to be interested in different genres, and so effectively the American public is opening up to the world," said COLCOA festival director Francois Truffaut. In a year that also saw French television shows such as "Call My Agent" gain global fans, COLCOA is putting increased emphasis on series such as Emile Zola adaptation "Germinal," and Julie Delpy's middle-age comedy "On The Verge."

Films include "Lost Illusions," adapted from Honore de Balzac's novel, and "Onoda: 10,000 Nights in the Jungle," about a Japanese soldier who refuses to believe World War II has ended and fights on for decades. COLCOA, which stands for "City of Lights, City of Angels"—the nicknames of Paris and Los Angeles, respectively—runs until Sunday. — AFP



US director Michael Mann arrives at the North American premiere of 'Between Two Worlds' opening night of Colcoa French film festival at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) in Los Angeles. — AFP

Noted Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire dies aged 77

Brazilian Nelson Freire, one of the world's most prominent pianists, died Monday at 77 at his home in Rio de Janeiro, local press said. Widely considered Brazil's best pianist, Freire was particularly noted for his renditions of Chopin and romantic repertoire. Local press, citing Freire's agent, did not reveal the cause of death. Freire, a child prodigy who started learning the piano at three and first performed in public two years later, was born in southeastern Minas Gerais state in 1944.

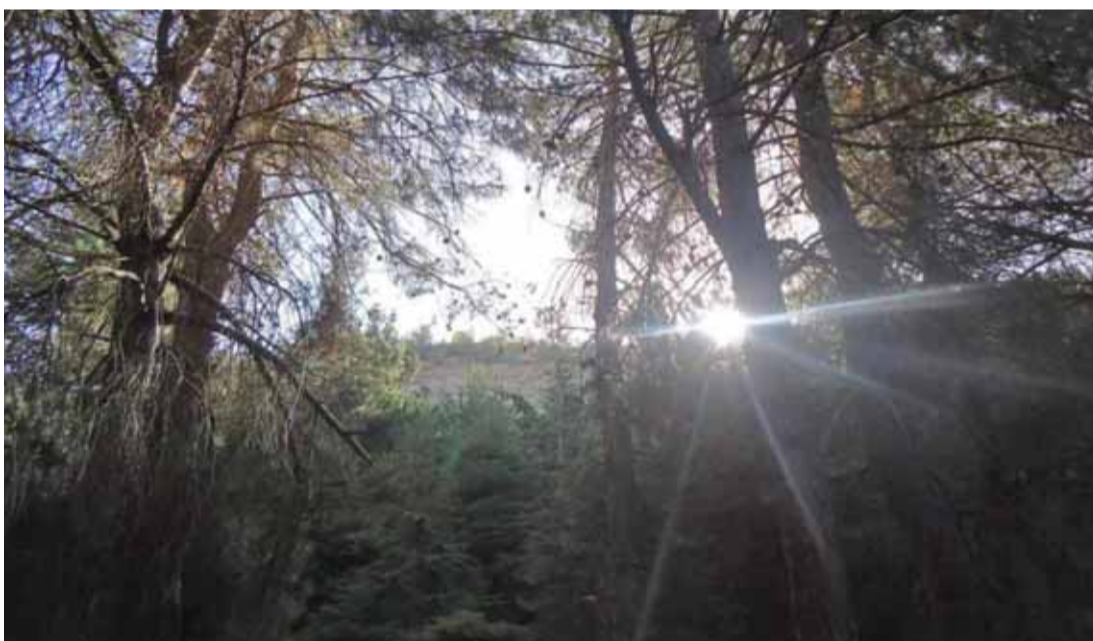
Known for being shy, patient and reflective, Freire made a name for himself on the international stage from a young age, winning numerous awards. He played with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin and Vienna philharmonics, and under the direction of conductors Pierre Boulez, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur and Andre Previn. Time magazine described him as "one of the most emotional pianists of all time" following his

first concert in New York.

He broke his arm in a fall in 1919 and never played publicly again, at first due to the need for surgery and then because of the coronavirus pandemic. He was a close friend of the celebrated Argentina pianist Martha Argerich, with whom he performed many times. — AFP



In this file photo Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire performs during the Victoires classical music Awards in Cannes, France. — AFP



Upper Beirut River ... captivating spot for birding

Upper Beirut River in Mount Lebanon, where the renowned resort town of Hammana sits, is a charming attraction for watching migratory birds thanks to spectacular views of mountain scenery and riverscape. Upper Beirut River in Hammana has become a nature reserve where ecotourism ropes in all those interested in walking, rope-jumping through fascinating waterfalls and watching migratory birds. — KUNA



Lifestyle | Features

Man who handed Baldwin loaded gun breaks silence

The crew member who handed Alec Baldwin the loaded gun that killed a cinematographer on the set of "Rust" expressed his shock and sadness Monday, in his first public comments since the tragedy. David Halls' role in the accident on the New Mexico set of a 19th-century Western last month has been under scrutiny after he told police he had failed to fully check the firearm before the fatal incident. In a statement to the New York Post on Monday, Halls said he is "shocked and saddened" by the death of Halyna Hutchins, but did not directly address the shooting or his role.

"Halyna Hutchins was not just one of the most talented people I've worked with, but also a friend," wrote Halls. "It's my hope that this tragedy prompts the industry to re-evaluate its values and practices to ensure no one is harmed through the creative process again," he added. Along with armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, first assistant director Halls was responsible for handling and checking weapons on set, and announcing "cold gun"-industry lingo for an inert firearm. According to a search warrant, he told detectives he "should have checked" that all the rounds in the Colt .45 gun were dummy, or inert, rounds, "but didn't."



Signage indicating the location of the Bonanza Creek Ranch film set, near where a crew member was fatally shot during production of the western film 'Rust', is seen on October 28, 2021 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. — AFP

A live round fired by Baldwin during rehearsal passed through Halyna Hutchins' body and struck director Joel Souza in the shoulder. Hutchins later died of her injury. Nearly 100,000 people have since signed a petition to permanently remove firearms from sets, noting that effects such as the loud bang and muzzle flash can easily be added to fake

rubber guns in post-production. In his statement, Halls also said he had been "overwhelmed by the love and support," and wrote, "My thoughts are with all who knew and loved Halyna." Halls' lawyer did not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment.

His statement came two days after Baldwin's own first public comments on

the incident, in which he told reporters that the tragedy was a "one in a trillion episode." The US actor said he had been advised not to speak directly about the shooting due to the ongoing police investigation. Prosecutors have refused to rule out criminal charges over the deadly shooting. Santa Fe County Sheriff Adan Mendoza said live rounds "shouldn't have been" present, and said it appeared "there was some complacency on this set."

His comments were reinforced by an NBC report that a member of the "Rust" camera crew resigned the day before the shooting, citing significant safety concerns surrounding firearms and explosives on set. Camera assistant Lane Luper said in his resignation email to producers that safety procedures for filming gunfights were "fast and loose." "So far there have been 2 accidental weapons discharges and 1 accidental SFX explosives that have gone off around the crew between takes," Luper wrote in the email, according to NBC. "To be clear there are NO safety meetings these days." — AFP



'I Drink Wine': Adele reveals tracklist for comeback album

British soul superstar Adele revealed the tracklist for her much-anticipated comeback album, which includes songs titled "I Drink Wine" and "Cry Your Heart Out." The album "30", her first in six years, will be released on November 19. The 12-song tracklist the singer revealed online opens with "Strangers By Nature" and closes with "Love is a Game". Other tracks include "Woman Like Me", "Hold On" and "To Be Loved".

Adele has previously said the recording of "30" began three years ago at a time when her life was "a maze of absolute mess and inner turmoil". In the six years since her last album, the 33-year-old megastar said she suffered a "year of anxiety" in which her marriage fell apart. The first single from her forthcoming album, "Easy On Me", topped the British charts after it was released two weeks ago. The Oscar- and Grammy-winning singer broke a five-year silence with an interview for Vogue, published last month, that spoke of living like a recluse as she battled anxiety.

"I've learned a lot of blistering home truths about myself along the way. I've shed many layers but also wrapped myself in new ones," she wrote on Twitter. "I've finally found my feeling again. I'd go as far as to say that I've never felt more peaceful in my life." — AFP



Shannon Lee speaks to AFP at the Asian World Film Festival in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Brandon Lee's sister says actors need gun safety training

Actors who use firearms on Hollywood sets should have to be trained in safety protocols, Shannon Lee, whose brother, Brandon Lee, was killed in an accidental shooting on a movie set, said Monday. Lee, the daughter of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, said such training could be a matter of life or death for those working in the film industry. "I think that mandatory gun safety training (should be required) for the actor so that they can check the guns themselves and know how to use them appropriately," Lee told AFP during the Asian World Film Festival in Los Angeles. "And so that they can keep others safe," she added.

Lee said she finds the current gun safety situation "frustrating," referencing the tragic accident last month when Alec Baldwin fatally shot cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. Hutchins was killed during the filming of "Rust" when Baldwin fired a gun he had been told by the film's assistant director was "cold"-meaning it did not have a live round in the chamber. The assistant director, Dave Halls, has since told detectives that he did not fully check the gun before declaring it safe. "It shouldn't happen again," said Lee, whose brother Brandon was killed at age 28 while filming "The Crow" in 1993. Lee said she never spoke with Michael Masee, who fired the gun that killed her brother and who died of cancer in 2016.

"I felt sorry for Michael Masee, I felt really sorry because it is a horrible thing to cause someone else to die. And I also feel sorry for Alec Baldwin," she said. She advised Baldwin to look after himself after such a traumatic incident, and to not feel pressured to talk to the press. "It's really tough what he's going through, he has to take care of himself," she said. The 63-year-old actor broke his silence about the incident on Saturday, telling reporters he had been advised by police not to talk about the ongoing investigation. He called it a "one in a trillion" accident. — AFP



Figures related to the Day of the Dead are seen at a corner in Santa Cecilia neighborhood in Mexico City ahead of the annual tradition celebration. — AFP photos



A participant in a La Catrina contest looks on during an 'Offerings and Catrinas Festival', part of the Day of the Dead celebrations, in downtown Tijuana, Baja California state.

Pandemic-hit Mexican town awaits reunion with dead

Sandra Jimenez lost two sisters to the coronavirus, which devastated her small Mexican town. On Monday she awaited the return of their souls for the Day of the Dead. Many events linked to what is considered Mexico's most important festival were canceled last year as the Latin American country battled to contain the virus. But with a third wave of infections now subsiding, this year has seen the return of cemetery visits and other public celebrations, including a parade through the capital. In Santa Cruz Atizapan, in the central State of Mexico, church bells rang out for months at the height of the pandemic in a show of respect for the many victims.

The residents found it so traumatizing that they asked for the tolling to stop, Jimenez said as she tidied the graves of relatives in the town's cemetery. "It was horrible, distressing!" the 64-year-old said. The Day of the Dead, which is rooted in indigenous culture, centers around the belief that the souls of the dead return on the night of November 1-2. Families put out altars with pictures of relatives and their favorite foods, along with candles and decorative skulls.



Mariachis take part in the Day of the Dead parade at Zocalo Square in Mexico City.

"Calmer now" Atizapan is the Mexican municipality with the highest mortality rate due to Covid-19 relative to its population size, according to data from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The town of 12,894 people has registered 303 deaths from coronavirus, with a peak seen at the beginning of this year. "Two or three people died every day. We were burying them up until the night," said Freddy Gonzalez, who manages the town's cemetery.

Before the crisis, annual deaths were around 60, so the graveyard had to expand its capacity and schedule to

keep up, he said. "But it's calmer now. There are two or three deaths every month," the 29-year-old said. With the pandemic easing, relatives were allowed to enter the cemetery to tidy and decorate the graves before the Day of the Dead. The country of 126 million has an official Covid-19 death toll of more than 288,000 — one of the highest in the world. Jimenez's sister Estela died in June 2020. In December, the coronavirus claimed the life of another sister, Maria Luisa, who was 74, had continued to travel by public transport to her job as a domestic worker in Mexico City, putting her at risk of infection. Estela, 76,

died when the oxygen in her tank ran out on the way to a clinic. "I gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation," but it was not enough, Jimenez said.

'Crying not enough'

Atizapan only has one hospital providing basic care and many patients faced a one-hour journey for treatment, according to a paramedic working in the area. At critical moments in the pandemic the hospitals were overwhelmed, said the man, who attended hundreds of emergencies in the town. "Crying was not enough to release the emotion. We wanted to throw in the towel, but we had to continue," said the 27-year-old, who did not want to be named. To honor those who died and try to ease the pain, the residents of Atizapan prepared colorful altars for the visiting souls. "Not even the pandemic dampened our enthusiasm," said Antonio Briseno, 35, who lost his mother-in-law during the pandemic.

"We wait for our loved ones with much affection and respect," said Briseno, who put out photos of his mother, grandmother and mother-in-law along with fruit, beans, rice, chicken, chocolate, candy and cigars. Like his neighbors, he scattered marigold petals on the floor to guide the spirits to the altar. Gonzalez, the cemetery manager, placed an offering in the chapel for the people whose bodies lie unidentified. The paramedic dedicated his altar to those he saw pass away during the pandemic. "Many died with empty stomachs," he said. — AFP



A woman with a Catrina mask takes part in the Day of the Dead parade at Zocalo Square in Mexico City.



A person takes part in the Day of the Dead parade at Zocalo Square in Mexico City.

Sports

Bulls rally late to beat Celtics, Pacers snap skid

Game-high 37 points on 15-of-20 shooting for DeRozan

LOS ANGELES: DeMar DeRozan scored a game-high 37 points as the Chicago Bulls used a fourth quarter surge to overpower the struggling Boston Celtics 128-114 on Monday. DeRozan shot 15-of-20 from the field and added seven rebounds for the Bulls, who rallied from a 19-point deficit in the third quarter for the win.

Zach LaVine finished with 26 points and dished out seven assists in the win in front of a crowd of 19,100 the Boston Garden. Ayo Dosunmu's three pointer with just under seven minutes left in the fourth quarter capped a 29-9 run to give the Bulls a 106-105 lead.

Chicago stretched its lead to double figures after that and outscored Boston 39-11 overall in the final quarter. Dosunmu finished with 14 points, Lonzo Ball added 12 for the Bulls, who earned their sixth win in seven games to start the season.

Jaylen Brown had 28 points and seven rebounds to lead the Celtics. Jayson Tatum scored 20, Al Horford chipped in 20 with 10 rebounds and Marcus Smart scored 16 in the loss. Boston dropped to 2-5 on the season, marking its worst seven-game start since the 2006-07 campaign when they lost six of their first seven games.

Elsewhere, Domantas Sabonis scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the Indian Pacers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 131-118 blowout win over the San Antonio Spurs. The Pacers cruised to a 22-point lead at halftime and stretched

that to 25 halfway through the third quarter in front of a crowd of 17,900 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

"I thought this was the kind of game we needed, the type of game we need to play," coach Rick Carlisle said. "I would like not to give up 118 points, but we need to embrace this and keep working to get better."

Myles Turner added 19 points, Justin Holiday scored 17, Chris Duarte racked up 18 for the Pacers who sank a season-high 18 three-pointers in the win. Dejounte Murray scored a team-high 16 points



Curry powers Sixers past Blazers

for the Spurs, who had allowed just 93 points to the defending league champ Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich didn't like his team's effort Monday. "Our worst game of the year," he said.



BOSTON: DeMar DeRozan #11 of the Chicago Bulls shoots the ball during the game against the Boston Celtics on Monday at the TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts. —AFP

In Philadelphia, Seth Curry scored 23 points, Georges Niang added 21 and the host Philadelphia 76ers defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 113-103. Furkan Korkmaz added 15 points and Andre Drummond had 14 points, 15 rebounds,

seven assists and five steals for the short-handed Sixers, who won their third in a row. The Sixers played without Joel Embiid (rest), Ben Simmons (personal) and Tobias Harris (COVID-19 health protocols). — AFP

News in brief

Aguero out three months

BARCELONA: Barcelona striker Sergio Aguero will be out for at least three months while his treatment for a heart problem is assessed, the club said on Monday. "Aguero has been subjected to a diagnostic and therapeutic process by Dr Josep Brugada. He is unavailable for selection and during the next three months the effectiveness of treatment will be evaluated in order to determine his recovery process," the club said. The Argentine was taken to hospital after suffering breathing problems on Saturday as Barcelona drew at home with Alaves. He was replaced before half time by Philippe Coutinho. — AFP

Sweden recall Ibra

STOCKHOLM: AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was yesterday recalled to the Sweden squad for the upcoming 2022 World Cup qualifying matches, a month after the star's return to the national team was thwarted by injury. Coach Janne Andersson included "Ibra," who turned 40 last month, for the away games against Georgia on November 11 and Spain on November 14. Since he ended a five-year international retirement in March, Ibrahimovic has been called up three times by Sweden, but has only played twice. He appeared in two World Cup qualifiers in late March, both of which Sweden won, but pulled out of Euro 2020 finals in June shortly before the tournament kicked off with a knee injury. — AFP

Everton woes continue

WOLVERHAMPTON: Wolves condemned Everton to a third successive Premier League defeat as Max Kilman and Raul Jimenez scored in a 2-1 win at Molineux on Monday. Bruno Lage's side took control in the first half thanks to Kilman's first ever Wolves goal and a clinical finish from Jimenez. Alex Iwobi reduced the deficit in the second half, but Wolves held on to extend their unbeaten run to five league games. With four wins in that impressive streak, Wolves have climbed to seventh, while Everton dropped down in 10th. After Everton's dismal 5-2 home loss to Watford in their previous match, this was another setback for Rafael Benitez's spluttering team. Everton have won just one of their last six league games to shatter the optimism created by their four-match unbeaten start to Benitez's first season in charge. — AFP

Footballer collapses during game

STOCKHOLM: Icelandic midfielder Emil Palsson collapsed during a football game in Norway's second division Monday evening after suffering a cardiac arrest, his football club Sogndal said. The 28-year-old midfielder suddenly fell over in the 12 minute of the game against Stjordals-Blink at the Fosshaugane Campus stadium in western Norway. The match was quickly suspended and players were sent to the dressing rooms as medical staff surrounded Palsson and started resuscitation efforts. He was later carried off the field. Palsson is playing in Sogndal on loan from Sarpsborg 08, which plays in Norway's top league Eliteserien. In June, a similar event occurred when Denmark's Christian Eriksen suddenly collapsed from a cardiac arrest during his country's opening Euro 2020 game against Finland. — AFP

Butker kicks winning field goal as Chiefs edge Giants

LOS ANGELES: Harrison Butker kicked a pair of field goals in the fourth quarter to lift the Kansas City Chiefs to a 20-17 come-from-behind win over the New York Giants on Monday. Butker booted the eventual winning 34-yard field goal with 67 seconds left in the fourth as the Chiefs improved to 4-4 on the season despite taking 12 penalties against the Giants at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. "Our guys did a heck of a job," said quarterback Patrick Mahomes. "The offence did a good job of getting a lot of yards and doing a lot of different things. We got to keep executing."

Mahomes threw for 275 yards with a touchdown and receiver Tyreek Hill led the Chiefs with 12 catches for 94 yards and a touchdown as the Kansas City rebounded from a 27-3 loss to Tennessee the week before. Mahomes was pleased with his play after a disappointing performance against the Titans. "The guys battled. They protected me in the pocket. I did a better job than I did last week," he said.

Mecole Hardman had five catches for 63 yards, including a 24-yard catch-and-run on the final 55-yard march that set the stage for Butker's fourth-quarter heroics. Giants quarterback Daniel Jones had 222 yards passing with two touchdowns. Jones was sacked three times.

The Chiefs, who are favorites to win the AFC championship, committed two turnovers to raise



KANSAS CITY: Travis Kelce #87 of the Kansas City Chiefs carries the ball as Logan Ryan #23 and Tae Crowder #48 of the New York Giants defend during the second half at Arrowhead Stadium on Monday in Kansas City, Missouri. — AFP

their league-leading total to 19. This was the Chiefs first win over the Giants since 2013. The Giants entered Monday's game off a 25-3 victory over the Carolina Panthers in week seven.

"We have to eliminate the mistakes we made down the stretch," Giants coach Joe Judge said. "We can't allow a team like this to have extra opportunities. We can't rob ourselves a chance to have opportunities of our own."

Early in the fourth quarter, tight end Evan

Engram outduelled Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen to the corner of the endzone for a touchdown catch that gave the Giants a 17-14 lead. Later in the fourth Mahomes drove the offence far enough down the field to give Butker a chance to win the game.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge. No win is given to you," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "You have to take that approach. It's a battle every drive, every play. You have to execute at a high level to get past your opponent." — AFP

Misfiring India not reaching for calculators in win-or-bust clash

ABU DHABI: India's galacticos will crash out of the Twenty20 World Cup if they lose to Afghanistan today but even victory may not be enough to save the tournament favorites. A 10-wicket loss to arch-rivals Pakistan followed by an equally sobering eight-wicket defeat to New Zealand has left Virat Kohli's side without a point after two games.

Worryingly for India is that their run-rate is also in the debit column and before Tuesday's games got underway even Namibia, the lowest-ranked side at the World Cup, were above them in the Group 2 standings. "We won't be good at maths anyways being cricketers," said India batting coach Vikram Rathour when asked if the coaching staff were already working on a statistical rescue act.

"So I think at this time, the focus is

to play good cricket, to win games, to win the remaining three games. I think this calculation comes into the picture, come into focus when we get to the last game and when the other results are out."

India have struggled for runs at the World Cup, posting 151 against Pakistan and 110 in the game with New Zealand. Amongst the batsmen, only Kohli, with 57 against Pakistan, has managed to pass 40 in two games. The team as a whole has managed just six sixes. England, although having played two games more, have dispatched 22 high and handsome over the boundary. Jos Buttler has hit 12 alone.

Afghanistan have launched 22 sixes in three games with eight of their players getting on the board for the maximum score. Afghanistan have also



DUBAI: India's captain Virat Kohli adjusts the field during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup cricket match between India and New Zealand at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on October 31, 2021. —AFP

not suffered the same batting insecurities as India, piling up 190 against Scotland, 147 facing Pakistan and then 160 in the game against Namibia.

"Unfortunately, the big shots we were not able to execute well," admitted Rathour. "So that will happen once

in a while in a game. And I think unfortunately that happened with us in the last game, that nobody really was able to execute the big innings that they were trying to play. But as such, I think it's more to do with the surface that we've been playing on." — AFP

Junior's archery competition kicks off Kuwait shooting tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The junior's archery competition kicked off during HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Shooting Tournament, currently taking place at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. Mohammad Madhi Al-Taisi came first, followed by Mohammad Saeed Al-Mutairi and Kareem Khalid Al-Saeed who finished second and third, respectively. Meanwhile, preparations are ongoing for the shotgun, air pistol, rifle and Olympic archery con-



KUWAIT: Participants in the junior's archery competition during HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Shooting Tournament are seen in a group photo.

tests in the high-profile tournament that is sponsored by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Treasurer Essa A Albutti Butaiban said the championship is expected to witness strong competition among approximately 300 shooters in the

skeet, trap, 10m air pistol and rifle, 25m pistol, 50m rifle and Olympic archery. Shooters from UAE have also registered to compete in the shotgun events, he said. Official training in the skeet and trap will start in the morning from today, while the 10m pistol and rifle will begin in the evening.

Sports

Tottenham appoint serial winner Conte as new manager

Serie A winner signs 18-month contract with troubled London club

LONDON: Tottenham yesterday appointed former Chelsea and Inter Milan boss Antonio Conte as their new manager following the sacking of Nuno Espirito Santo after an ill-fated four-month reign. Spurs moved quickly to hire the Italian, who has signed a contract until the "summer of 2023" after on Monday firing ex-Wolves boss Nuno, who was in charge for just 17 games.

Conte had been in advanced talks with Spurs in June about becoming Jose Mourinho's successor but they broke down after the two parties were at odds over key issues. However, director of football Fabio Paratici is now in position at Tottenham and has a strong relationship with Conte, having worked with him at Juventus.

'Extremely happy'

"I am extremely happy to return to coaching, and to do so at a Premier League club that has the ambition to be a protagonist again," said Conte. "Tottenham Hotspur has state-of-the-art facilities and one of the best stadiums in the world. I can't wait to start working to convey to the team and the fans the passion, mentality and determination that have always distinguished me, as a player and as a coach."

The Italian said he was delighted the opportunity to manage Tottenham had returned. "Last summer our union did not happen because the end of my relationship with Inter was still too recent and emotionally too involved with the end of the season, so I felt that it wasn't yet the right time to return to coaching," he said.

"But the contagious enthusiasm and determination of (chairman) Daniel Levy in wanting to entrust me with this task had already hit the mark. Now that the opportunity has returned, I have chosen to take it with great conviction."

Tottenham topped the Premier League table after three wins at the start of the season but the team are currently languishing in ninth position in the table after losing five of their past seven league games. The Italian, who is expected to be given funds in January to strengthen the squad, was due to take training yesterday. Conte's first game will be at home against Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem in the Europa Conference League

tomorrow before Spurs play at Everton in the Premier League on Sunday.

Paratici said Conte's record "speaks for himself", referring to his vast experience and trophy-winning pedigree. "I know first-hand the qualities Antonio can bring to us, having worked with him at Juventus, and look forward to seeing his work with our talented group of players," he said.

But Conte has a tough task on his hands to make Spurs leading contenders again. The club, who have not won silverware since 2008, reached the Champions

League final as recently as 2019 under former boss Mauricio Pochettino, who is now in charge of Paris Saint-Germain. But they have lost their way since then and have missed out on the Champions League for two consecutive seasons. Conte will be tasked with ensuring Tottenham play more adventurous football than the dour fare served up by the tactically conservative Nuno. He will also have to get the best out of England captain Harry Kane, who has struggled to hit top form since his attempt to engineer a move to Manchester City was rebuffed by Levy. — AFP



Spurs lost five of past seven league games

Conte, who has also coached Juventus and Italy, won the Premier League with Chelsea in 2016/17 and the FA Cup the following year before he was sacked by the Stamford Bridge club. The 52-year-old had been out of work since leaving Inter at the end of last season just weeks after winning the Serie A title — his fourth Italian league triumph as a manager.

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of Antonio Conte as our head coach on a contract until the summer of 2023, with an option to extend," Spurs said in a statement. "Antonio has won titles in Serie A, including a hat-trick of Scudettos with Juventus, the Premier League and also managed Italy, leading the Azzurri to the quarter-finals of Euro 2016."



UDINE: In this file photo taken on March 8, 2021 Inter Milan's Italian coach Antonio Conte shouts instructions from the touch line during the Italian Serie A football match against Atalanta, at the San Siro stadium in Milan. — AFP

New Spurs boss has track record of trophies and tirades

LONDON: New Tottenham manager Antonio Conte is a serial winner who can change the club's underachieving culture, but he is also a volatile personality sure to ruffle feathers on his return to the Premier League. Conte was hired by Tottenham yesterday to replace Nuno Espirito Santo following the abrupt end of the Portuguese coach's turbulent four-month reign on Monday.

As a Premier League title winner with Chelsea in 2017, Conte's credentials are far more impressive than those of the much-maligned Nuno. The 52-year-old led Inter Milan to their first Serie A crown in 11 years last term, won the Italian title three times with Juventus and also managed Italy for two years.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy first approached Conte in the close season before hiring Nuno, but was said to have been put off by his reported demand for £100 million (\$136 million) to spend on new signings. Having buried their differences following Tottenham's renewed approach, Conte now has to turn the tide at a club once again mired in mediocrity as they languish in ninth place in the Premier League.

Danny Blanchflower, captain of Tottenham's last title-winning team in 1961, provided the spiritual compass for the club when he memorably said: "The great fallacy is that the game is first and last about winning. It's nothing of the kind. The game is about glory. It is about doing things in style."

But for all the flashes of genius from Ricky Villa, Glenn Hoddle, Paul Gascoigne and Gareth Bale down the years, the Tottenham job has been a poi-

soned chalice for managers unable to fulfil fans' desire to marry a successful team with a stylish approach.

'War machine'

Without a major trophy in 13 years, Tottenham are further down the pecking order than the European heavyweight clubs Conte has previously managed. Even from afar, Conte, then in charge at Chelsea, appeared to spot the lack of ambition at the heart of Tottenham's failings four years ago.

"If Spurs don't win the title, it's not a tragedy," Conte said at the time. "If their ambitions are to fight for the title or win the Champions League, you must buy expensive players. Otherwise you continue to stay in your level. It's simple."

Changing that mentality will be Conte's mission in north London. But his typically acerbic transfer broadside should also be remembered if he does not get the backing he will surely have requested from Levy.

Chelsea's failure to deliver the targets Conte wanted after he won the title infuriated him so much that he went public with his complaints, effectively condemning himself to the sack despite winning the FA Cup in 2018. He also froze out Diego Costa at Stamford Bridge following a failed attempt to replace the striker.

Conte left Inter in acrimonious fashion after the club's owners angered him by revealing they had to sell several key players to balance the books. The abrasive Italian certainly has his admirers, including Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola, who has described him as a "master" tactically.

To achieve his ambitions at Tottenham, Conte will lay the foundations in his punishing training sessions. "He is like a police sergeant," Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini once said of his time with Conte. "When you finish training, you are dead. Not tired — dead. You can do it only because you believe in what he does." If that sounds alarming for the Spurs players, they might be reassured by Conte's commitment to an attacking game-plan. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Kaifan	24849807
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Shamiya	24848913
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Shuwaikh	24814507
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Chest Hospital	24849400	Nuzha	22526804
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Adan Hospital	23940620	Qadsiya	22515088
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Dasmah	
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000		
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	22532265	
		Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
		Shaab	22518752
		Qibla	22459381
		Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
		Mirqab	22456536
		Sharq	22465401
		Salmiya	25746401

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075



NOTICE
September 20, 2021

Mr. Azim Salim Khan, son of Mr. Late Salim Khan, resident of Sayed Jafar Bunglow, Quresh Nagar, Kurla, Mumbai 70 and Ms. Gavlin Kaur Sawhney, daughter of Mr. Gurvinder Singh Sawhney, resident of A 92 Narang Colony, Janak Puri, New Delhi 58 both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171 / 00965 - 22533125).

Kareem
(K.S Rathore) First Secretary (CA) and Marriage Officer, Embassy of India, Kuwait

Embassy of India Kuwait

TENDER NOTICE -ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE OF CAR

Embassy of India in Kuwait announces sale of its Mercedes Benz E300 Sedan type (Make-2014) Car (Mileage 240428 Kms, Perfect condition) on "as it is where is" basis. Buyer pays local taxes/custom duties and associated transfer charges. Interested parties may submit their price offer in a sealed envelope (double cover) to Embassy of India, Kuwait, by 1600 hrs, Nov 21, 2021 at the Address:

HEAD OF CHANCERY,
Embassy of India,
Diya Diplomatic Area, Kuwait.

The outer cover of the envelope should be subscribed with the matter "TENDER NOTICE-QUOTATION FOR THE CAR SALE PROCESS". Bids should be accompanied by a security deposit of KD 500.00 (by Bank Cheque/Cash), which will be refundable in case the bid is not accepted. Bids will be opened on 22th November, 2021 at 1400 hrs in the Embassy of India. All the bidders are invited to attend the bid opening process. Successful bidder must make the full payment by 23rd November, 2021.

For vehicle inspection, please contact Embassy on working days (Sunday to Thursday) from 1200 hrs until 1600 hrs by contacting on 22530600/12/13/14 OR by emailing at hoc.kuwait@mea.gov.in and admnukuwait@mea.gov.in for fixing prior appointment. The Embassy of India in Kuwait reserves the right to cancel the bid, in case it is not found

FOR SALE

2010 Lexus LS600hL, for Executives & Diplomats, in excellent condition like new, midnight dark blue/black with beige Napa leather and rare Shimamako gray lacquer, extra full options, V8 around 400HP, Auto Park, first Class airplane rear seats with Shiatsu massage converts to bed, original paint, No Accidents. Only 66,000 km, Original price KD 42,000, Now asking only KD 8,000 (Firm) WhatsApp 55351199 (C 0965) 3-11-2021

NAME CHANGE

Basheer Kannur Abdul S/o Abdul Khader. D.No. 2-103-1, Mainmoona Manzil Ganadabettu House 575007 D.K. I have changed my name as Abdul Basheer. (C 0966)

I CHENNREDDY SUBBA REDDY, S/o. KATTERA PALLE NARAYANA REDDY, R/of D.No. 8-3-106; Koti Reddy Nagar, Badvel (Town), Gopavaram (Ma), YSR KADAPA (Di), A.P., do hereby change my name to KATTERAPALLE SUBBAREDDY (UID: 930829459042), S/o. KATTERAPALLE NARAYANA REDDY. Passport no. K4765901. (C 0967) 3-11-2021



NOTICE
September 20, 2021

Mr. Sahab Singh Sawhney, son of Mr. Gurvinder Singh, resident of A 92 Narang Colony, Janakpuri, Delhi, Delhi-110058 and Mrs. Melissa Dalva, daughter of Mr. Mathew Santan Dsilva, resident of 103 Shanti Tower Military Road, Marol Andheri East, Mumbai-400059 both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

Kareem
(K.S Rathore) First Secretary (CA) and Marriage Officer, Embassy of India, Kuwait

We Are Hiring a Watches Technician

Requirements:

- Minimum 3 years of experience in this field.
- Ready To Join.
- Understand Basic Arabic.
- Visa 18 Transferable.

Submit your CV to :
hr@albatelbrothers.com
Or via WhatsApp to : 95500374

Kuwait Times
THE ARAB WORLD'S MOST READ PAPER

STAY CONNECTED

- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for FREE
- Send Subscribe to +965 944 88888
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24833516 / 7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net

Liverpool prepare again for Atletico amid feud over style, character



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Argentinian coach Diego Simeone (right) takes part in training session with Club Atletico de Madrid's players at the Ciudad Deportiva Wanda training ground in Madrid yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League Group B football match against Liverpool. — AFP

MADRID: Jurgen Klopp wants to say the right things when it comes to Atletico Madrid and Diego Simeone but there is always an itch he ends up scratching. Liverpool play Atletico again in the Champions League tonight in a game that this time carries more significance for the Spaniards than the Reds.

Klopp's team are already five points clear at the top of a group that looked awkward when the draw came out in August. Atletico are in a scrap, level on four points with Porto, whom they still have to play in Lisbon in the final round. In theory, the pressure on Liverpool should be reduced and yet this fixture keeps finding a way to irritate the German, to push his buttons and draw reactions he later has to rephrase or retract.

This will be the fourth meeting between the sides in the past 18 months. Atletico claimed victory in a thrilling knock-out tie last year after winning 1-0 at home, and 3-2 after extra-time away. Liverpool then won by the same scoreline in Madrid last month, capitalizing on a red card for Antoine Griezmann and a penalty, scored by the blistering Mohamed Salah.

For the last decade, Klopp has been one of the game's most charming characters and charismatic voices. He is not a coach that seeks confrontation, either deliberately or desperately, as a technique to

get the best out of players. His jabs at Atletico feel out of sync and out of character.

There have been several, but the most notable came after the loss at Anfield last year. "I don't understand with the quality they have to be honest, that they play this kind of football. I don't understand that," Klopp told BT Sport. "When I see players like Koke, Saul (Niguez), (Marcos) Llorente - they could play proper football, but they stand deep and have counter attacks. But they beat us that's how it is."

In the first leg, Klopp substituted Sadio Mane, worried about Atletico's attempts to get him sent off. "I was afraid his opponent would go down if he took a deep breath," he said. He noted Atletico's celebrations at the end. "I saw a lot of happy faces among their players and staff, but it's not over," said Klopp. He also seemed irked by Simeone's antics on the touchline. "Wow, that's energy," he said. "I hope I can be a little more focused in the second leg."

After winning in Madrid, a grinning Klopp sarcastically waved down the tunnel at Simeone, who habitually avoids shaking the other coach's hand. "I wanted to shake his hand and he was running off," he said. "I'm also not overly happy with my reaction to be honest."

Professional instincts

Klopp has also stayed true to his more professional instincts, offering generous praise of Atletico and Simeone, if not for their style, then their achievements. "His teams are always well-organized, world class, so that makes him one of the best coaches," he said before the first meeting in 2020. Afterwards he said: "Their defense was exceptional."

And he has tried to smooth over previous comments when they have resurfaced. "I'm not the pope of football," he said after the last match. "What does it matter what I like?" To fulfil their obligations with television companies, coaches are required to speak

within minutes of the final whistle. In some ways it is incredible more do not err from diplomacy.

There is something about Atletico, though, that wrangles with Klopp, their beliefs about how the game should be played, and won, so different to his that the usual rules seem to get forgotten. It is perhaps surprising even that against Liverpool, other opponents have not tried an Atletico-like approach.

There is also an irony in finding frustration with Atletico's negative tactics now, at a time when they are more open than ever under Simeone. Trying to squeeze Antoine Griezmann, Joao Felix and Luis Suarez into the same team has come at a cost. "We are worried about it and we're working on it," Simeone said last month.

Klopp's impatience is perhaps a compliment to Atletico, to the depths Liverpool had to go to beat them and the battle they know they will face this week. It is an indication too of the fervor with which Klopp holds his own beliefs and the relentlessness that brings his players along with him.

But perhaps most of all, it is good drama, a healthy, ongoing disagreement between two of the game's greatest coaches about how best to win. "It's not too bad," said Klopp. "When we see each other, we'll shake hands." — AFP



Liverpool five points clear at top

Messi out of PSG's Champions League clash with Leipzig

LEIPZIG: Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi will miss tonight's Champions League clash with RB Leipzig due to injury, Paris Saint Germain announced yesterday. The 34-year-old six-time Ballon d'Or winner has a left hamstring problem and a painful knee.

Messi had gone off at half-time of PSG's 2-1 Ligue 1 victory over Lille last Friday but coach Mauricio Pochettino had said he expected him to be fit for the Leipzig match. However, he missed training on Monday and yesterday the club confirmed he would not after all be fit. PSG's statement said the four-time Champions League winner was suffering from "a pain in his hamstring in his left thigh and a painful knee due to bruising."

Messi may also be a doubt for Saturday's Ligue 1 clash between table-toppers PSG and strugglers Bordeaux. He is due to then join up with his national squad for two World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Brazil.

Tonight's game will be the third match



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi is seen during the French L1 football match against Lille at the Parc des Princes stadium, in Paris, on October 29, 2021. — AFP

that Messi has missed this season due to injury, having sat out two Ligue 1 matches at the end of September. Messi has made a low-key start to his spell at the French giants since arriving from Barcelona in August.

However, he produced one of his better performances in the 3-2 win over Leipzig a fortnight ago in Paris, scoring a double including the winner from the penalty spot. He said when he ended almost two decades at Barcelona a major reason for

joining PSG was to win a fifth Champions League trophy.

PSG will also be missing influential midfielder Marco Verratti — who has a hip injury — but welcome back French World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe into the squad after missing the game with Lille. PSG top their Champions League group after three matches with seven points. Last season's beaten finalists Manchester City are a point behind whilst Leipzig are yet to get off the mark after three defeats. — AFP

Guardiola says Brugge match 'more important' than Manchester derby

LONDON: Pep Guardiola says Manchester City's Champions League clash with Club Brugge tonight is "much more important" than this weekend's Manchester derby. City are second in Group A, one point behind Paris Saint-Germain after three games and two points clear of the Belgian side ahead of their game at the Etihad Stadium. Last season's beaten Champions League finalists were 5-1 winners when the sides met in Belgium last month but Guardiola is not taking anything for granted ahead of the return fixture.

"I think this game is much more important than the United game," said the City boss, whose team lost 2-0 to Crystal Palace on Saturday, days after crashing out of the League Cup. "This gives us an incredible chance to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League. In the Premier League there are many games, in the Champions League just six, and there are not many left. Games three and four are the most important. I'm pretty sure they will adjust things to punish us. We have to adjust to get better. It will be a

completely different game." Guardiola remains happy with his team's performances in recent weeks despite losing on penalties to West Ham in the League Cup and the home defeat by Palace. "The defeat on Saturday was tough," he said. "We know the calendar and how demanding it is. I think we are playing at an incredible level. The way we are playing in the last month and a half — I would say (is) one of the best moments in the time we have been here."

"Every season is tougher," he added. "More contenders, more well-prepared, top managers. Only my concern was where were our standards as a team — not success and titles." City are currently third in the Premier League, five points behind leaders Chelsea and two behind Liverpool. However, defeat to United on Saturday would see their Manchester rivals move level on points with the English champions despite a poor run of results in recent months that has put Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's job as boss at Old Trafford in peril. — AFP