



5 'Jabbed, cured or dead',
Germany warns citizens



10 Boeing opens office in Kuwait,
strengthens its local presence



12 Imports imperil makers
of handcrafted shoes



16 LeBron ejected in Lakers
121-116 win over Pistons



MoH urges Kuwaitis, expats to take COVID booster shot

MP proposes no rents during closures



KUWAIT: In this file photo, people stand in a long queue to get vaccinated at the vaccination center at Kuwait international fairground in Mishref.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health yesterday called on all people above 18 to take the booster COVID-19 dose known as the third dose in a bid to strengthen immunity against the killer disease. Ministry spokesman Abdullah Al-Sanad said people who had taken the second dose at least six months ago can take the third dose without prior registration at the Ministry's vaccination centers.

He said the dose boosts immunity, reduces the possibility of getting infected by the COVID-19 virus or its variants and also reduces the probability of death and complications from the disease. The main vaccination centers are open at Kuwait international fairground in Mishref, halls 5 and 6 from 9 am to 7 pm daily from Sunday through Thursday and from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Sanad said. Kuwait has been recording extremely low numbers of new cases of the coronavirus despite returning to pre-closure life.

In the meantime, MP Ahmad Al-Hamad yesterday proposed amendments to the rents law in which he calls to exempt tenants from paying the rents during closure periods if they were enforced by authorities. In his proposal, Hamad said that in case the government orders closures due to health or security reasons or any other causes and that the tenants were prevented from benefiting from the leased housing unit, the rent should not be paid. The issue was repeatedly raised during the total closures of commercial and other activities to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bahrain nabs 'terror' gang

MANAMA: Bahrain's interior ministry yesterday announced it had arrested a gang of armed "terrorists" it said were linked to groups in Iran. "Terrorists (were) arrested for plotting terrorist operations against security and civil peace," the interior ministry said on Twitter. "Weapons and explosives from Iran were seized" from the group who "are linked with terrorist groups in Iran", the brief statement said.

Sunni-ruled Bahrain accuses Shiite Iran of provoking unrest in the Gulf kingdom, an allegation Tehran denies. The ministry gave no further details, including on how many people were arrested or their nationalities. Bahrain has been hit by waves of unrest since 2011, when security forces crushed Shiite-led protests demanding a constitutional monarchy and an elected prime minister.

Opposition movements have been outlawed and hundreds of dissidents have been imprisoned - with many stripped of their nationality. Human rights groups have frequently said cases against activists in Bahrain - men and women, religious and secular - fail to meet the basic standards of fair trials. Bahrain's authorities have repeatedly rejected the accusations. — AFP

12-year-old girl's marriage causes stir in Iraq

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi court has adjourned a hearing to allow a man to formalize his religious marriage to a 12-year-old girl, according to a lawyer for the girl's mother, who opposes the union. Rights activists protested outside the Baghdad court with banners such as "the marriage of minors is a crime against childhood", while lawyer Marwan Obeidi

Continued on Page 2

Robot waiters take Mosulites to the future

MOSUL: From the rubble of Iraq's war-ravaged city of Mosul arises the sight of androids gliding back and forth in a restaurant to serve their amused clientele. "Welcome", "We wish you a good time in our restaurant", "We would be happy to have your opinion on the quality of the service", chime the automated attendants, red eyes blinking out of their shiny blue and white exteriors.

"On television, you see robots and

touch-screen tables in the United Arab Emirates, Spain and Japan," said Rami Chkib Abdelrahman, proud owner of the White Fox which opened in June. "I'm trying to bring these ideas here to Mosul." The futuristic servers are the result of technology developed in the northern city, erstwhile stronghold of the Islamic State jihadist group. "We saw the concept on social media in more than one restaurant," said Abdelrahman, a dentist by profession.

Occupied by IS between 2014 and 2017, the northern metropolis of Mosul still bears the scars of war. But at dinnertime, patrons of the restaurant that is packed every night can escape from the city on a voyage through space. — AFP (See Page 12)



MOSUL: A robot waiter carries empty trays after delivering an order to patrons at the 'White Fox' restaurant in the eastern part of Iraq's northern city of Mosul. — AFP

5 killed as SUV plows through Xmas parade

WISCONSIN: Americans were reeling yesterday from an "unthinkable tragedy" after a driver slammed through barricades and into a Christmas parade in the Midwestern city of Waukesha, killing at least five and wounding more than 40. The Sunday evening chaos which saw a red SUV speed into a crowd of men,

women and children, raised immediate fears of a deliberate act - in a state where tensions have spiked following a high-profile acquittal in a racially-charged trial.

But CNN and NBC both cited law enforcement sources as saying there was no known connection to terrorism at this stage - nor to Friday's verdict in the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, a teenager who fatally shot two people during Black Lives Matter protests in nearby Kenosha last year. Multiple US media quoted investigators as saying there were signs the driver was fleeing another incident at the time.

Continued on Page 2



WISCONSIN: Debris litters the street at a crime scene in Waukesha, Wisconsin. — AFP

COVID damaged 'fabric of society'

GENEVA: Beyond killing millions and ravaging economies and health systems, the coronavirus pandemic has taken a devastating socioeconomic toll with women and migrants among the most affected, the Red Cross said yesterday. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

warned in a new report that the secondary effects of the crisis had disproportionately impacted already vulnerable groups.

The pandemic has pushed many out of work, leading to widespread income loss, it said, pointing to data gathered by its 192 national societies. The crisis also increased food insecurities, cut access to education and to protections against violence while exacerbating mental health issues, said the report entitled "Drowning just below the surface". "Our research shows what we have long suspected and feared, namely that the destructive secondary

impacts of this pandemic have damaged the fabric of our society and will be felt for years, if not decades, to come," said IFRC President Francesco Rocca.

The report paints a bleak picture of "people who were already vulnerable, due to conflict, climate change, and poverty, have been pushed further towards the edge," he told reporters. Around the world, the report found that women had been particularly hard-hit. They were more likely than men to have lost work, partly as they more often work in the informal economy and in sectors heavily impacted

Continued on Page 2

Local

Al-Wasem season, rainy days delayed in Kuwait

Veteran meteorologist expects 'especially cold winter'

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The rainy season has been delayed for a couple of days or even weeks, which is yet another sign of Kuwait's ever unpredictable weather, according to a veteran Kuwaiti meteorologist. "We expected this kind of weather from the end of October to early November, but Al-Wasem season was delayed," said Adel Saadoun, meteorologist at Al-Fintas Observatory. While Kuwait has witnessed some drizzles of rain over the past couple of days, this 'rainy weather' is a far cry from heavy rains the country has seen in the past few years. According to Saadoun, the delay in rain could be an indication of an especially cold winter. "There are some thunderstorms and lightning in the morning these days, which isn't unexpected at this time of the year," he said, commenting on yesterday's rain. "Delays for the entry of Al-Wasem season are normal, but it could be an indication that we could have a very cold winter," he added.

The winter season officially begins December 6 and lasts through February, but according to Saadoun, we can still expect the weather to continue being unpredictable. "You may predict and show some data, but you cannot be perfectly correct. No one in the world; not even the greatest weather expert could predict the weather with full accuracy," he said. "There could be more rain in the coming weeks. Maybe we'll witness another cold weather this year," he added.

The period between December 5 and January 15 is normally cold and dry with strong westerly wind. Maximum temperature reaches around 13 degrees centigrade, and the minimum may reach 3.3 degrees centigrade, except for warm intervals resulting from the blowing of south easterly wind, in which maximum temperature could reach 23 degrees centigrade. "Normally we experience foggy mornings with zero visibility sometimes," Saadoun said. "From January 16 to February 15, we can also experience rainy days especially if south easterly winds affect the whole country. This period sometimes brings dust storms. Watch out for January as temperature could record subzero levels," he warned. The record minimum temperature during the season reached -4° centigrade on January 20, 1964 at Kuwait International Airport.



KUWAIT: A picture taken yesterday showing rain clouds over Kuwait. — KUNA

Human Rights Diwan holds seminar against domestic violence

KUWAIT: The National Diwan for Human Rights, represented by the Family Rights Committee, organized yesterday a seminar themed "renouncing domestic violence" with participation of officials representing government departments, the National Assembly and public welfare societies. The participants in the gathering, held on the International Day

for Elimination of Violence against Women, which falls on November 25, said that violence constitutes an explicit breach of human rights, noting domestic violence affects not only women but also all members of the family and the whole society as well. Hoda Al-Shayji, member of the Diwan and Chairperson of the committee, said in a statement to the press that the seminar was organized out of keenness on attaining objectives related to boosting and protecting human rights and respecting public liberties. The Diwan, represented by the women commission, invited several experts, she said, noting the Diwan role in boosting awareness of women rights and protecting them against all forms of violence. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Members of the Family Rights Committee of the National Diwan for Human Rights attend the seminar. — KUNA

COVID damaged 'fabric of...'

Continued from Page 1

by restrictions like tourism. The report also highlighted how lockdowns had created greater social isolation, leaving more women exposed to domestic violence.

Almost all national societies said they had seen a need to increase protection services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, the report said. It pointed for instance to the Philippines, where the

UN estimated 114,000 additional women experienced physical and sexual violence in 2020 due to quarantine measures. Migrants, refugees and people displaced within their countries, who already figured among the world's most vulnerable people, were also among those disproportionately impacted, it said.

A survey of the national societies showed that having a migrant background was the second biggest vulnerability in terms of socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic after homelessness. The main impact was on employment, with 80 percent of Syrian refugee households surveyed in Turkey saying at least one family member had lost their job. Job loss is often made worse for migrants and the displaced since they often lack access to government protection systems, the report pointed out. — AFP

12-year-old girl's marriage causes...

Continued from Page 1

told AFP the case had been postponed until November 28. The legal age for marriage in Iraq is 18 but can be lowered to 15 in cases of parental or judicial consent, according to charity Save the Children. "Religious marriages are not permitted outside civil

or religious courts but these types of marriages still happen regularly and can be formalized on the payment of a small fine," it said in a recent report.

The mother, who refuses to be identified, said her daughter Israa had been "raped" and that the girl's father kidnapped her. But a department of the interior ministry dealing with violence against women said in a statement that it had met with Israa, her father and husband, seen the religious contract, and said she had assured them she had not been coerced. Child marriage is not uncommon in conservative and rural areas of Iraq, as well as in other Arab countries. — AFP



KUWAIT: Ambassador of India to Kuwait met with Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday. The two sides discussed bilateral ties and ways of further strengthening them in all fields, diaspora matters, and other subjects of mutual interest, the Indian embassy said in a statement.

Kuwait participates in manufacturing summit in Dubai

DUBAI: The fourth edition of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) kicked off yesterday with the participation of over 250 speakers worldwide, including Kuwait. The activities of the session, which will continue until November 27, will be held at the Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo 2020. GMIS will host UN leaders, heads of state, ministers and CEOs of major global industrial companies to discuss the latest technological and industrial trends, as well as identify strategies that will achieve the UN sustainable development goals.

The summit, a joint initiative between the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), will be held over six days under the theme, Rewiring Societies: Repurposing Digitalization for Prosperity. The days of the summit will host over 70 sessions regarding the role of technology in shaping the future of the indus-

trial sector, green manufacturing, sustainable energy, climate change, decision-making, investments, artificial intelligence and other topics. GMIS contains the participation of 25 ministers, senior government officials and representatives of major international academic institutions from Imperial College London, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Tokyo, University of Trieste and University of Cambridge.

In this context, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al-Jaber, co-chair of GMIS, said that he was pleased to host the fourth edition of the summit. This summit is gaining special importance through its focus on the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which provide great opportunities to make a positive difference, support industrial and economic progress, as well as accelerate solutions to ensure sustainable development, Jaber added in a press statement.

GMIS provides a distinguished platform that brings together leaders of countries, heads of industrial companies, academics and entrepreneurs to shape the future of the industrial sector, he said. He hopes that the outcomes of the summit will contribute to strengthening partnerships across sectors, exchanging experiences and knowledge, also enhancing cooperation to support growth and progress. — KUNA

5 killed as SUV plows through...

Continued from Page 1

Police said a "person of interest" was taken into custody, the vehicle recovered, and that there were no other threats to the community.

Citing law enforcement officials, NBC identified the man as Darrell Brooks, a 39-year-old from Wisconsin, saying he was being questioned but had not yet been charged with a crime, nor named as a suspect. Corey Montiho, a school district board member in the Milwaukee suburb, was near a restaurant when he heard that his daughter's youth dance team had been struck. "There were pom-poms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere," he was quoted as saying by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

"I had to go from one crumpled body to the other to find my daughter. My wife and two daughters were almost hit." Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly called it a "horrible and senseless" act, while Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers ordered flags across the state lowered to half-staff. "We continue to pray for the Waukesha community and the kids, loved ones, and neighbors whose lives were forever changed by an unthinkable tragedy last night," Evers tweeted yesterday.

President Joe Biden has been briefed and the White House was closely monitoring the situation in Waukesha, an administration official said. "Our hearts go out to everyone who has been impacted by this terrible incident," the official said. While police confirmed five deaths and at least 40 injured, there were fears the toll may yet rise, and the community was left in shock.

Witnesses described an appalling scene on Main Street, where school bands and other groups were marching before bundled up spectators lining the road. Sandra Peterson, a spokeswoman for the Milwaukee Catholic church, said one of its priests was injured, "as well as multiple parishioners and Waukesha Catholic school children." Witness Angela O'Boyle, whose apartment overlooked the parade in the Milwaukee suburb, told CNN: "All I heard was screaming and then people yelling out their children's names."

A total of 11 adults and 12 children were taken to six area hospitals, Fire Chief Steven Howard said. During the incident an officer fired at the SUV in an attempt to stop it, authorities added. Schools and city hall remained closed yesterday, as did some roads while the investigation continued. Angelito Tenorio, running for Wisconsin state treasurer, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that he "saw an SUV cross over, just put the pedal to the metal and just zooming full speed along the parade route." "And then we heard a loud bang, and just deafening cries and screams." — AFP

Local

GCC ministers' meeting to uplift armed forces' capacities, says Kuwaiti minister

New GCC Unified Military Command Headquarters inaugurated in Riyadh



RIYADH: A group photo of GCC Defense Ministers participating in the 18th session of the GCC Joint Defense Council. —KUNA photos



GCC Defense Ministers attend the session.

RIYADH: Kuwait's Acting Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah yesterday noted that the 18th session of the GCC Joint Defense Council was designed to boost member countries' armed forces capacities. The holding of the session came as a "translation of the aloft and noble objectives set by Their Highnesses and Royalty, the leaders of the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council States," said the minister in a statement to the press on the sidelines of the gathering. These goals will contribute to broadening inter-GCC military cooperation, attain defense interaction among the council member states and boost capabilities "of our armed forces to face various challenges and threats," Sheikh Thamer Ali stated further to the Kuwaiti news agency.

Bahraini Defense Affairs Minister Major General Abdullah Al-Nuaimi chaired the session that grouped GCC countries' ministers of defense and Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, the GCC Secretary General. The ministers discussed during the session some

recommendations, latest developments on the regional and international arenas as well as several military related topics. Meanwhile, Minister Sheikh Thamer inspected the new headquarters of the GCC Joint Command Headquarters in Riyadh. He was accompanied by Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah and ranking army officers. Moreover, he was accompanied by the State of Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The new Unified Military Command Headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council opened yesterday in Riyadh under the patronage of Saudi Arabia Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, and in the presence of Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al-Saud on his behalf. In addition to Sheikh Thamer, the opening was attended by GCC defense ministers and the GCC Secretary General Dr Hajraf.



Kuwait's Acting Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah attends the meeting.



Kuwait's Acting Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah is seen during his visit to the GCC Unified Military Command Headquarters.

Hajraf stressed the inauguration comes as one of the most prominent GCC military gains, and a message of peace and determination to protect GCC security and stability from any external threat. —KUNA

Kuwait strongly condemns Houthis' continuous attacks on Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait strongly condemned and denounced the continuous Houthi militias attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, said a statement yesterday. According to the Foreign Ministry, the heinous attacks — which included the targeting of the Najran airport via four armed drones — displayed the aggressive and hostile nature of the Houthi militia. The militia insisted on attacking cities and civilians in Saudi Arabia, which is a clear violation of humanitarian and international laws, said the statement, calling the international community to hold the Houthis accountable. The Foreign Ministry concluded the statement with an affirmation that the State of Kuwait, leadership and people, stood in support with Saudi Arabia against aggressors.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait's welcoming of an agreement reached between parties involved in the transitional phase in the Republic of Sudan. In a foreign ministry statement, the ministry also welcomed the agreement on all tasks of the next phase, which includes restoring transitional institutions, holding elections on time, and forming a government of competencies to move forward and ensure the objectives of the transitional process in a manner that preserves the security and stability of Sudan. The statement affirmed the State of Kuwait's continued support for everything that would maintain security and stability and achieve the interests of the people of Sudan. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait organized a reception on the occasion of the 50th Armed Force Day of Bangladesh this past Sunday. Several high officials from Kuwait, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

On the occasion of the



Subscribe or renew your subscription
KD 20 instead of KD 30 for 1 year

For individuals only

Tel: 24833199 ext.: 163-325-353- 354 or 66500982



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

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club hosts special day for medical workers

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club organized an entertainment day for doctors and the medical staff of Kuwait field hospital at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex on Saturday. The medical staff had a tour of the complex and its facilities and had rounds of shooting at the 10-meter air pistol and rifle ranges.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi lauded the efforts of Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah, Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Murad and all medical teams in fighting the coronavirus pandemic during the past two years and their major role in Kuwait's fight against COVID-19.

Osaimi, who spoke during a reception of the hospital's deputy director Dr Fawzi Al-Khawari and his delegation, said that "all citizens and residents appreciate the tremendous efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti health ministry as well as all health care providers and their role in fighting the coronavirus in Kuwait."

Meanwhile, Dr Khawari said the visit to the shooting club was the first activity the delegation made after they've completed treating the last cases of COVID-19 at the Kuwait field hospital, adding that work at the facility lasted for two years. He commended the achievements of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club internationally including at the Olympics, and thanked Osaimi and KSSC's board for arranging this visit and the hospitality the delegation received.



KUWAIT: Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi (right) honors Kuwait field hospital's deputy director Dr Fawzi Al-Khawari.

NBK, KRCS distribute winter supplies to cleaning workers

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) have distributed essential winter supplies to 5000 cleaning workers in Kuwait. The campaign aims to offer a warm winter for low-income workers facing hard weather conditions. The campaign is a way of showing appreciation to workers specially during cold weather.

Yaqoub Al-Baqer, NBK Public Relations Manager, expressed his sincere appreciation to Kuwait Red Crescent Society for its prompt response and efforts to help those in need. "We are pleased and proud to be a part of this noble campaign that aims to provide vulnerable people with the needed aid to protect them from cold winter," he added.

"NBK strives to support various private and

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This picture taken yesterday shows heavy traffic on the Fifth Ring Road. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Ooredoo Kuwait celebrates success with its employees



KUWAIT: Abdulaziz Yaqoub Al-Babtain, CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait, in a group photo with distinguished staff.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain speaks during the event.



Ooredoo Kuwait employees participate in an activity during the event.



Ooredoo Kuwait employees are seen during the event.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Telecom, the first to introduce innovative digital services in Kuwait, organized a special event last week at the Marina Hotel Kuwait to celebrate all achievements of the year 2021 and employees. The event was attended by Abdulaziz Yaqoub Al-Babtain, CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait, the company's employees and the direc-

tors from all departments.

During the event, Babtain highlighted the company's vision, goals and aspirations for achieving more success and milestones in the future. The event also included a series of effective activities and games that would achieve the desired effect to bring the employees to a dynamic stage of harmony

among each other and strengthen the team spirit.

Babtain also stressed on the need to share the company's plans and strategies with the employees and meet with them on a regular basis, as they are one of the most important assets of the company and the main driver of the company's operations.

public humanitarian missions in meeting their needs and achieving their humanitarian and social goals," Baqer noted. "This aid is part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, which seeks to support initiatives that make a profound impact on the lives of communities around Kuwait. We thank the Kuwait Red Crescent Society for their noble efforts, and the continued aid they provide to people in need," he stressed.

Speaking about the Winter Necessities campaign, Shaima Al-Shatti, Director of Resource Mobilization at KRCS, said: "The Winter Necessities campaign helps KRCS achieve its strategy by ensuring all beneficiaries receive the necessary aid. The campaign, supported by our trusted partner, NBK, will target low-income workers and ensure their warmth this harsh winter."

She further noted: "KRCS relies on the generosity of our partners to fulfill our mission and NBK has been dedicated in helping us across different sectors such as healthcare, education and relief." Shatti described NBK as one of KRCS' vital partners due to the company's continuous support of the organization's efforts.



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Red Crescent Society staff in a group photo.



A tale of two Chiles:
Polar opposite candidates
vie for presidency

Philippines' Duterte condemns South China Sea latest flare-up

Page 7

Page 6



BERLIN: A sign requesting visitors to wear protective face masks is seen near booths of a Christmas market at Alexanderplatz in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

Europe battles COVID-19 surge

'Jabbed, cured or dead', Germany warns

BERLIN: Germans faced the stark warning yesterday that they would be either "vaccinated, cured or dead" from COVID by the end of winter, as Austria took the dramatic step of returning to a partial lockdown. Belgium and the Netherlands meanwhile condemned the clashes that rocked weekend protests against new anti-COVID measures, meant to contain a surge in infections sweeping parts of the continent.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte slammed three nights of unrest as "pure violence" by "idiots", while his Belgian counterpart Alexander de Croo called the violence at a 35,000-strong protest in Brussels "absolutely unacceptable". The anger comes amid growing alarm over about Europe's fourth wave of the pandemic, blamed on a sluggish vaccine uptake in some nations, the contagious Delta variant and the colder weather moving people indoors again. "Probably by the end of this winter, as is sometimes cynically said, pretty much everyone in Germany will be vaccinated, cured or dead," German Health Minister Jens Spahn said, as he urged more citizens to get the jab.

Outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that Germany's current COVID curbs - including barring the unvaccinated from certain public spaces - "are not enough". "We have a highly dramatic situation" as new infections "double every 12 days", Merkel told a meeting of leaders of her conservative CDU party, according to participants. Germany's worst-

hit regions have ordered new shutdowns, including the closure of Christmas markets.

'Very confusing'

The restrictions mirror those in neighboring Austria, which re-entered a partial lockdown, shuttering shops, restaurants and festive markets - the most drastic restrictions seen in Western Europe for months. Its 8.9 million people are not allowed to leave home with few exceptions such as going to work, shopping for essentials and exercising as virus cases are surging. The Alpine nation also plans a vaccine mandate from February 1, one of few places in the world to so far to announce such a move.

Austria's schools and kindergartens remain open, though parents have been asked to keep children at home when possible despite there being no distance learning offered during the three-week lockdown. One parent, Kathrin Pauser, said she was still dropping off her daughters aged nine and 11, both of whom were recently vaccinated, at school. "It's a very confusing situation," she told AFP. Across the border in Slovakia, unvaccinated people

were also facing curbs blocking them from entering non-essential stores.

'Dictatorship'

Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in European cities at the weekend to protest stricter COVID rules, with anger boiling over in some places. At least 130 people were arrested in the Netherlands over protests that began in Rotterdam on Friday, sparked by a COVID curfew, and spread to cities across the country. Several police officers were injured.

In Brussels on Sunday, officers fired water cannon and tear gas at a protest police said was attended by 35,000, demonstrating against a ban on the unvaccinated from venues such as restaurants and bars. And in Denmark this weekend, around 1,000 demonstrators protested government plans to reinstate a COVID pass for civil servants. "People want to live," said one of the organizers of the Dutch protests, Joost Eras. "That's why we're here."

A crowd of 40,000 marched through Vienna on

Saturday decrying "dictatorship", while some 6,000 people protested in the city of Linz on Sunday. French troops headed to Guadeloupe on Sunday after a week of unrest over COVID measures, while Prime Minister Jean Castex was set to convene a meeting in Paris with officials from the French Caribbean island. Roads were blocked Sunday after protesters defying a curfew looted and torched shops and pharmacies overnight, when police made 38 arrests and two members of the security forces were injured.

Low vaccination rate

Austria's decision to reimpose a partial lockdown flies in the face of earlier promises that tough virus restrictions would be a thing of the past. Over the summer, then chancellor Sebastian Kurz had declared the pandemic "over". But plateauing inoculation rates, record case numbers and a rising death toll have forced the government to walk back such bold claims. After taking office in October, Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg criticised the "shamefully low" vaccine rate - 66 percent compared to France's 75 percent - and banned the un-jabbed from public spaces. When that proved ineffective at squelching new infections, he announced a nationwide lockdown, with an evaluation after 10 days. In Germany, the EU's most populous nation, just 68 percent of the population is fully jabbed. — AFP



Austria returns to a partial lockdown

Minister Jean Castex, Overseas Territories Minister Sebastien Lecornu and Health Minister Olivier Veran will later Monday hold an emergency meeting with Guadeloupe lawmakers to discuss the situation on the island.

'Uncertain situation'

The barricades had impeded traffic, forcing the closure of schools on Guadeloupe's main island on Monday, the education ministry said. The Guadeloupe prefecture said protesters fired on security forces and firefighters, adding that "organized gangs" were now also involved in the unrest. Even though some barricades had been dismantled, "the situation remains uncertain concerning road traffic and the possibility of staff and students moving smoothly and safely seems compromised at this stage", the local authorities said in a statement.

Thirty people will appear in court on Monday in Pointe-a-Pitre for allegedly participating in the unrest, according to local prosecutor Patrick Desjardins. Government spokesman Gabriel Attal called the situation "intolerable and unacceptable" and vowed a tough response against a "small minority" who were intimidating health workers, preventing pharmacies from opening and even using barricades to block ambulances.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew from 6:00 pm to 5:00 am is currently set to last until today. Over the weekend, Guadeloupe's main trade union the UGTG called for continued protests. While the demonstrations were sparked by the vaccine mandate, they also express "the depth of suffering, inequality, poverty and exclusion felt by the people, notably youths and the elderly," said UGTG secretary general Maite Hubert M'Toumo.

Since summer, Guadeloupe's vaccination drive has picked up, with 90 percent of healthcare workers vaccinated, as well as nearly half the general population. In mainland France, the vaccine rate is close to 75 percent of the population. In the neighboring French overseas territory of Martinique meanwhile, a general strike has been called for today, calling for an end to obligatory vaccination for health workers but also for wage rises and other social grievances. — AFP

'Explosive' COVID riots paralyze Guadeloupe

POINTE-A-PITRE: School cancelled, barricades on the street and pharmacies trashed: days of rioting against measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 have brought normal routines on France's Caribbean island of Guadeloupe to a standstill. Paris authorities sent elite police and counter-terrorism officers to Guadeloupe over the weekend in a bid to quell the violence, the latest COVID-related headache in France's overseas territories for the government of President Emmanuel Macron.

Vaccination rates in France's overseas territories, in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and the Pacific, have generally been far lower than those on the mainland and there has been repeated unrest over anti-virus measures. Protests in Guadeloupe, a territory of roughly 400,000 people, broke out after an announcement that coronavirus jabs would be mandatory for all healthcare workers, with the demonstrations marred by clashes and looting.

Overnight Sunday, police arrested 38 people after curfew violators looted and torched shops and pharmacies, and two security forces were injured. Macron acknowledged the gravity of the situation and urged local politicians not to mix the pressing issue of COVID with colonial-era grievances and also longstanding complaints the territory is economically neglected by Paris.

"We will not give in to lies, distorting of information and the exploitation by some people of this situation," he told reporters on a visit to the northern French city of Amiens, calling the situation "very explosive". "We do not play with health and we will not let the health of the French be played with for the sake of political infighting," he added.

The French reinforcements began dismantling protesters' road barricades shortly after their arrival, according to Colonel Jean Pierre from the gendarmerie in Pointe-a-Pitre, the island's main city. Prime

Russia sends Lebanon satellite images from day of Beirut port blast

MOSCOW: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said yesterday that Moscow sent the Lebanese government satellite images from the day of last year's deadly Beirut port blast in an effort to help with the investigation. In a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib in Moscow, Lavrov said Moscow had transferred pictures prepared by the country's space agency Roscosmos. Images that capture the port before and after the blast should help determine the cause of the explosion, Lavrov said during a press conference after their meeting.

"We hope that Lebanese specialists will answer this question that is really becoming a very powerful political irritant for Lebanon," Lavrov said. Lavrov also said they discussed the "possible participation" of Russian companies in the reconstruction of Beirut infrastructure that was

damaged in the blast. In August 2020, hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrate stored in the Port of Beirut detonated, sending a powerful explosion across the Lebanese capital that killed more than 215 people.

The Lebanese judge leading investigations into the blast was forced to stop his probe three times following lawsuits from ex-ministers suspected of negligence. The judge had requested the cooperation of several countries, including France and the United States, to obtain satellite images from day of the blast. In addition to the explosion, the Russian and Lebanese ministers discussed the issue of refugees that have fled Syria since 2011 to neighboring countries, including Lebanon. Lavrov spoke of the possibility of organizing an international conference on the issue in Lebanon, host to over 1.5 million Syrians. — AFP

International

A tale of two Chiles: Polar opposite candidates vie for presidency

Kast proposes digging a border 'trench' to keep out illegal immigrants

SANTIAGO: Two political outsiders with polar opposite views and policies will go head-to-head in a runoff election next month to become Chile's president after trouncing candidates from traditional parties in a first round Sunday.

Who are they?

Far-right

On the far right is lawyer and ex-MP Jose Antonio Kast, 55, an outspoken admirer of Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet and of his neoliberal economic model that has boosted private enterprise, critics say at the expense of the poor and working classes.

Kast, leader of the Republican Party he founded in 2019, has expressed kinship with other conservative leaders such as Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, Donald Trump in the United States and Spain's far-right Vox party. This is his second presidential contest—in 2017, as an independent, he made it to fourth place with less than eight percent of the vote.

Married and a father to nine children, Kast is an active member of the Schoenstatt conservative Catholic movement. He is against gay marriage and abortion. Kast hails from German immigrants who moved to Santiago in 1951 and became wealthy from sausage production and a restaurant chain. His economic model proposes reducing public spending, cutting taxes, and trimming the number of ministries, including that of women's affairs.

He would like to retain Chile's system of private pensions, one of the main gripes of protesters who took to the streets in October 2019 to denounce

Chile's deep-rooted social inequality. Kast has promised to restore order in a time of great political uncertainty, with many Chileans fearful of immigration and crime, and angry about violence and arson committed by some of the anti-government protesters.

He has proposed digging a border "trench" to keep out illegal immigrants, particularly from Venezuela. "Kast represents the most recalcitrant of the Chilean right, which continues... to be a core of Pinochetism, authoritarianism and xenophobia," Claudia Heiss, a professor of political science at the University of Chile, told AFP. "Sometimes fear is a

greater mobilizer than hope," added Mauricio Morales, a political analyst at Talca university.

Left

Gabriel Boric promises a welfare state

At 35, leftist lawmaker Gabriel Boric is Chile's youngest-ever presidential hopeful—only just meeting the required minimum age to participate. The former student activist leader is riding a wave of public support for a more progressive social system.

As the candidate for the Approve Dignity coalition that includes the left-wing Frente Amplio (Broad Front) and the Communist Party, Boric has vowed to relegate Chile's neoliberal economic policies, widely seen as sidelining the poor and working classes, "to the grave."

He has also promised "a welfare state so that everyone has the same rights no matter how much money they have in their wallet." Chile has one of the highest per capita incomes in Latin America, and one of the highest concentrations of multimillionaires but also "persistently high inequality" between rich



PUNTA ARENAS, Chile: Chilean presidential candidate, Gabriel Boric, from the Apruebo Dignidad party, greets supporters in Providencia, Santiago following the first results of the general election. —AFP

and poor, according to a recent OECD report.

The middle class is heavily indebted, often to pay for schooling, healthcare and private pensions. Boric, who is unmarried and hails from Punta Arenas in Chile's south, backed the 2019 anti-government protests that resulted in a process to rewrite Chile's dictatorship-era constitution. In 2011, he led student protests for free schooling in one of the most expensive countries for education in the world.

His detractors say Boric is inexperienced in poli-

tics and are suspicious of his allegiance to communists. But supporters say his lack of ties to the ruling elite, which is increasingly viewed with hostility, counts in his favor.

Boric, of Croatian and Catalan descent, has abandoned the long hair of his activist days, seeking to build a more consensual and moderate image. But he shuns ties and makes no attempt to hide his tattoos. He supports gay marriage and abortion rights. —AFP

On the scrap heap: Syria's 'horrific' child labor

AL-BAB: Syria's decade-long conflict forced 15-year-old Mohammad Makhzoum out of the classroom and into a scrapyard, where the orphan works 12 hours a day to support his younger siblings. Mohammad, who has been working since he was nine, leaves home every day at dawn for a basic foundry where he helps melt metal amid thick and toxic black fumes. He said he wanted to make sure his sister and two brothers avoid a fate that has beset so many of Syria's children.

"I am their mother and father," he said, his face covered in soot, speaking from the run-down scrapyard in the northern city of Al-Bab. "I work so that they can continue their studies, because... they shouldn't be denied an education like I was." An estimated 2.5 million children in Syria are out of school, with another 1.6 million at risk of dropping out, according to the UN's children agency UNICEF. It estimates that nine in ten children in Syria live in poverty and more than 5,700 children - some as young as seven - have been recruited to fight.

Worsening situation

There is no official data in Syria on child labor rates. But they are believed to have steadily increased throughout the course of the conflict, with the coronavirus pandemic and an economic crisis fuelling further spikes over the past year. "It is evident that child labor has increased in Syria...because of Covid-19 and the worsening economic crisis," UNICEF spokesperson Juliette Touma said.

"Children in Syria, when they are involved in labor, are exposed to conditions that are absolutely horrific," she said. Mohammad, who originally hails from the town of Maarat Al-Numan in Idlib district, dropped out of school at the age of nine to support his family after his father was killed by artillery shells fired by government forces. Two years ago, his mother was killed during a battle between rebels and regime forces in the same area.

He fled with his siblings to Al-Bab, where they live in a small bullet-riddled flat, furnished with nothing but thin foam mattresses. His weekly income of five dollars barely covers their food needs, but Mohammad still manages to source enough for his siblings' school supplies. "I work for their sake... I like to see them comfortable," he said. "I want to see them become doctors or teachers, without having to suffer like I had to." But few of Syria's children currently stand a chance of getting a decent life.

'War destroyed our dreams'

At a makeshift oil refinery in al-Bab, 12-year-old Amer Al-Shayban knelt in the freezing mud as he packed handfuls of charcoal in a plastic bag. Then he dragged the heavy bag - nearly half his size - to feed a furnace that emits toxic fumes. "I am forced to work... it's not in my hands," Amer said, explaining that he is the main breadwinner for his family. "I work summers and winters in the refinery to support my parents... my chest hurts regularly because of the smoke and fumes."

When Amer finishes his shift, he washes off soot from his hands and walks to a nearby displacement camp, where he lives with his parents and five younger siblings. His father suffers from diabetes and clogged arteries, leaving the family mostly reliant on Amer's monthly income of five dollars. "I dream of carrying a pen and a notebook and going to school," he said. "That is better than the furnaces, the diesel and this smell."

Nadim al-Nako, aged 12, has given up hope of ever returning to school, after he dropped out two years ago. Nadim works with a blowtorch most of the day - without any safety goggles - in his father's workshop to make pots and pans. His salary goes entirely to household expenses, he said. "War destroyed our dreams," he said. —AFP

Egypt using French military aid to 'kill civilians'

PARIS: Egypt has used intelligence supplied by the French military to target and "kill civilians" suspected of smuggling, according to a report Sunday by investigative website Disclose, based on leaked documents. Opposition deputies immediately called for a parliamentary committee to be set up to investigate the affair, while Defence Minister Florence Parly ordered her own investigation.

"Sirli", the name of the mission between the two countries, was designed to provide intelligence on the jihadist threat along Egypt's western border with Libya, Disclose said. "In principle, the mission... consisted of searching the Western Desert to find possible terrorist threats coming from Libya," using a light aircraft designed for surveillance and reconnaissance, it said.

Le Pen facing biggest test as French far-right splinters

MARSEILLE: On a tour of a fine-food trade show, surrounded by cheese and truffles, French far-right leader Marine Le Pen admits that the start of campaigning for next year's presidential election has given her indigestion. "It's been Zemmour for breakfast, lunch and dinner," she complained to AFP after more than an hour and half of sampling everything from throat-burning alcoholic liqueurs to duck-liver pate.

Eric Zemmour, a media pundit and best-selling author whose rhetoric on Muslims and immigrants is more extreme than Le Pen's, has made a dramatic entrance into French politics since September. "It's been incredible. The way he has monopolised the media is absolutely extraordinary," she said during a weekend trip to the southern port of Marseille. For the first time in early October, polls showed Le Pen failing to qualify for the second round of next April's polls, eclipsed by her new rival whose face was on TV screens and newspaper stands around the country. "When you've got experience you have to let the dust settle and the dust is starting to settle," the 53-year-old said confidently, forecasting that Zemmour's support would be temporary while hers was permanent.

Three separate polls in the last 10 days indicate Zemmour, who has yet to officially declare his candidacy, is indeed losing steam. But the outcome of the duel remains uncertain and observers are unsure how it might affect the final result of an election which President Emmanuel Macron remains the favourite to win.

One possibility is that Le Pen and Zemmour eliminate each other by splitting the far-right vote in the first round

Iran says hopes for constructive visit by IAEA chief

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday it hoped a visit by the chief of the UN's atomic watchdog would be "constructive", just days ahead of the resumption of talks seeking to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA), was to arrive in Tehran late yesterday. He was expected to meet Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Atomic Energy Organization Chief Mohammad Eslami, who is also one of Iran's vice presidents. "We hope that Rafael Grossi's visit will be as constructive as the previous ones," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters.

"We have always advised the IAEA to stay on the path of technical cooperation, and to not let certain countries pursue their political orientations on behalf of the IAEA." On Friday, the IAEA said Tehran had again increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, many times in excess of the limit laid down in the 2015 agreement. Grossi's visit comes as Iran readies for talks with world powers in

Calls for inquiries

Operation Sirli began in February 2016 during the presidency of Francois Hollande. It continued despite the reservations expressed by both French military intelligence (DRM) and the airforce about the way Egypt was using the intelligence, said Disclose.

One such note was addressed to French Defence Minister Florence Parly on January 22, 2019, before French President Emmanuel Macron's official visit to Egypt. The French military was nevertheless still deployed in the Egyptian, Disclose reported.

Neither the French presidency nor any of the arms

of the military responded to an approach from the journalists who carried out the investigation. Within hours of the story's publication, a statement from France's defence ministry confirmed that the two countries had arrangements in the field of intelligence and counter-terrorism.

For security reasons however, they were not prepared to say any more on the matter. The statement added that Defence Minister Florence Parly had asked for an investigation to be launched into the information revealed by Disclose. The left-wing opposition France Unbowed party issued a statement calling for a parliamentary inquiry into the allegations.

The party called for Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who served as defence minister during the Hollande presidency, to come before parliament to explain what was going on.

Although France has expressed a desire to refocus its arms exports on Europe, Egypt remains one of its main clients. Its sales there increased considerably when President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi took power in 2014. Since then, Egypt has bought France's Rafale fighter aircraft, a frigate, four corvettes and two Mistral helicopter-carriers. —AFP



MARSEILLE: Leader of French far-right party Rassemblement National (RN) and candidate for the 2022 French presidential election Marine Le Pen (C) answers journalists' questions after visiting a police station in the northern neighbourhoods of Marseille. —AFP

on April 10. The latest tracker poll last Thursday by OpinionWay showed Macron top on 24-25 percent. Le Pen comfortably in second on 19-21 percent, with Zemmour trailing on 12 percent. Under France's electoral system, the two candidates who get the most votes in the first round advance to a run-off ballot. Le Pen is convinced that Zemmour will expand the far-right nationalist vote for the second round by attracting traditional right-wing voters who are angry about immigration and crime, as well as abstentionists. "For the people who've supported Zemmour's candidacy, it will be much easier for this

electorate to switch to me," she explained, adding that Zemmour "might end up being a stroke of luck". Success in what is her third tilt for one of Europe's most powerful political offices would send shockwaves across the continent. Zemmour has already helped Le Pen with one of her main goals since she took over the National Front party, now known as the National Rally, from her father Jean-Marie Le Pen in 2011. The divorced mother-of-three has been desperate to portray herself as a more moderate figure and has excluded overt racists and anti-Semites—including her father—from her movement. —AFP

Vienna on November 29 on saving Tehran's 2015 deal with major powers, that promised it sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

"We will leave for Vienna with a full team and a serious will to lift the sanctions," Khatibzadeh said. "The other parties should also try to come to Vienna to reach a practical and comprehensive agreement."

The landmark deal was torpedoed in 2018 by then US president Donald Trump's unilateral decision to withdraw Washington from it and impose a punishing sanctions regime. Iran has since stepped away from many of its commitments, but the administration of US President Joe Biden has advocated a return to diplomacy to save the agreement. —AFP

International

Philippines' Duterte condemns South China Sea latest flare-up

EU calls on 'all parties to respect freedom of navigation and overflight in South China Sea'

BEIJING: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday condemned the latest flare-up in the disputed South China Sea after Chinese coastguard ships fired water cannon at Filipino boats. Duterte made the remarks at an Asian regional summit hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who vowed his country would "never seek hegemony, and certainly not bully the small".

China claims almost all of the waterway, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually, with competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing has ignored a 2016 ruling by The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration that its historical claim is without basis.

Tensions over the resource-rich sea spiked last week when Chinese coastguard vessels fired water cannon at Philippine boats delivering supplies to Filipino marines on Second Thomas Shoal, in the contested Spratly Islands. Manila expressed outrage at the incident, but Beijing said the Philippine boats had entered its waters without permission.



China claims almost all of the waterway

"We abhor the recent event in the Ayungin Shoal and view with grave concern other similar developments," Duterte told the meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, using the Filipino name for the shoal. "This does not speak well of the relations between our nations and our partnership."

Duterte's remarks were unusually strong for a leader who has fostered warmer ties with Beijing since taking power in 2016 in the hope of extracting promised investment and trade. It is not clear if Xi was par-

ticipating in the meeting when Duterte spoke.

For his part, Xi told the gathering "we must jointly maintain the stability of the South China Sea and build the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship, and cooperation". The renewed tensions over the waters have drawn international concern.

The United States on Friday warned China that an armed attack against Philippine public vessels would invite a US response under its treaty obligations to the Southeast Asian nation. The European Union also called on "all parties to respect freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea".

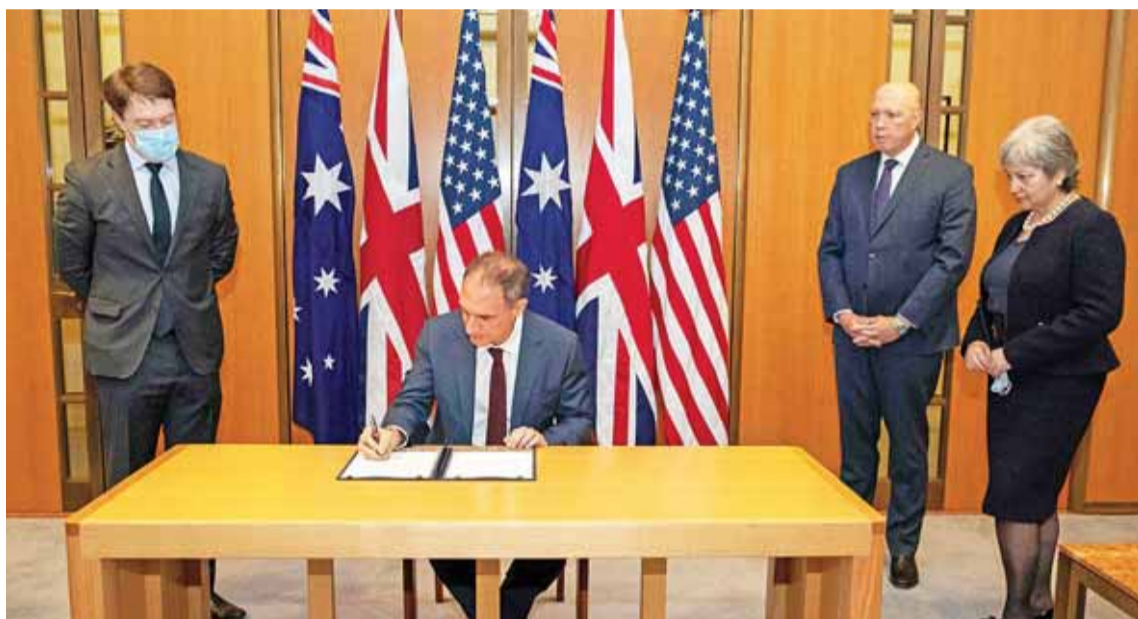
Philippines Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the supply boats would resume their mission to Second Thomas Shoal after China's ambassador to the Philippines gave assurances they would not be impeded. China controls several reefs in the South China Sea including Scarborough Shoal—which Beijing seized from Manila in 2012 — just 240 kilometres (150 miles) west of the main Philippine island of Luzon.

It has asserted its stance by building up small



Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte

shoals and reefs into military bases with airstrips and port facilities. After China occupied Mischief Reef in the mid-1990s, the Philippines marooned a derelict navy vessel atop the nearby Second Thomas Shoal to assert Manila's territorial claim. Members of the Philippine marines are based there. —AFP



CANBERRA: Handout photo taken and released on November 22, 2021 by the Australian Defence Force shows US Charge d'Affaires Michael Goldman (2nd L) signing the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Agreement as Australia's Minister for Defence Peter Dutton (2nd R) and British High Commissioner Victoria Treadell (R) look on during a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra. — AFP

US, Australia, UK sign key deal in nuke sub alliance

SYDNEY: Australia formally embarked yesterday on a hotly-contested programme to equip its navy with nuclear-powered submarines in a new defence alliance with Britain and the United States. Defence Minister Peter Dutton joined US and British diplomats in signing an agreement allowing the exchange of sensitive "naval nuclear propulsion information" between their nations.

It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced in September the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing.

The deal will help Australia to complete an 18-month study into the submarine procurement, Dutton said after signing it in Canberra with US Charge d'Affaires Michael Goldman and British High Commissioner (ambassador) Victoria Treadell.

Details of the procurement have yet to be decided,

including whether Australia will opt for a vessel based on US or British nuclear-powered attack submarines. "With access to the information this agreement delivers, coupled with the decades of naval nuclear-powered experience our UK and US partners have, Australia will also be positioned to be responsible and reliable stewards of this technology," Dutton said in a statement.

Ahead of the signing, US President Joe Biden said in a memorandum approving the deal on Friday that it would improve the three countries' "mutual defence posture". Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-art, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines capable of stealthy, long-range missions. It also provides for sharing cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum and unspecified undersea capabilities.

The agreement has angered China, which describes it as an "extremely irresponsible" threat to stability in the region. It has also infuriated France, which discovered at the last moment that its own diesel-electric submarine contract with Australia—recently estimated to be worth Aus\$90 billion (\$65 billion) — had been scrapped.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has been unapologetic about his handling of the agreement, insisting it was in his country's national interest and that he knew it would "ruffle some feathers". — AFP

Deadly air strikes on bandit camps in NW Nigeria

KANO: Air strikes targeting camps of gangs of cattle thieves in northwest Nigeria's Sokoto state, near the border with Niger, killed many people, local sources said Sunday. Nigerian military jets on Saturday bombed two camps in Isa district controlled by two gangs that have carried out deadly attacks on remote villages in recent weeks, the sources said. This was the first such attack on bandits in the region. But heavily armed gangs of cattle thieves and kidnappers for ransom known locally as bandits have terrorized northwest and central Nigeria for years, raiding and looting villages, and attacks have intensified in recent months.

"The military conducted aerial attacks on Tsaika and Dangwandi villages, where large numbers of bandits were killed," a local administrator in Isa district said. "It is hard to say how many were killed but the toll is quite high as the camps were strewn with corpses of the bandits," said the local official who asked not to be named. The fighter jets struck the two camps in simultaneous attacks, leading to large-scale "human and material damage to the terrorists," a security source in the region said. "The two camps have been scorched and dead bodies and pulverized structures litter the camps," said the security source.

The news of the attack was slow to emerge due to lack of telecommunication in the area. Both sources spoke from the state capital Sokoto, 80 kilometers away. Troops have been conducting ground and air offensives on bandit camps in neighboring Zamfara state since September, and bandits fleeing the operation there have moved into neighboring Sokoto and Katsina states. Authorities have shut down telecom infrastructure in Zamfara and parts of Kaduna and Katsina and Sokoto states to disrupt communication between the gangs. —AFP

Maduro government scores major victory in regional vote

CARACAS: The government of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, whose 2018 election is not recognized by part of the international community, won a landslide victory in Sunday's regional ballot, according to election officials. Candidates aligned with Maduro have won 20 of the 23 governor posts and the mayorship of the capital Caracas in the face of a divided opposition running in an election for the first time in three years.

The European Union deployed an observer mission for the first time in 15 years to observe the polls that will see the new government seek the lifting of international sanctions on Venezuela while the opposition tries to rebuild in time for the 2024 elections. The mission will present a report today. Sunday's turnout was 41.8 percent, according to official provisional results after 90.21 percent of ballots were counted.

The opposition won three states including oil-rich Zulia, the country's most populous region whose capital Maracaibo is Venezuela's second-largest city. "Beautiful triumph, beautiful victory," Maduro said of the results. Before the announcement, opposition figure Henrique Capriles expressed reservations about the late closure of polling stations facilitating fraud. "Maduro and his party ordered the CNE (electoral body) not to close the polling stations when there were no voters... They are going to put votes that do not exist," he said on Twitter. — AFP

Australia to re-open borders to students, skilled workers

SYDNEY: Australia announced yesterday it will re-open to foreign students and skilled workers from next month, easing some of the world's most stringent pandemic travel restrictions. Twenty months after Australia slammed shut its borders, some visa holders—as well as Japanese and South Korean citizens—will be able to enter from December 1.

"Australia is re-opening to the world," said Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews as she announced the news, adding it was "yet another step forward for Australia". The government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison lifted restrictions on Australians travelling overseas last month, sparking a flood of travel bookings for the southern hemisphere summer.

But Morrison—who is hoping to be re-elected next year—had pointedly refused to relax travel rules for most non-Australians. That decision left an estimated

1.4 million skilled visa holders stuck in Australia, unable to return if they decided to leave. Business groups had lobbied hard for vaccinated visa holders to be allowed to return, as they struggle to fill jobs and gird for the beginning of a third year of restrictions. Among those most vocal in calling for rules to be further relaxed was the beleaguered university sector.

According to Universities Australia, an industry group, 130,000 international students remain outside the country. "They want nothing more than to re-join their classmates in Australia," said the group's chief executive Catriona Jackson, who described the decision as "great news."

There had been fears that many Asian students would opt to study in person in the United States or Europe rather than pay for online courses based in Australia. There is no word yet on when leisure travellers may be able to return to Australia, a blow to the equally hard-hit tourism sector, which has seen visitor numbers virtually evaporate since borders were closed in March 2020.

While some Australian states still require quarantine, vaccinated Australians, some visa holders and citizens of Japan, South Korea and Singapore will now be able to visit Australia with only a pre-departure negative COVID-19 test. — AFP



BARISAL, Bangladesh: This picture taken on October 27, 2021 shows Muslim mason Taher Ali Khan posing for a picture at the Barisal Mahashashan Hindu crematorium ground during an interview with AFP in Barisal. — AFP

Muslim mason sculpts shrines for Bangladesh's Hindu dead

BARISAL: Bangladesh's minority Hindu community has endured waves of violence and persecution, but one Muslim artisan has devoted his talents to shepherding their dead along a peaceful journey to the next life. Taher Ali Khan has crafted thousands of shrines to departed loved ones around the tranquil grounds of Barisal Mahashashan, the country's largest Hindu crematorium.

The devout mason prays five times a day and adheres to all the precepts of the Islamic faith, but has often found himself fending off criticism from hardliners who question his calling.

"My prophet said to find bread by honest work. And he advised us to refrain from stealing, hurting others or committing any crimes," Khan, 60, tells AFP. "I work here constructing tombs," he added. "I don't see anything that would jeopardise my religion." Hindus account for about 10 percent of the majority-Muslim nation's 169 million people and are well represented in politics, business and the civil service.

But their numbers have dwindled from around a quarter of the population in 1947, when millions fled after the partition of newly-independent India into two separate nations along religious lines.

Another mass exodus coincided with the brutal nine-month Bangladesh war of independence in 1971, during which occupying Pakistani military commanders sanctioned attacks that saw tens of thousands of Hindu civilians murdered.

Occasional flashes of deadly religious conflict continue to this day, with at least six people killed last month in nationwide unrest that also saw attacks on temples. News of the recent violence upset Khan, who spent the following days calling on Hindu friends to ask about their safety.

"I consider Hindus to be my brothers and sisters," he says. "They love me because of my work. I pour my heart out into constructing tombs because everyone wants to build something beautiful for their dead."

'All my love and care'

Khan spends most of his time at the crematorium, labouring away at ornate samadhi shrines that criss-cross the grounds around the funeral pyre.

The more humble monuments are small and unassuming concrete slabs, similar in style to Western tombstones, with ashes from the dead buried underneath. The largest are elaborate, multi-tiered edifices with colourful spires that tower over the small man-made pond that greets visitors at the graveyard's entrance, which can sell for up to 250,000 taka (\$3,000). "If I build a beautiful Samadhi for the dead, it gives me enormous satisfaction," he says.

"I feel like I have done something to help them feel good and to mourn their dead well." Khan learned his trade 35 years ago and by his estimation has built more than 10,000 samadhis in the time since — most of those around Barisal crematorium are his handiwork. "Look at this beautiful one," he says, gesturing at one of the shrines during a tour of the graveyard.

"The family wanted something beautiful for their young boy, who died suddenly. I did it with all my love and care." His work is in high demand from Hindus living in Barisal and from far-flung farming communities around the southern river port. "It doesn't matter whether he's a Muslim, he does a solid job," said Gouranga Das, who came to the grounds to cremate his mother and again seek Khan's services. "He made my grandfather's tomb and it was very nice."

Every year during the Bhoat Chaturdashi festival, when Hindu worshippers honour their dead by adorning samadhis with candles, he receives dozens of invitations to commemorate loved ones.

After spending more than half his life working at Barisal Mahashashan, its owners also consider him family, even though he still nominally works as a free-lancer. "People come to him for constructing tombstones for their relatives as he is the best," said Tamal Malakar, the crematorium's general secretary.

"We love him and his work." — AFP

Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Known for bridging divides, Powell to remain at US Fed

'Jay' managed to unite inflation hawks and doves on Fed's policy-setting panel

WASHINGTON: A wealthy Republican with no formal economics training, Jerome Powell yesterday nonetheless won support from Democratic President Joe Biden to lead the Federal Reserve for a second term. The 68-year-old former investment banker has shown skill in navigating Washington's political quagmire, receiving praise and criticism from all sides while maintaining the central bank's independence.

If confirmed by the US Senate, Powell will continue to lead the Federal Reserve for another four years, charged with guiding the world's largest economy through its recovery from the pandemic, while ensuring jobs are restored without further inflating inflation.

In re-nominating Powell, Biden dismissed calls from progressive Democrats to replace him with a more liberal choice. "We can't just return to where we were before the pandemic, we need to build our economy back better," the president said in a statement. "I'm confident that Chair Powell and (vice chair nominee Lael) Brainard's focus on keeping inflation low, prices stable and delivering full employment will make our economy stronger than ever before."

Powell first took the helm of the US central bank in 2018 after he was tapped by then-president Donald Trump to replace Janet Yellen. He then withstood months of withering attacks from Trump for raising interest rates. Powell has since won plaudits for his focus on ensuring the benefits of economic growth reach the most marginalized Americans, and for leading a shift in Fed policy to

achieve that. But liberals have attacked him for not doing more to rein in banks and to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Building consensus

During his term, Powell, who prefers to be called "Jay," managed to unite the inflation hawks and doves on the Fed's policy-setting committee. He presided over four interest rate increases by the Federal Open Markets Committee in his first year, ignoring public criticism from Trump, who accused him of harming the economy.

When the COVID-19 pandemic landed on American shores in early 2020, Powell and the Fed wasted no time. The bank slashed its benchmark rate to zero by mid-March, and rolled out new lending facilities and a massive bond buying program to ensure the US financial system would not seize up, as it did in 2008.

Those efforts, together with trillions of dollars in federal stimulus spending, were largely successful in preventing a more severe, long-lasting downturn. The unemployment rate shot up to 14.8 percent in April 2020 but had declined to 4.6 percent last month, though that was still more than a percentage point above where it was before the pandemic. Powell is now being accused by some politicians and economists of letting the economy run too hot as labor shortages and global shipping and supply bottlenecks push inflation higher. After languishing for years below the Fed's two-percent target, the

consumer price index jumped to 6.2 percent in October, the highest in more than three decades.

The Fed this month started to slow its stimulus to the economy, reducing its monthly bond purchases.

But Powell has said the price spike is driven by temporary factors and the Fed will not raise interest rates until it has ended the bond-buying program, likely around the middle of the year. Even some liberal economists think it is time for the Fed to change its message and prepare markets for one or as many as three rate hikes next year.

Gradual tightening

While the United States has seen strong jobs gains, unemployment for African Americans was at 8.8 percent in August, and 6.4 percent for Hispanics—a fact Powell never fails to mention in his public appearances. He stresses the importance of keeping economic growth going for as long as possible to ensure gains are shared widely, and in a break from the aloofness often seen among Fed chairs, has sought out the views of workers and small businesses nationwide.

Prior to his appointment to the central bank in 2012 by then-president Barack Obama, Powell was a scholar at the Bipartisan Policy Center think tank. The native of Washington served as assistant secretary of the Treasury in charge of financial institutions for a brief period under President George H.W. Bush starting in 1992. An attorney



WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell arrives to speak at a press conference in this file photo. President Joe Biden has nominated Powell for a second term as Federal Reserve Chair yesterday. —AFP

rather than an economist, Powell is among the wealthiest people ever to lead the Fed.

He disclosed a net worth earlier this year of between \$20 million and \$55 million after nearly a decade as a partner at the Washington-based private equity giant Carlyle Group. Powell was not immune from the controversy over stock market activity by Fed officials, after disclosure forms showed he took \$1 million to \$5 million out of an investment fund last year. —AFP

All new buildings in UK to have e-car charge points from 2022

BRITAIN: Britain will make electric car chargers compulsory for new buildings in England from 2022, as it switches away from high-polluting vehicles, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday. Johnson, fresh from hosting the COP26 climate change summit, told business leaders that he will legislate to compel charging points in new homes, supermarkets and workplaces in England, as part of his carbon-slashing plans.

The new legislation will create 145,000 new charging points per year and apply also to major renovation projects. "We will require new homes and buildings to have electric vehicle charging points," Johnson told the annual gathering of the Confederation of Business Industry (CBI).

The move is a step towards banning

new sales of diesel and petrol cars in the UK from 2030, as part of efforts to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Johnson wants Britain to lead global efforts to transition to net zero in order to help the economy recover from pandemic fallout. "This is a pivotal moment—we cannot go on as we are," Johnson added. "We have to adapt our economy to the green industrial revolution."

"We have to use our massive investment in science and technology and we have to raise our productivity and then we have to get out your way." There are currently about 25,000 charging points in Britain. However, the Competition and Markets Authority regulator estimates that more than 10 times this amount will be needed by 2030. —AFP



SOUTH SHIELDS, UK: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson is pictured on the screen of a television camera operator as he speaks at the Confederation of Business Industry (CBI) annual conference, at the Port of Tyne, in South Shields, north east England yesterday. —AFP

UK rail sector on track to diesel-free trains

LONDON: As host of the recent COP26 climate summit, Britain's drive to help slash global carbon emissions will involve keeping to its own target of phasing out diesel trains over the next two decades, industry bodies and observers say. According to the latest government data, about 29 percent of the UK train fleet still runs on diesel and freight trains run almost entirely on it. On Thursday, the government unveiled plans to electrify an additional 180 miles (288 kilometers) of track in a new rail strategy. This would help "to meet the ambition of removing all diesel-only trains from the network by 2040", the Department for Transport said.

Diesel dependence

While electric trains emit 60 percent less carbon than their diesel counterparts, only 42 percent of the UK rail network is currently electrified, according to official data. That places the UK far behind European neighbors, such as the Netherlands, where 76 percent of the network is electrified.

With the current surge in electrici-

ty prices, some electric-run operators have recently been forced to revert to diesel locomotives, trade body Rail Freight Group (RFG) observed last month. While the RFG described the switch back to diesel as "regrettable", it insisted it was only temporary.

Its director general, Maggie Simpson, highlighted a need for "more electric wires to support the investment in newer locomotives". Britain's rail freight is presently 90 percent hauled by diesel engines. "Of course, in the long term, we need to move to a decarbonized economy, so more use of electric traction is going to be a huge part of that," Simpson said.

Last month saw the launch of a new fully-electric passenger train in the UK-Lumo's London-Edinburgh service carries no auxiliary diesel engine. Train operators are taking the opportunity to transition also via hybrid models in much the same way as carmakers. Chiltern Railways, which runs passenger services between London in southeast England and the country's Midlands, recently announced investment in a hybrid battery-diesel train, developed by rolling stock owner Porterbrook and Rolls-Royce, the maker of aircraft engines.

Hydrogen future

As well as increasing electrification of its rail tracks, Britain is in



LONDON: A London North Eastern Railway (LNER) train is pictured at King's Cross rail station in London. —AFP

the early stages of producing trains that can run on the renewable energy hydrogen. French train manufacturer Alstom has announced plans to deliver the UK's first-ever fleet of new hydrogen trains, as opposed to rolling stock that has been remodeled.

"Rail is already the lowest emission transport mode, but we can do even more," Nick Crossfield, Alstom's managing director UK and Ireland, said as the group this month unveiled its hydrogen project in collaboration with British trains owner Eversholt Rail. The COP26 event in Glasgow-

attended by Britain's Prince Charles who is a committed environmental campaigner—showcased a hydrogen-powered train.

HydroFLEX, developed by Porterbrook and the University of Birmingham with the help of UK government funding, is a remodeled train that its designers claim can carry sufficient hydrogen to match the performance of a diesel engine. While Glasgow Central train station displayed HydroFLEX to the general public, the nearby COP26 summit focused on ending sales of road vehicles that run on fossil fuels. —AFP

Santiago stock exchange soars after Chile vote

SANTIAGO: Santiago's stock market jumped 9.25 percent on its yesterday's open following far-right candidate Jose Antonio Kast's lead over a leftist rival in the first round of the country's presidential

election. Chile's peso also rebounded 3.5 percent to 800 to the US dollar. Fiscal conservative Kast led on almost 28 percent with nearly all votes counted from Sunday's poll, two percentage points ahead of Gabriel Boric, who represents a left-wing coalition that includes the Communist Party.

The pair will face off in next month's run-off to decide who will replace the unpopular conservative Sebastian Pinera as Chile's next president. Kast and Boric represent polar opposites in economic terms, with the former a proponent of the neo-liberal model Chile has followed for more than three decades,

while the latter has vowed to implement a welfare state. As well as suffering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, Chile has been rocked by social upheaval that broke out in October 2019 as thousands of people took to the streets to demand greater equality. Chile's GDP is up 11 percent this year, although experts attribute that mostly to an adjustment that accounts for the drop caused in 2020 by the pandemic.

In 2022, when the new government will take over, growth has been predicted at 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent. —AFP

Telecom Italia shares soar after US buyout bid

MILAN: Shares of Telecom Italia (TIM) soared yesterday after receiving a "friendly" buyout offer from US private equity fund KKR valuing the operator at around 10.8 billion euros.

Shares in Italy's largest telecom rose as high as 0.45 euros on the Milan bourse, up almost 29 percent from Friday's closing price. The public tender offer by New York-based Kohlberg Kravis Roberts regards the entire share capital of the company. TIM said the offer would be for an initial 0.505 euros a share.

Italy's economy ministry saluted the interest by KKR as "positive news for the country" in a statement Sunday and said a working group would be formed to study the matter.

The ministry said it was necessary to ensure that such a project would be compatible with the rollout of ultra-wideband in the country. Any sale would need the approval from government stakeholders, as TIM's network is considered a national strategic asset. TIM, which called an emergency meeting of the board to discuss the offer on Sunday, said the proposal was subject to around four weeks of due diligence and would require the backing of holders of least 51 percent of both ordinary and savings shares. KKR already has a 37.5 percent stake in FiberCop, a joint venture with TIM and Italian internet provider Fastweb to provide fiber optic broadband across Italy.

The takeover proposal comes amid news reports that shareholders—the largest of which is France's Vivendi—are putting pressure on TIM's top management following disappointing company results.

TIM would also require clearance by Italian government stakeholders. "The indication of interest was qualified by KKR as 'friendly' and aims at obtaining approval by TIM's directors and support by the company's management," the statement said. KKR already has a 37.5 percent stake in FiberCop, a joint venture with TIM and Italian internet provider Fastweb to provide fiber optic broadband across Italy.

A spokesman for Vivendi had earlier denied it was in discussions with any funds, including CVC, which had also been named in speculation about TIM's future. "Vivendi is a long-term investor in Telecom Italia and has been so since the beginning. Vivendi denies strongly having had any discussions with any funds, and more specifically with CVC," he said. "Vivendi reiterates its desire and willingness to work alongside Italian authorities and public institutions for the long-term success of TIM." —AFP



ROZZANO, Italy: This file photo shows the logo of Italian telecommunications company Telecom Italia (TIM) at the company's headquarters in Rozzano, south of Milan. —AFP

Business

Boeing opens office in Kuwait, strengthens its local presence

New office opened through KDIPA under direct investment law

KUWAIT: Boeing has announced the opening of a new office in Kuwait, through the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) under the country's Direct Investment Law. The office will be led by managing director Ret Brigadier General MUSAED AL-HAWLI.

The Kuwait Boeing office is located in the heart of the city and is set to open its doors in 2021. The office was inaugurated by Kuljit Ghata-Aura, Boeing president in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa region and MUSAED AL-HAWLI, Boeing managing director for Kuwait. Local responsibilities aligned to the office will include support for all Boeing's business units: Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Boeing Defense, Space & Security and Global Services.

"Boeing's relationship with Kuwait is an important one that has lasted decades and resulted in fruitful outcomes for both the country and the enterprise. Our new office will enable us to better

serve our local customers and stakeholders while creating a solid base for future growth," said Kuljit. "It's an exciting step for Boeing in Kuwait."

For over 50 years, Boeing has closely collaborated with Kuwait, providing a broad range of products and services to meet its commercial and military needs. Boeing is a contributor to Kuwait's Vision 2035 through investments in the community and aviation sector. The partnership began in 1968 when Kuwait Airways Company took delivery of three 707 jetliners. The airline has since operated almost every type of Boeing commercial airplane produced. Boeing's relationship with the Kuwait Air Force (KAF) started in 1974, with an order of 36 A-4KU Skyhawks. Since then, Boeing has maintained a strong relationship with the KAF.

Defense, Space & Security products provided to Kuwait include AH-64D Apaches, F/A-18C/D Hornets, C-17s, F/A-18 weapons tactics trainers

and Harpoon Block IC missiles. In addition, Boeing maintains a presence in Kuwait with Apache post-production support personnel, F/A-18 sustainment and training services, C-17 field service engineers, maintenance and logistics support services.

As a leading global aerospace company, Boeing develops, manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems for customers in more than 150 countries. As a top US exporter, the company leverages the talents of a global supplier base to advance economic oppor-



MUSAED AL-HAWLI



Kuljit Ghata-Aura

tunity, sustainability and community impact. Boeing's diverse team is committed to innovating for the future and living the company's core values of safety, quality and integrity.

IKEA to phase out plastic from consumer packaging by 2028

KUWAIT: In line with the commitment to have a positive impact on both people and planet, IKEA will phase out plastic from consumer packaging solutions. The phase-out will happen in steps, starting with all new range by 2025, and existing range by 2028. With this phase-out, IKEA aims to reduce plastic waste and pollution, and drive the industry agenda to develop packaging solutions centered around renewable and recycled materials.

Packaging is a key component of the IKEA business model and an important enabler for affordability, sustainability, and safe handling. To combat plastic waste and pollution, IKEA has already significantly decreased the amount of plastic used in packaging solutions. Today, less than 10 percent of the total volume of packaging material used annually by IKEA consist of plastics. In closing the remaining gap by removing plastics from consumer packaging solutions, IKEA will continue the movement towards only using renewable or recycled materials.

"Phasing out plastic in consumer packaging is the next big step on our journey to make packaging solutions more sustainable and support the overall commitment to reduce plastic pollution and develop packaging from renewable and recycled materials. The shift will happen progressively over the coming years, and mainly be focusing on paper as it is both recyclable, renewable, and widely recycled across the world," says Erik Olsen, Packaging and Identification Manager at IKEA Of Sweden.

On an annual basis, IKEA spends over one billion euros on approximately 920,000 tons of packaging material. The movement away from plastic in consumer packaging will require the engineering of new solutions, as well as close collaboration with product development teams and IKEA suppliers across the world. Plastic packaging might remain in some parts of the IKEA food range where it is needed to secure quality and food safety standards beyond 2028, in which case it will come renewable or recycled sources.

"Ingenuity is part of the IKEA heritage, and packaging is by no means an exception in that regard. Shifting away from plastic in our consumer packaging solutions will doubtlessly be a challenging task in the coming years. With this movement we hope to spur innovation within packaging and use our size and reach to have a positive impact on the wider industry beyond our supply chain," says Maja Kjellberg, Packaging Development Leader at IKEA Of Sweden.

ABK congratulates 'Experience the Change' winners

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the four winners of the 9th salary transfer campaign "Experience the Change", for Al-Raed, Prestige and Elite Salary account holders. The draw took place on 15th November 2021, under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The winners are:

- Abdulsalam Mohammad Rafeea Hussain Marafie
- Tahani Ali Salem Mohammad
- Khaled Awad Almetwally Omar
- Waseem Nozhi Barsom Masak

The 10th and final draw will be held on 14th December 2021. Every month four winners can win back their salary (Two Kuwaitis and two residents). To be eligible to enter the draw, customers need to have one salary credited into their account one month prior to the draw date. Furthermore, upon opening a salary account with ABK, customers can choose one of the following rewards:

- Up to KD 1,000 cash gift for Kuwaitis
- Up to KD 10,000 interest free loan for Kuwaitis
- Up to KD 5,000 interest free loan for residents. The offer is open to new salary clients only.

KFH announces winners of 'With Your Card... the Journey Begins' campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of "With Your Card... the Journey Begins" campaign in a live Q8 Pulse Radio stream held at KFH Auto showroom in the presence of the representative of MOCI. With Land Rover (Defender) car and 50 winners of 50K miles each, the campaign was developed exclusively for KFH Mastercard cardholders, in cooperation with Mastercard, Kuwait Airways Corporation - Oasis club and Ali Al-Ghanem & Sons Co.

The winner of Land Rover (Defender) is Ahmed Mohammed Abu Aysha. Also, KFH announced the 50 winners of 50K miles each through its social media accounts (KFHGroup).

KFH Group Acting DGM - Credit and Charge Card Products, Talal Al-Arbeed said: "Congratulations to our first draw-winning customers in this campaign providing 204 winners with the opportunity to win by using KFH Mastercard credit and prepaid cards". He added that campaigns launched by KFH are unique, distinguished and add value to customers experience.

Al-Arbeed explained that transactions that qualify the customer to enter the draw will include all purchase transactions using KFH Mastercard credit and prepaid cards locally and globally, with every KD 1 local purchase transaction giving the customer one chance to enter the draw while every KD 1 global purchase transaction will give the customer 10 chances to enter the draw.

He said that the campaign would continue for 4 months till 10th February 2022 and the prizes would be distributed as follows:

- Draws for Oasis club Miles, 200 winners of travel miles (50 winners each month). Each winner shall win 50K miles from the Oasis club.
- Draws for Land Rover (Defender) cars - 4 winners (one winner each month)

Al-Arbeed pointed out that winning prizes with card usage inside or outside Kuwait would enhance the use of cards in the local market, activate merchants' sales, serve the mutual interests of KFH and

Brazil's Nubank shakes up market with IPO, funky beats

SAO PAULO: With 48 million clients, pop star Anitta on its board and a viral ad set to the beats of Brazilian funk, Nubank, a new digital-only bank, is shaking up the market in Brazil-and now eyeing a \$50 billion entry on Wall Street. Launched in 2013 by an international trio of fintech entrepreneurs, the Sao Paulo neobank will make its initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange on December 9, consolidating its meteoric rise.

Nubank is hoping to raise some \$3 billion in its IPO, for a total valuation of more than \$50 billion, which would make it Latin America's biggest bank, surpassing traditional Brazilian bank Itau Unibanco.

It is the latest headline-grabbing moment for the disruptive upstart, which also wooed a \$500 million investment from legendary investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway in June. China's Tencent and Airbnb backer Sequoia are also investors in the firm, which is currently valued at around \$30 billion, making it one of the world's biggest neobanks. Offering free online accounts, credit cards for long-excluded lower-income clients and the mobility of banking by cell phone, Nubank promises a radical break with the high fees and stodgy bureaucracy of Brazil's traditional banks. It has been a massive success for its founders, Brazilian consultant Cristina Junqueira, US tech chief Edward Wible and Colombian investment banker David Velez. Velez, 39, now the company's chief executive, made Forbes magazine's list of the world's billionaires this year, with a fortune estimated at \$5.2 billion-most of which he and his wife say they plan to donate. The next step for Nubank, which also has operations in Mexico and Colombia, is to turn a profit: The company reported a net loss of \$171.5 million last year, and lost \$99.1 million in the first three quarters of this year.

Funk and inclusiveness

Like fellow digital disruptors Banco Inter, Neon and C6 Bank, Nubank is tapping a young, dynamic market segment long neglected by traditional banks. "They have opened up more possibilities for middle- and lower-middle-class consumers, as well as an economically promising young demographic," said Thais Carnio, a banking expert at Mackenzie



Talal Al-Arbeed



Fahad Al-Saad



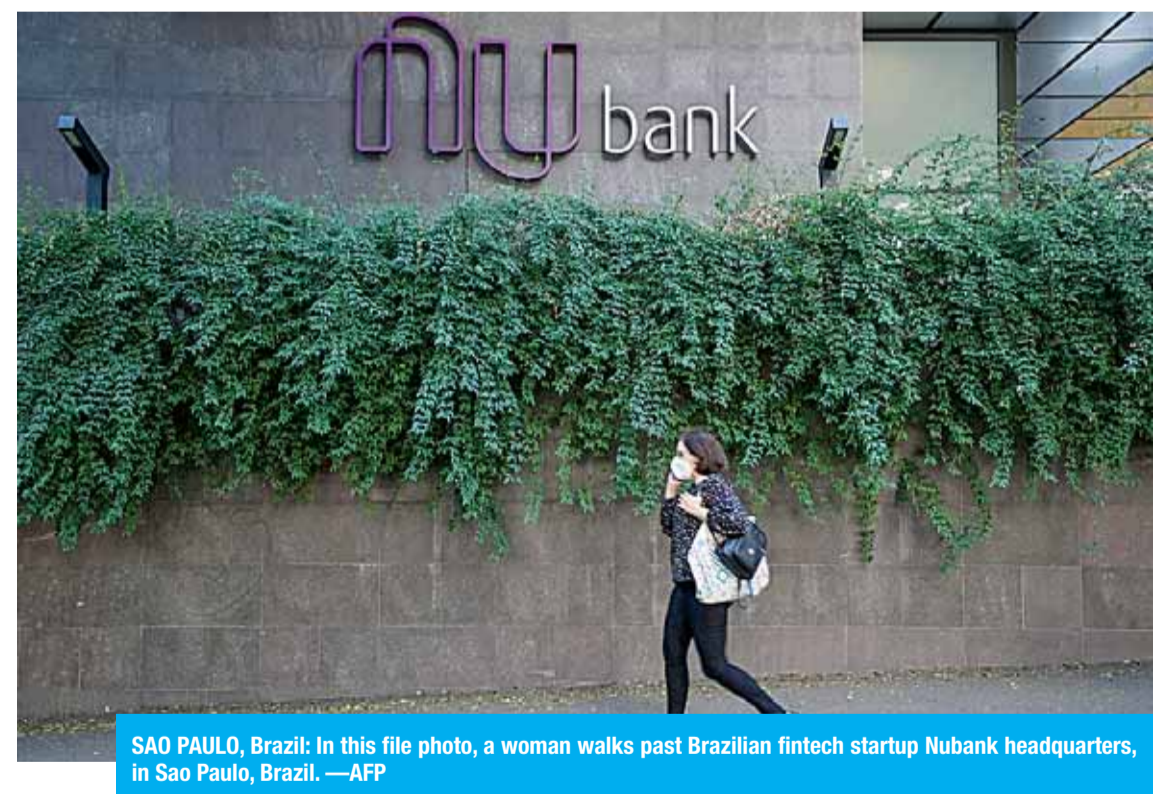
its partners and create an added value to the customers' experience in shopping and banking services as targeted by KFH.

Al-Arbeed emphasized that KFH is always keen on enhancing cooperation with its partners to plan and execute several campaigns, as this would reflect positively on the customer's satisfaction, usage volume, expand KFH market share and enhance KFH pioneering position in the banking cards market.

He stressed KFH's keenness to enhance the security and comfortable features and valuable rewards as well as easy payment experience customers aspire to with KFH Cards.

During an interview with Q8 Pulse Radio, KFH AM - Public Relations, Fahad Al-Saad, congratulated the winner of Land Rover and thanked all winners for choosing KFH cards. He added that the opportunity is still available to all KFH customers when they use KFH MasterCard cards in purchasing transactions.

Under "With Your Card... the Journey Begins" Campaign, "Al-Saad mentioned, "KFH implements comprehensive program of events and activities for customers and society", adding that the program includes various competitions, prizes, and innovative events that meet customer aspirations.



SAO PAULO, Brazil: In this file photo, a woman walks past Brazilian fintech startup Nubank headquarters, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. —AFP

Presbyterian University in Sao Paulo.

That is revolutionizing a Brazilian market dominated by five big banks: Itau, Bradesco and Santander Brasil-all private-and state-owned Caixa Economica Federal and Banco do Brasil. "Digital banks, and Nubank in particular, have a greater capacity to quickly include people who would otherwise be unbanked," said finance professor Rafael Schiozer of the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

And there is still room to grow: Of Brazil's 213 million people, just 182 million use banking services, according to official figures. The number has risen fast during the coronavirus pandemic, which brought government stimulus payments for low-income families-fueling demand for bank accounts-and amplified the need for a credit or debit card to shop online. Since March 2020, 17 million Brazilians have opened bank accounts. Over the same period, Nubank has nearly doubled its number of clients in Brazil, to 41 million. It has also expanded its product portfolio to include savings accounts, loans and insurance. It recently launched an

investment platform, with a music video by Brazilian funk singer MC Jottape to promote it. "If the deal is juicy, I want my part. Whether it's suit-and-tie or shorts-and-sandals, we can own a piece," he sings in the video, shot in a poor favela neighborhood. "Now our people have a space, too." Adding to the bank's pop-culture pull, it appointed Brazilian superstar singer Anitta to its board of directors in June.

Potential pushback

Skeptics say Nubank now needs to prove itself by turning a profit. It could face pushback from traditional competitors and increased regulatory scrutiny along the way. Brazilian banking association Febraban recently warned that regulatory "asymmetries" could "distort competition" and give neobanks an unfair advantage over their traditional counterparts. Traditional banks, for example, face bigger capital requirements to issue credit cards. Febraban's director for regulatory issues, Rubens Sardenberg, told AFP. —AFP

Lifestyle | Features



Brandon Burgos tattoos a person in the city of Puebla. — AFP photos



Brandon Burgos poses while tattooing a person in the city of Puebla.



Brandon Burgos tattoos a person in the city of Puebla.



Brandon Burgos poses after tattooing a person in the city of Puebla.

Mexican 11-year-old tattooist follows in father's footsteps

Brandon Burgos carefully tattoos a customer's arm in his father's studio in Mexico. He's only 11 years old, but the schoolboy already has around 30 creations to his name. He is following in the footsteps of his father, who says his son has a natural talent. His small hands covered by latex gloves, Brandon uses a tattoo machine under his father's supervision in his small studio in the central city of Puebla. He inks the image of an Egyptian cat's face before carefully cleansing the skin. Brandon is in the last year of elementary school, and while he dreams of being a sailor, his second choice is tattoo artist, he says with a smile.

He first put ink to skin just a year ago, drawing a skull on his father. "I started helping my dad, watching videos, and there's a book that's a tattoo course so I started reading it," he says. After his father came uncles and friends who let Brandon hone his skills on them. "Now more people ask me to tattoo them and, of course, they're giving me confidence and I appreciate it," says Brandon. He no longer feels as nervous as he did when he first tattooed his father. He has even been invited to participate in his first exhibition, in Tepito, a rough neighborhood in Mexico City. His father Jose Burgos, who has been a tattoo artist for seven

years, says it was Brandon's own choice to learn about his trade.

"He liked drawing from the age of six, but with the pandemic he got more involved. The only condition is that he gets good school grades," he says. Before tattooing people, Brandon practiced on synthetic silicone skin and fruit. Now he has no shortage of human canvases. "He's done about 30 tattoos and everyone's satisfied," his father says. "I never imagined that my son would tattoo me. He has a good hand, very light," he adds. —AFP

Clapton guitar tops \$600,000 in rock memorabilia auction

Avintage Eric Clapton guitar sold for \$625,000 in New York at a weekend auction of rock memorabilia that fetched nearly \$5 million in total, Julien Auctions announced. Heralded as the highlight of the sale that concluded late Saturday at the city's Hard Rock Cafe and which also took bids online, the acoustic 1968 Martin D-45 instrument was played by Clapton in 1970 during the debut live concert of his band Derek and the Dominos. The group was behind the classic song "Layla." Julien's had estimated the instrument would sell for \$300,000 to \$500,000.



While outperforming expectations, the price came up well short of the record \$6 million that was paid in 2020 for the acoustic guitar that late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain strummed during a famous "MTV Unplugged" appearance in 1993. The 76-year-old Englishman Clapton, a rock and blues legend, in recent years has made a very public turn to far-right conservatism, taking ardent stances against Covid-19 vaccination and lockdown measures and facing accusations of racism.

Other guitars that went under the hammer include a 1976 Gibson Explorer stage-played by U2's lead guitarist The Edge that brought \$437,500, and a Fender Stratocaster used by Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour, which sold for a cool \$200,000. Nearly 1,000 lots of memorabilia were sold in the "Icons & Idols: Rock 'N' Roll" auction, which featured objects owned or connected to The Beatles, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, Michael Jackson, Amy Winehouse, Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Elvis Presley, and the Rolling Stones. — AFP



'Ghostbusters' sequel scares up a N America box office lead

Sony's latest family-friendly plunge into the wacky supernatural, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," took in an estimated \$44 million over the three-day weekend to top the North American box office, industry specialist Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. The film comes 37 years after the first "Ghostbusters" and is packed with references to that classic. Original stars Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Ernie Hudson and Sigourney Weaver all have cameos, and it is directed by Jason Reitman, whose father Ivan Reitman made the original.

This version stars Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon and McKenna Grace in a ghostly tale set not in 1980s Manhattan but decades later in small-town Oklahoma. But no worries: the havoc-wreaking Stay-Puft marshmallow man is back, if only in

miniature, haunting the creepy aisles of a Walmart. Disney/Marvel superhero film "Eternals" in the meantime slipped from first to second for the Friday-through-Sunday period, taking in \$10.8 million. Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek, Richard Madden and Gemma Chan star in the story of an immortal race of aliens who emerge from hiding to save the Earth.

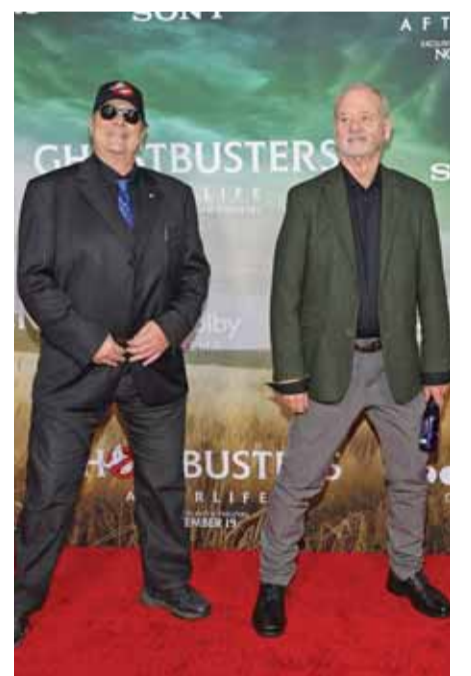
In third, also down one spot, was Paramount's family-friendly "Clifford the Big Red Dog," at \$8.1 million. Based on the children's book series, it follows young Emily Elizabeth and her astoundingly large dog as they tromp through New York City. "King Richard," from Warner Bros., has received what Variety called "rapturous reviews" and created Oscar buzz around Will Smith for his portrayal of Richard Williams, father of tennis superstars Venus

and Serena Williams. (Smith also co-produces.) But its opening weekend, while placing it fourth at the box office, brought in only \$5.7 million, possibly in part because of its simultaneous release on HBO Max.

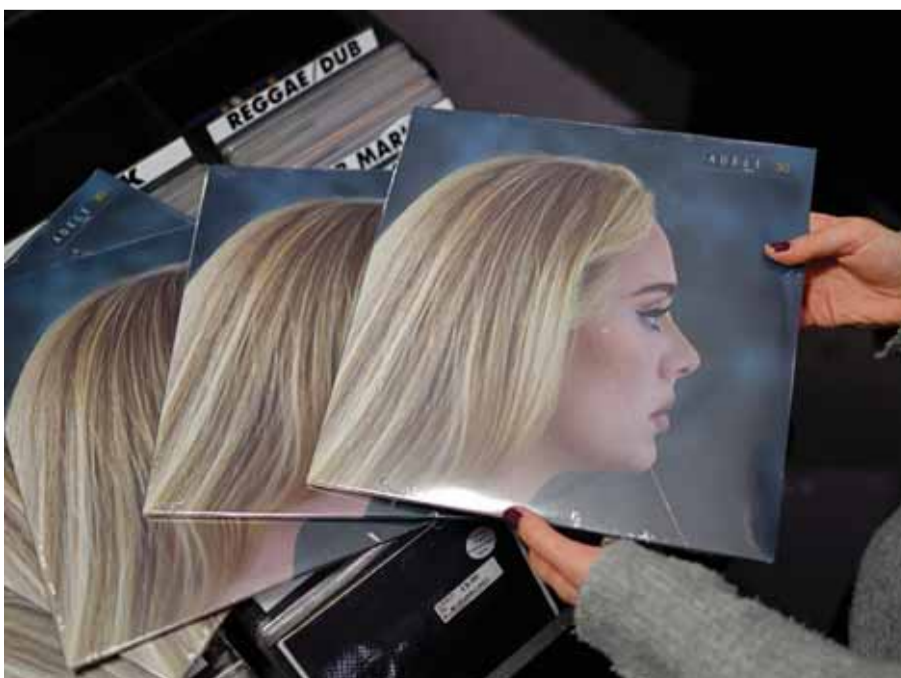
In fifth, down two spots, was Warner Bros. sci-fi spectacular "Dune," at \$3.1 million. This rendition of the Frank Herbert classic stars Timothee Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson and Oscar Isaac in the story of survival on a frightening desert planet. Rounding out the top 10 were:

- "Venom: Let There Be Carnage" (\$2.8 million)
- "No Time to Die" (\$2.7 million)
- "The French Dispatch" (\$970,000)
- "Belfast" (\$940,000)
- "Ron's Gone Wrong" (\$888,000)

—AFP



Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray attend the "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" New York Premiere at AMC Lincoln Square Theater. — AFP photos



In this file photo a member of staff sorts copies of the new album from British singer-songwriter Adele, "30" in Sister Ray record store in the soho area of central London. — AFP

Spotify bows to Adele, drops 'shuffle' as album song playing default

For many musicians, like storytelling superstar Adele, the order of songs on an album is a matter of the keenest concern, affecting how a narrative is presented, how listeners react and ultimately how many albums are sold. That is a big reason why customers of Spotify saw "play" as the album default option Sunday on the world's largest audio streaming service, so songs will be heard in the order they appear on an album—though users can still elect the "shuffle" option.

Adele, whose much anticipated new album "30" shot to the top of the charts

within hours of its release Friday, is among the artists who have campaigned for the "play" choice, and in announcing its change Spotify specifically mentioned her. "As Adele mentioned, we are excited to share that we have begun rolling out a new Premium feature that has been long requested by both users and artists to make play the default button on all albums," a spokesman for the Swedish company said.

"For those users still wishing to shuffle an album, they can go to the Now Playing View and select the shuffle toggle." Adele took to Twitter to express her thanks. "We don't create albums with so much care and thought into our track listing for no reason," she said. "Our art tells a story and our stories should be listened to as we intended. Thank you Spotify for listening." The English singer/songwriter, winner of 15 Grammy Awards and 2016's Billboard Artist of the Year, is known for songs that combine raw, deeply personal feeling with strong musicality. —AFP



A robot waiter carries empty trays after delivering an order to patrons at the 'White Fox' restaurant in the eastern part of Iraq's northern city of Mosul. — AFP photos



This picture shows a view of the exterior of the 'White Fox' restaurant, which employs the use of robot waiters, in the eastern part of Iraq's northern city of Mosul.

Robot waiters take Iraq's Mosulites back to the future

From the rubble of Iraq's war-ravaged city of Mosul arises the sight of androids gliding back and forth in a restaurant to serve their amused clientele. "Welcome", "We wish you a good time in our restaurant", "We would be happy to have your opinion on the quality of the service", chime the automated attendants, red eyes blinking out of their shiny blue and white exteriors. "On television, you see robots and touch-screen tables in the United Arab Emirates, Spain and Japan," said Rami Chkib Abdelrahman, proud owner of the White Fox which opened in June. "I'm trying to bring these ideas here to Mosul."

The futuristic servers are the result of technology developed in the northern city, erstwhile stronghold of the Islamic State jihadist group. "We saw the concept on social media in more than one restaurant," said Abdelrahman, a dentist by profession.

Voyage to space

Occupied by IS between 2014 and 2017, the northern metropolis of Mosul still bears the scars of war. But at dinner-



A robot waiter carries an order to patrons at the 'White Fox' restaurant.

time, patrons of the restaurant that is packed every night can escape from the city on a voyage through space. An astronaut floating across the muralled wall sets the scene and views of Earth and other planets as seen from space give customers the sense of peering out through the portholes of a spaceship. The ceilings are speckled with glowing constellations.

But the star attractions remain the two androids, sporting a scarf and black beret, shuttling back and forth across the restaurant on rails to deliver orders. As they approach, smartphones come out and

children promptly line up next to them for a souvenir snapshot.

Time for a selfie

The robots are imported, Abdelrahman explained without giving the source, adding that everything in the restaurant is digital, including the 15 touch-screen tables with built-in menus. A team from the University of Mosul's department of mechatronics-integrating several fields of engineering as well as robotics-was in charge of programming and connected a network and server to the restaurant.

Humans have not been completely replaced by machines. Four young waiters are busy picking up the dishes from the robots' trays and placing them on the tables. Having dinner with his wife, Bashar Mahmud was won over. He took a selfie, smiling broadly. "I've travelled abroad and I've never seen anything like this, not in Turkey, Jordan or Saudi Arabia," exclaimed the 50-year-old blacksmith with a salt-and-pepper beard. — AFP



Children pose for a picture next to a robot waiter at the 'White Fox' restaurant.

Imports imperil Jordanian makers of handcrafted shoes

He was once dubbed the "King of Shoes", but after decades of fashioning footwear for kings, queens and presidents, 90-year-old Jamil Kopti fears cheap imports are killing off his craft. "We started losing customers one after another, and we kept losing stores until we closed down three shops," said Kopti, believed to be Jordan's oldest maker of handcrafted shoes. "In the past five years, our profession began to decline dramatically in face of imported foreign shoes that flooded the market," he sighed, surveying his once prosperous workshop.

Now he has just five workers, a far cry from the 42 staff he used to employ. And around the workshop in the popular Al-Jofeh district of Amman, hundreds of molds lie gathering dust. After entering the trade in 1949 at just 18, Kopti attended shoe fairs every year in Bologna and Paris. In 1961, at a show at the University of Jordan, he met the late King Hussein and gifted him four pairs of handmade shoes. Hussein became an instant fan, particularly of black, formal shoes, and "after that, and for 35 years, I made the king's shoes." "He loved classic shoes," said Kopti, proudly showing off two old photos on his phone of him and the late monarch. He was awarded Jordan's Independence Medal and was a frequent palace guest on special occasions.

'Made in Amman'

And Kopti's fame spread. In 1964, the monarch visited France where he met then president Charles de Gaulle. "All the time during the meeting ... he had his eyes on my shoes and when he asked



An employee working for shoemaker Zuhair Shihha at the Marina workshop assembles a shoe.

me where I got them from I told him 'They were made in Amman', the king told Kopti. "King Hussein asked me to make two pairs of shoes for de Gaulle," said Kopti, adding "his shoe size was very big". According to the country's Shoe Manufacturers Association, there used to be over 250 shoe workshops and factories in Jordan, employing about 5,000 people.

Today "we have around 100 workshops and less than 500 workers", said Naser Theyabat, head of the association. During his long career, Kopti has made shoes for the new King Abdullah II and most of Jordan's princes and princesses, as well as top politicians and military offi-

cers. Using imported leather from France, Italy, and Germany, his workshop once made 200 pairs of shoes a day. Nowadays it is more like 10 pairs, forcing him to turn to medical shoes and children's footwear. But Kopti believes his loyal customers will help him survive, pointing to one client he has served for 50 years.

Handmade leather shoemakers had a "golden age" in the 1980s and 1990s, recalls Theyabat. However with time, imports have increased. Textile, Readymade Clothes and Footwear Syndicate head Sultan Allan said that before the Covid-19 pandemic Jordan imported about 44 million dinars (\$62 million) worth of shoes annually. These figures are likely to decrease due to the repercussions of the epidemic. "This craft is on the verge of extinction," said Theyabat, lamenting that Jordanian shoemakers received little support. "On the contrary, there was a policy to flood the market with Chinese-made shoes."

'Profits too low'

In the Marina workshop in an old building of the Ashrafiyeh district, three shoemakers were sewing on soles, adding heels, and trimming off leather, watched by owner Zuhair Shihha. "The terrible decline started in 2015 when the market was flooded with Chinese, Vietnamese, Syrian and Egyptian-made shoes," the 71-year-old told AFP. "I had 20 workers and I am left with three. We used to make 60 to 70 pairs of shoes a day compared to less than 12 today." Holding up a shoe, he pointed out it was "strong and durable"



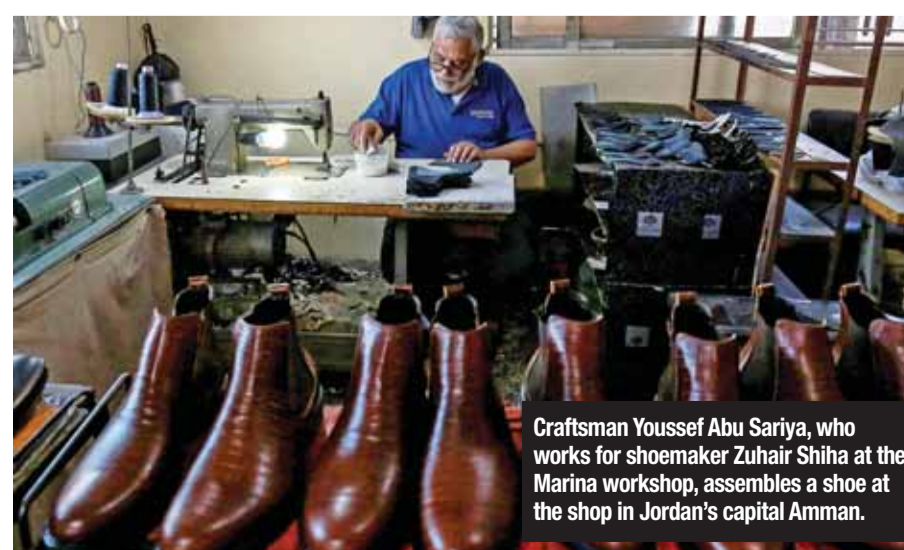
One of the five out of 42 remaining employees working for Jamil Al-Kopti, the oldest shoemaker in Amman.

and said the pair cost 20 dinars (\$28). "Our profit is very low."

Shihha is hoping for government support to "reduce taxes ... because we have debts that we cannot pay". Bent over a machine cutting leather, white-haired Youssef Abu Sariya recalled: "I started doing this 50 years ago. I love this job and know nothing else. "What is happening to us is sad. Most of the workshops closed and their workers have left," he said. "I am sure that we will face the same fate, but I do not know when." — AFP



One of the five out of 42 remaining employees working for Jamil Al-Kopti, checks shoe molds at the workshop in Jordan's capital.



Craftsman Youssef Abu Sariya, who works for shoemaker Zuhair Shihha at the Marina workshop, assembles a shoe at the shop in Jordan's capital Amman.

Taleban to Afghan networks: Stop airing shows with women actors

Afghanistan's Taleban authorities on Sunday issued a new "religious guideline" that called on the country's television channels to stop showing dramas and soap operas featuring women actors. In the first such directive to Afghan media issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the Taleban also called on women television journalists to wear Islamic hijabs while presenting their reports.

And the ministry asked the channels not to air films or programs in which the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) or other revered figures are shown. It called for banning films or programs that were against Islamic and Afghan values. "These are not rules but a religious guideline," ministry spokesman Hakif Mohajir told AFP. The new directive was widely circulated late Sunday on social media networks.

Despite insisting they will rule more moderately this time around, the Taleban have already introduced rules for what women can wear at university, and beaten and harassed several Afghan journalists despite promising to uphold press freedoms. The Taleban's guideline for TV networks comes after two decades of explosive growth for independent Afghan media under the Western-backed governments that ruled the country until August 15, when the Islamists regained power.

Dozens of television channels and radio stations were set up with Western assistance and private investment soon after the Taleban were toppled in 2001. During the past 20 years, Afghan television channels offered a wide range of programs—from an "American Idol" style singing competition to music videos, along with several Turkish and Indian soap operas. When the Islamists previously ruled from 1996 to 2001, there was no Afghan media to speak of—they banned television, movies and most other forms of entertainment, deeming it immoral.

People caught watching television faced punishment, including having their set smashed. Ownership of a video player could lead to a public lashing. There was only one radio station, Voice of Sharia, that broadcast propaganda and Islamic programming. — AFP



(From left to right) Jin, Suga, V, Jungkook, RM, Jimin, and J-Hope of BTS, winners of the Favorite Pop Song, Favorite Pop Duo or Group, and Artist of the Year awards, pose in the press room during the 2021 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos



This handout photo shows (from left) J-Hope, V, RM, Jimin, Suga, and Jungkook of South Korean band BTS accepting the Artist of the Year award onstage.

K-POP KINGS **BTS** WIN ARTIST OF THE YEAR AMA IN ASIAN FIRST



K-pop sensation BTS on Sunday became the first Asian group to win Artist of the Year at the American Music Awards. The septet also scooped awards for Favorite Pop Duo or Group and Favorite Pop Song for their hit "Butter" at the glitzy Los Angeles ceremony hosted by Cardi B. South Korea's biggest band, who now have nine AMAs, joined British rockers Coldplay for the world television premiere performance of "My Universe" at the star-studded show, and tweeted a picture of the groups together. BTS's Twitter feed later paid tribute to their fans, known as the "ARMY".

The trailblazing stars cemented their place in US chart history last year when their hit single "Dynamite" entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number one, making them the first South Korean act to top the rankings. Doja Cat and Megan Thee Stallion joined BTS with three awards each, while Taylor Swift took home gongs for Favorite Female Pop Artist and Favorite Pop Album "evermore" and Ed Sheeran won Favorite Male Pop Artist. The AMAs is the world's largest fan-voted awards show. — AFP

This handout photo shows British rock band performing with South Korean band BTS onstage.



Olivia Rodrigo, winner of the New Artist Of The Year award, poses in the Press Room at the 2021 American Music Awards.

An abridged list of the American Music Awards 2021 winners

- Artist of the Year:**
BTS
- New Artist of the Year:**
Olivia Rodrigo
- Collaboration of the Year:**
Doja Cat featuring SZA - 'Kiss Me More'
- Favorite Trending Song:**
Megan Thee Stallion - 'Body'
- Favorite Music Video:**
Lil Nas X - 'Montero (Call Me By Your Name)'
- Favorite Male Artist - Pop**
Ed Sheeran
- Favorite Female Artist - Pop**
Taylor Swift
- Favorite Duo or Group - Pop**
BTS
- Favorite album - Pop**
Taylor Swift - 'evermore'
- Favorite song - Pop**
BTS - 'Butter'
- Favorite Female Artist - Hip-Hop**
Megan Thee Stallion
- Favorite Male Artist - Hip-Hop**
Drake
- Favorite Album - Hip-Hop**
Megan Thee Stallion - 'Good News'
- Favorite Song - Hip-Hop**
Cardi B - 'Up'
- Favorite Male Artist - R&B**
The Weeknd
- Favorite Female Artist - R&B**
Doja Cat
- Favorite Album - R&B**
Doja Cat - 'Planet Her'
- Favorite Song - R&B**
Silk Sonic (Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak) - 'Leave The Door Open'
- Favorite Artist - Rock**
Machine Gun Kelly
- Favorite Artist - Gospel**
Kanye West
- Favorite Male Artist - Country:**
Luke Bryan
- Favorite Female Artist - Country:**
Carrie Underwood
- Favorite Duo or Group - Country:**
Dan + Shay — Bang Showbiz



Cardi B, winner of the Favorite Hip-Hop Song award, poses in the press room at the 2021 American Music Awards.



This handout photo shows German singer-songwriter Zoe Wees performing onstage.



This handout photo shows US singer-songwriter Carrie Underwood performing onstage.



This handout photo shows US rapper Machine Gun Kelly accepting the Favorite Rock Artist Award presented by Rachel Zegler and Ansel Elgort, onstage.



Jennifer Lopez performs onstage for the 2021 American Music Awards.



This handout photo shows US singer-songwriter Bruno Mars (center) and Anderson .Paak (right) of Silk Sonic performing onstage during the 2021 American Music Awards.

Sports

Lyon-Marseille match abandoned after Payet struck by bottle

Latest in series of similar incidents in French football this season

PARIS: Sunday's Ligue 1 match between Lyon and Marseille was abandoned nearly two hours after it was interrupted when Dimitri Payet was hit by a water bottle thrown from the crowd for the second time this season. The Marseille captain required treatment after being struck on the side of the head as he prepared to take a corner for the visitors in the fifth minute, prompting both teams to return to the changing rooms. Marseille president Pablo Longoria called it a "dark night for football".

"Dimitri is affected psychologically, it's not normal," he told Amazon Prime. "We always condemn any kind of violence, it affects everyone. Nobody who likes football can be happy tonight. The impact was a bit violent, he was very affected, with ice on his head in the dressing room."

It was the latest in a series of incidents that have blighted French football this season and confusion reigned after an initial decision was made to resume the game following a 90-minute delay. "Contrary to what was announced, the referee has decided not to restart the game given the security of the players was not guaranteed," the stadium announcer said.

Lyon players initially came back out to warm up following an announcement that play would restart, but soon headed back down the tunnel with no sign of their opponents. "My decision from a sporting perspective was always to not restart the match. Public order disturbances were mentioned," said referee Ruddy Buquet.

"The time taken over the decision is incomprehensible," said Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas. French league officials said they "regretted" the decision to try and restart the match. An individual was arrested and taken into custody after being identified by stadium security cameras, police told AFP.

Payet was also hit by a bottle during a game at Nice in August. He had been heckled by Lyon supporters while warming up before kick-off. Nice were docked a point after the incident with Marseille, who on Wednesday were ordered to play their next home game behind closed doors after trouble during last month's clash with Paris Saint-Germain.

The game between Nice and Marseille was halted with 15 minutes left and replayed in its entirety two months later on neutral ground in Troyes and without fans. Nice were also ordered to play three games behind closed doors. Lens incurred a similar punishment following a pitch invasion during September's northern derby against Lille.

Nice second, Lens thumped

Earlier in the day, Nice battled back from a goal down to win 2-1 at Clermont and move second, after Lens were thrashed by Brest. Christophe Galtier's side are now 11 points behind league leaders PSG as they bid to qualify for the Champions League.

The visitors were facing a second straight defeat when Florent Ogier gave promoted Clermont a 17th-minute lead. But Nice were rescued by in-form forward Amine Gouiri's late double as the France Under-21 international scored in the 77th and 82nd minutes to take his tally of league goals this season to eight.

Nice, bankrolled by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos company, are hoping to reach Europe's premier club competition for the first time since the 1959-60 European Cup. They lost in the qualifying play-off four years ago.

Lens, who were second in the table at the start



DECINES-CHARPIEU: Marseille's French midfielder Dimitri Payet receives a bottle of water from the grandstand during the French L1 football match against Lyon at the Groupama stadium in Decines-Charpieu, near Lyon, south-eastern France, on Sunday. —AFP

of the weekend, slipped to a surprise 4-0 hammering at struggling Brest. Franck Haise's Lens, only in their second season back in the French top flight, were looking to move back within 10 points of PSG. But a nightmare first half put paid to any hopes of that, as Steve Mounie gave Brest a third-minute lead before goals from Brendan Chardonnet and the in-form Romain Faivre made it

three at the break.

Lens' miserable afternoon was completed in the second half as Jeremy Le Douaron added a fourth for the hosts in the 69th minute and the away side saw substitute Arnaud Kalimuendo sent off. On Saturday, Lionel Messi scored his first Ligue 1 goal as PSG stretched further clear with a 3-1 victory against Nantes. —AFP

News in brief

Real Madrid tops La Liga

MADRID: Vinicius Junior scored his 10th goal of the season as Real Madrid thrashed Granada 4-1 on Sunday to shoot back to the top of La Liga. Marco Asensio and Nacho Fernandez put Madrid two up inside the opening 30 minutes at Los Carmenes, where Granada briefly made a game of it when Luis Suarez pulled a goal back, only to be blown away in the second half. Vinicius finished off a sumptuous Madrid passing move and was then on the end of a rash challenge from Granada's Monchu, who was sent off with 23 minutes left to play. With the extra man, the lead was never really in doubt and Ferland Mendy made it four to complete a convincing victory, which sends Madrid above Real Sociedad who drew 0-0 at home to Valencia. Carlo Ancelotti can turn his attention to tomorrow's Champions League game away at Sheriff Tiraspol, with qualification to the last 16 not yet secured. Inter Milan are two points behind in Group D and Sheriff only one point further back.

Napoli's unbeaten run over

MILAN: Inter Milan strengthened their Serie A title defense on Sunday with an enthralling 3-2 win over Napoli which moved them to within four points of the league leaders. Simone Inzaghi's side came back from Piotr Zielinski's powerful early strike to close the gap on both Napoli and AC Milan, who lost 4-3 at Fiorentina on Saturday, in a breathless encounter at the San Siro. Hakan Calhanoglu levelled the scores from the penalty spot midway through the first half. Ivan Perisic's header just before the break and Lautaro Martinez's smart finish after a heart-pounding upfield surge from Joaquin Correa made sure of the points and a three-way title race even more interesting. Napoli, who also scored through Dries Mertens with 11 minutes left, lost their unbeaten league record just as Milan did in Florence after Samir Handanovic pulled off a miracle save to deny Mario Rui's header in stoppage time.

Tottenham give Conte lift-off

LONDON: Tottenham needed a second-half fightback to launch Antonio Conte's reign in charge with a 2-1 win over Leeds. A severely depleted Leeds remain just two points above the relegation zone after threatening to spoil Conte's first home league game since he replaced Nuno Espirito Santo. A first win in four league games takes Tottenham above Manchester United. Tottenham had not even managed a shot on target in their previous two league matches and there was little change for the first 45 minutes. A youthful Leeds were well worth their 1-0 half-time lead thanks to Daniel James' first goal for the club. Tottenham's goals came after the break from unfamiliar sources as Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg's scuffed shot found the bottom corner to level just before the hour-mark. Sergio Reguilon then grabbed the winner with his first Spurs goal after Eric Dier's deflected free-kick came back off the post.

Lindstrom strike sinks Freiburg

BERLIN: Danish rising star Jesper Lindstrom picked up his first Bundesliga goal on Sunday as Eintracht Frankfurt pulled further away from the relegation fight with a 2-0 win at Freiburg. Lindstrom, 21, struck midway through the first half to send Frankfurt on their way to a much-needed third win of the season and put the brakes on Freiburg's brilliant start to the campaign. The win sees Frankfurt, who have struggled under new coach Oliver Glasner this season, move five points clear of the bottom three. Having remained unbeaten for the first 10 games of the campaign, high-flying Freiburg are still in third despite losing both of their last two games.

Benfica to give Barca early convictions' test under Xavi

BARCELONA: Xavi Hernandez's rescue mission encounters its first major test tonight as Barcelona face Benfica in a game that could decide the scrap in Group E to qualify for the Champions League last 16. "We cannot ignore our principles," said Xavi on Saturday, after Barca had just beaten Espanyol 1-0 in his first game in charge to move up to sixth in La Liga.

They had needed the help of a dubious Memphis Depay penalty and the post, which Espanyol hit twice late in the second half at Camp Nou. But before a frantic final 20 minutes, Barcelona looked like a team at least intent on renewal, diligently obeying the wishes of their new coach, despite Xavi's tenure being only two weeks - and in terms of training sessions, a few days - old.

Two 17-year-old wingers, Gavi and Ilias Akohomach, clung to the touchline to stretch the opposition defense. Frenkie de Jong and the 19-year-old Nico Gonzalez were prepared to leave gaps behind them to be more advanced in midfield. Everyone pressed higher and faster.

Exuberance seemed to have been encouraged, although Xavi wanted more. "We need to take more risks," he said afterwards. The question now is how much can they risk against Benfica, when the pressure is greater and the margin for recovery so small? And are his team brave enough to do it?

Last week, Spain faced Sweden in Seville, with automatic qualification for next year's World Cup in Qatar at stake. Spain won 1-0 but there had been gasps and groans as their team protected their lead with ambitious passing at the back.

"The temptation is to start to play long balls, to defend, to try to close the spaces, but you know what? If we play like that, we're not very good," said Spain coach Luis Enrique, who coached Barcelona and Xavi between 2014 and 2017.

"The players I've picked are not the best ones to launch missiles, they're the ones to have the ball, to press high, to make the pitch bigger and while that gives people a heart attack, it gives us the chance to

History on line as fourth AFC Champions League crown beckons

HONG KONG: Al-Hilal face Pohang Steelers in the AFC Champions League final in Riyadh tonight with both teams looking to be the first to lift Asian club football's biggest prize four times. But South Korea's Steelers will have to overcome fervent home support with an expected 68,000 Al-Hilal fans packing out the King Fahd Stadium after COVID crowd restrictions were lifted.

Managed by the Portuguese Leonardo Jardim, Al-Hilal of Saudi Arabia will be looking for their second Champions League crown in three seasons to add to their 1991 and 2000 victories. Standing in their way are three-time continental champions Pohang Steelers, who reached the final for the first time since 2009 by knocking out the defending champions Ulsan.



SEIXAL: Benfica's players take part in a training session at Benfica's Campus training camp ground in Seixal near Lisbon yesterday, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League match against Barcelona. —AFP

play the game how we want to."

In the same way, Barcelona must now stay true to Xavi's convictions in the heat of the battle against Benfica. For the best part of an hour, they were liberated against Espanyol. The chances were rolling in, the fans were bouncing again and the players were enjoying themselves.

But as it became clear the game would not be won easily and the result would be in doubt until the end, all the newly-adopted principles that had previously been crisp and clear became blurred. Under pressure, Barca lost sight of Xavi's plan.

'Football problem'

Xavi was asked afterwards if the fade had been physical. "I don't see it as a physical problem, it's a problem of understanding the game," he said. "We had to go at the opposition, dominate, have the ball. It's not a physical problem, it's a football problem."

In La Liga, Barcelona are six points behind the

top four but there are 25 games left to make up the gap. As well as Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, they have Sevilla, Real Sociedad and Real Betis in front of them, all of whom they can hope to overtake.

In the Champions League, they are two points ahead of Benfica in Group E but lose, or even draw tonight, and there may be no way back. Barcelona's last game is away at Bayern Munich, who are top with four wins out of four, while Benfica finish at home to Dynamo Kiev, who are bottom and yet to score a single victory.

It means Xavi's second game is an early test, not so much of his methods, which will need longer to be honed and measured, but his team's conviction in carrying them out. "After winning that first game we are calmer, a victory gives us peace of mind and boosts our morale," said Xavi. "But Tuesday is another battle and we cannot ignore our principles. It's another final for us." —AFP

Kim Gi-dong's side recovered from a goal down to prevail in a penalty shoot-out in a Korean east coast derby. Manager Kim is looking for a second Champions League title with Pohang — he was a player when they claimed a then-unprecedented third Champions League in 2009 to add to back-to-back wins in 1997 and 1998.

The magnitude of the occasion is not lost on Pohang defender Alex Grant. "There's photos up on the wall of past Pohang teams lifting the AFC Champions League," the former Australia youth international told the Asian Football Confederation official website.

"I knew they were a big club in terms of the AFC Champions League and their success in Korea," added Grant, who was signed from Perth Glory 11 months ago. "You do have that sense around the club that we're expected to do well in this competition. There's belief there that other Pohang teams have done well so there's no reason why we can't as well."

'What an experience'

Pohang will start as underdogs against an Al-Hilal

side packed with talent — eight of their players feature in the Saudi Arabia team who top their World Cup qualifying group and recently drew 0-0 in Australia. They also boast well-travelled striker Bafetimbi Gomis, who played in the English Premier League for Swansea City and has 12 caps for France.

Gomis has already tasted Champions League success, scoring the final goal to cap a 3-0 aggregate victory in the last two-legged final, against Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds in 2019. The final this time is only one leg. "We'll lap it up," Grant said of the hostile reception promised by an expected capacity crowd in Riyadh.

It's a far cry from last season's Champions League knockout-stage matches — played behind closed doors at centralized venues in Qatar because of the coronavirus pandemic, with Ulsan FC beating Iran's Persepolis 2-1 in the final.

"What an experience. If we win we'll deserve it — but to sweep it from under their grasp would be great," said Grant. "I can't wait, just to play in front of a fully packed stadium, especially with how things have been the last two years with COVID." —AFP

Sports

Quarantined quintet give Bayern a Champions League headache

Kimmich's stance fuels vaccine debate in Germany

BERLIN: Bayern Munich must do without five quarantined stars, including Joshua Kimmich, in the Champions League as the absent midfield dynamo fuels debate in Germany after refusing to be vaccinated against COVID.

The Bavarian giants are already guaranteed a last 16 place as Group E winners ahead of tonight's match at bottom side Dynamo Kiev. However, Kimmich, who declined to be vaccinated due to "personal concerns", was quarantined Friday for the second time this month after contact with someone who tested positive.

questions are being fielded about football as "we seem to only be talking about the pandemic."

'It's no excuse'

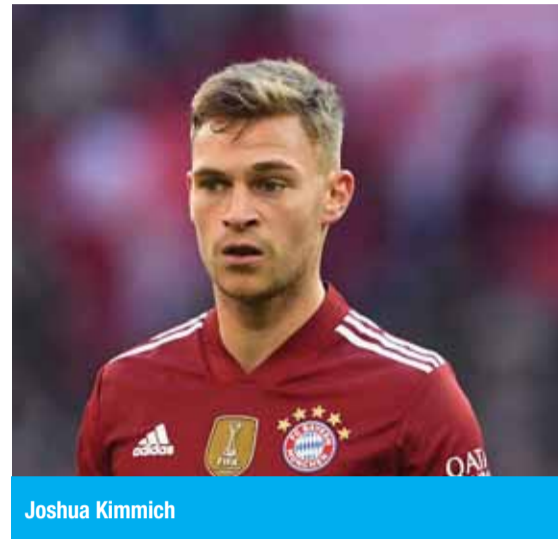
Bayern particularly missed Kimmich's midfield presence in Friday's shock 2-1 defeat at Augsburg as stand-in Marcel Sabitzer struggled, yielding possession which led to one of the hosts' goals. Now Nagelsmann needs to find suitable replacements for first-choice stars Kimmich and Gnabry in Kiev.

Defeat in Augsburg meant Bayern finished the weekend with their lead in the Bundesliga slashed to a point, but Nagelsmann refused to blame Kimmich's enforced absence. "It's no excuse," he said. Yet Kimmich keeps making daily headlines in Germany for all the wrong reasons.

Critics accuse him of neglecting his duties as a role model, calling on Kimmich to get vaccinated to set an example in football-mad Germany. Germany has one of the lowest vaccination rates in western Europe, around 68 percent, and even outgoing chancellor Angela Merkel has urged Kimmich to rethink.

Bayern bosses reportedly summoned Kimmich and his unvaccinated teammates Thursday to inform them their pay will be cut when they are in isolation because they have not taken the jab. Under new rules which took effect from November 1, employees who miss work because of a quarantine are no longer entitled to receive compensation if they are unvaccinated.

For Kimmich, whose annual pay reportedly reaches



Joshua Kimmich

20 million euros (\$23 million), a week's quarantine means losing around 384,000 euros. Former Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Sunday, that if confirmed, the wage cuts are "a sign that the club is now reacting. Because it must react." The stance of the five unvaccinated stars has angered Bayern fans, who must show proof they are fully vaccinated or recovered just to attend games. In contrast, the players need only provide a negative test result.

Germany is in the grip of a vicious fourth wave with

a weekly incidence rate of 340.7 recorded infections per 100,000 people on Friday. With politicians struggling to curb the pandemic and hospitals beds filling rapidly, new measures announced Friday in Saxony and Bavaria are already set to slash the number of spectators in stadiums.

Work or leisure?

Kimmich, and any footballers who opt against vaccination, could even find themselves shut out amid controversial calls for compulsory vaccinations for professional athletes in Germany. As Merkel sees it, "it depends on whether that (sport) is a work environment or in the leisure world".

Employers can not make vaccination for their staff compulsory in Germany, but the 2G rule - meaning only those vaccinated or recovered can take part - applies to leisure activities. "For those in the stands it's leisure time, for those down on the pitch, it's work," said Hendrik Wuest, state premier for North Rhine-Westphalia. "I think we have to get over it."

However, the idea of mandatory vaccination has sparked skepticism from the Bundesliga. "Same rules for everyone," said Borussia Dortmund coach Marco Rose. "I wouldn't differentiate between footballers and construction workers." Likewise, Cologne coach Steffen Baumgart feels it is "important to get vaccinated to successfully fight the virus. But it's dangerous to always push footballers to the front" as role models. — AFP



Critics urge vaccination 'to set an example'

On Sunday, Bayern confirmed their other unvaccinated players Serge Gnabry, Jamal Musiala, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Michael Cuisance are also in quarantine because of a new coronavirus exposure.

Having five players sidelined through their own choices is an unwelcome distraction before heading to Ukraine. "It's annoying," said head coach Julian Nagelsmann before the weekend, irritated that few



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Ronaldo pays tribute to 'outstanding human' Solskjaer after sacking

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo paid tribute yesterday to "outstanding human being" Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after the Norwegian was sacked as Manchester United manager. Ronaldo, who returned to Old Trafford in August, has scored nine times in 13 games for United this season but has failed to prevent the club's slide down the Premier League table after a series of embarrassing results. Solskjaer was sacked on Sunday, less than 24 hours after United's humiliating 4-1 defeat at Watford, which followed chastening home losses to Liverpool and Manchester City. Ronaldo, 36, was a team-mate of Solskjaer's in his first spell at the club under Alex Ferguson.

"He's been my striker when I first came to Old Trafford and he's been my coach since I came back to Man. United," Ronaldo said on Twitter. "But most of all, Ole is an outstanding human being. I wish him the best in whatever his life has reserved for him. Good luck, my friend! You deserve it!"

Former United midfielder Michael Carrick, who was part of Solskjaer's coaching team, will take charge of upcoming games while the club look to appoint an interim manager until the end of the season. United are already realistically out of the Premier League title race, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, and face a crucial Champions League trip to Villarreal tonight. — AFP

Man Utd malaise runs deeper than failed managers

MANCHESTER: Manchester United have finally bitten the bullet and sacked Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but the move appears unlikely to address the deeper eight-year malaise at the club that dominated English football for two decades.

Since Alex Ferguson ended his 26-year reign at Old Trafford with a 13th Premier League title in 2013, four coaches have come and gone without a serious title challenge between them. David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Solskjaer brought vastly different attributes and levels of experience to the job.

Van Gaal and Mourinho were proven winners. Moyes was handpicked by Ferguson as a worthy successor and Solskjaer was cherished as a club icon who scored the winning goal in the 1999 Champions League final. But what they have all had in common is an inability to turn United's dysfunctional off-field structure into sustained success.

"This is the third time in the last eight years that a manager has been given a long-term contract or an extension and lost their job within a few months," said former United captain Gary Neville. "The planning hasn't been great. I don't want to stick the knife in today to the club, the club's owners, the club's hierarchy but you have to ask serious questions. I've had enough of it."

In confirming Solskjaer's sacking, United also stated their intention to appoint an interim manager until the end of the season rather than seeking a permanent appointment straight away. That has led to more criticism of the club's owners, the Glazer family, and outgoing executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward for seemingly giving up on a season that still has six months left to run.

Although realistically out of the Premier League title race, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, who United face on Sunday, there remains plenty to play for. Victory against Villarreal in caretaker boss Michael Carrick's first game in charge tonight would secure a place in the Champions League last 16.

A spot in the Premier League top four is also attainable and the FA Cup offers the chance to end a barren run stretching back to 2017 without a trophy. Comparisons have been made to Chelsea's swift response to a similar slide under a former club legend



MANCHESTER: In this file photo taken on November 6, 2021 Manchester United fans arrive at the stadium ahead of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England. — AFP

in January. A day after Frank Lampard was sacked, Thomas Tuchel was installed as the Blues' new boss and went on to win the Champions League four months later.

Woodward in spotlight

Woodward has been a consistent focus of criticism for the club's fans since 2013, when he stepped into the shoes of former CEO David Gill, who achieved so much working in tandem with Ferguson. Following the failed European Super League (ESL) project in April, Woodward announced his intention to step down at the end of the year. But Sky Sports reported yesterday that he could delay his departure to play a role in the appointment of the new manager.

Woodward's commercial expertise — keeping sponsorship money rolling in despite dwindling results on the pitch — has maintained his status as a confidant of the Glazers, their man on the ground in England. The American owners have been unpopular ever since they saddled the club with huge debts to fund their

takeover in 2005. The ESL episode reignited that fury, with fans storming onto the Old Trafford pitch at a time they were still shut out due to coronavirus restrictions and getting a match against Liverpool postponed in May. Heavy investment in the most recent transfer window appeased supporters, with Cristiano Ronaldo returning to the club following the signings of forward Jadon Sancho and defender Raphael Varane.

But the fanfare surrounding Ronaldo has only emphasized the impression that United prioritize commercial contracts and clicks over a functioning football team. The 36-year-old has delivered some dramatic moments to keep United alive in the Champions League. But his presence derailed Solskjaer's long-term project to build a youthful side that thrived on the counter-attack, with Sancho struggling to make an impression and other forwards shunted to the periphery. He may be gone, but there is no guarantee United's problems will not linger for his successor. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Khalidiya	24848075
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Kaifan	24849807
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Shamiya	24848913
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Shuwaikh	24814507
Chest Hospital	24849400	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Nuzha	22526804
Adan Hospital	23940620	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Qadsiya	22515088
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Dasmah	22532265
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	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

SHARING ACCOMMODATION

For Filipino Bachelor ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near Oncost and India gate. Available from December 10, 2021. Contact 94418396 or 97345734. **22-11-2021**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Asad Uddin holder of Indian Passport No. T2416263 and Civil ID No. 287052008849 adding my name from Asad Uddin to Mohammed Asad Uddin S/o Mohammed Moulana hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name Mohammed Asad Uddin and also change my date of birth from 20/05/1987 to 13/10/1993. **(C 0978) 22-11-2021**

I, Siji Jobin, holder of Indian Passport No. M290484 and Civil ID No. 287062207323 has changed by Surname from Jobin to Rajan. Name: Siji, Surname: Rajan hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name of Siji Rajan. **(C 0979)**

I, PREMJIITH CHAMATHEEMAL BHASKARAN (PASS-

PORT NO. Z3081020), S/o BHASKARAN, RESIDING AT CHAMATHEEMAL HOUSE, P.O. MANASSERY, MUKKAM, KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673602 (CURRENTLY RESIDING IN KUWAIT), ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER LAKSHMI, HOLDER OF PASSPORT NO. R2312579, HEREBY CHANGE HER NAME TO LAKSHMI PREMJIITH, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. **(C 0980)**

I, PREMJIITH CHAMATHEEMAL BHASKARAN (PASS-PORT NO. Z3081020), S/o BHASKARAN, RESIDING AT CHAMATHEEMAL HOUSE, P.O. MANASSERY, MUKKAM, KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673602 (CURRENTLY RESIDING IN KUWAIT), ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER GOWRI, HOLDER OF PASSPORT NO. R2312578, HEREBY CHANGE HER NAME TO GOWRI PREMJIITH, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. **(C 0980) 19-11-2021**

I, SUHANI AVINASH D/o FRANCIS AARON SOLOMON, holder of Indian Passport No. T6756529 and Civil ID No. 285110105681 has changed my name from SUHANI AVINASH TO SUHANI SOLOMON. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of SUHANI SOLOMON. **(C 0976) 18-11-2021**

EMERGENCY ☎ 112



KANSAS CITY: Patrick Mahomes #15 of the Kansas City Chiefs points to the defense before the snap during the first quarter of the game against the Dallas Cowboys at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday in Kansas City, Missouri. — AFP

Chiefs defense stops Cowboys

Kansas City's resurgence continues with fourth straight win

LOS ANGELES: Patrick Mahomes completed 23-of-37 passes for 260 yards and Clyde Edwards ran for 63 yards and a touchdown as the Kansas City Chiefs smothered the Dallas Cowboys 19-9 with the help of a stifling defense on Sunday.

Kansas City's defense provided all sorts of trouble for Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott as the Chiefs improved to 4-0 against NFC East opponents and extended their winning streak to four straight. The contest was another step in the Chiefs' resurgence this season as they toppled one of the league's most potent offenses in front of a crowd of 73,500 at Arrowhead Stadium.

"This entire season, there's been a lot of ups and downs for everybody," said Mahomes. "We've had games where we put up a lot of points and played good, and games we haven't, and we still found a way to get a win."

Kansas City's Charvarius Ward picked off Prescott in the end zone near the end of the first half, and Chris Jones had 3 1/2 sacks while forcing and recovering a fumble. After a shaky start which saw the 2019 Super Bowl champions stuck in the cellar of the AFC West on November 1, the Chiefs have recovered in recent weeks and now

head the division at 7-4. An emphatic 41-14 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders last weekend and now the win over Dallas is more evidence the worst may well be behind Andy Reid's team.

"We had a few rough weeks. We had a lot of guys injured. It wasn't clicking. But when you take everything into consideration, we were still able to compete," said Jones. "And to have everyone back and build that chemistry, I think it's a huge part of our success right now." Prescott was held to 216 yards passing and two interceptions for Dallas.

In Chicago, Devonta Freeman's three-yard touchdown run with 22 seconds left lifted the Baltimore Ravens to a 16-13 win against the Chicago Bears. Backup quarterback Tyler Huntley engineered the winning drive after getting the start in place of former league MVP Lamar Jackson, who was sidelined before the game with an unspecified illness.

That meant the undrafted Huntley got his first NFL start and completed 26-of-36 passes for 219 yards and one interception and ran for 40 yards. Bears rookie quarterback Justin Fields exited Sunday's game against the Ravens after injuring his ribs.

Andy Dalton came on early in the third quarter when Fields left after being hit on a six-yard run. Dalton finished 11-for-23 for 201 yards and two touchdowns. Bears coach Matt Nagy said he didn't have any information about Fields during his postgame news conference. "I don't know any of that right now," Nagy said. Fields completed

four of 11 passes for 79 yards. In Minneapolis, Kirk Cousins passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns, and Greg Joseph made a 29-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Minnesota Vikings to a 34-31 win over the Green Bay Packers. Justin Jefferson had eight catches for 169 yards and two touchdowns for

Minnesota. Adam Thielen added eight catches for 82 yards and one touchdown, and Dalvin Cook had 22 carries for 86 yards and a touchdown.

Rodgers injury worsens

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 23-of-33 passes for a season-high 385 yards and four touchdowns. After missing time earlier due to COVID-19 quarantine, Rodgers was unable to practice much this week because of a toe injury. He said the injury was aggravated on Sunday.

"It's very, very painful. I got stepped on in the first half, and that kind of activated all the symptoms that I was having," Rodgers said. "It's going to be another painful week next week, and then hopefully I can get healed up during the bye."

Davante Adams had seven catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns, and Marquez Valdes-Scantling had four catches for 123 yards and one touchdown. Also, Jonathan Taylor rushed for 185 yards and scored a franchise-record five touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts clobbered the Buffalo Bills 41-15. In Seattle, Colt McCoy, substituting for the injured Kyler Murray, threw two touchdown passes as the Arizona Cardinals defeated the Seattle Seahawks 23-13. — AFP



Rodgers aggravates injury in loss

LeBron James ejected in Lakers win over Pistons

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James was ejected after bloodying Detroit's Isaiah Stewart with a swipe to the face in the Los Angeles Lakers 121-116 victory over the Pistons on Sunday night in Detroit. The NBA superstar was thrown out for just the second time in his career after striking Stewart in the face while the pair were battling for rebounding position.

Stewart, who was cut above the right eye, tried to confront James. That led to a scrum of players from both teams coming together with several coaches and security people also joining the fray as the Piston player repeatedly tried to get back at James.

The incident occurred with 9:18 remaining in the third quarter and the Lakers trailing 79-67. The Lakers came into the contest on a three-game losing streak and a disappointing 8-9 on the season. Anthony Davis, who scored a team-high 30 points, came to the defense of his teammate after the game in which the Lakers came from behind to win.

"Everyone in the league knows that (James) isn't a dirty guy. As soon as he did it, he looked back and told him, 'My bad. I didn't try to do it.' I don't know what (Stewart) was trying to do. Nobody on our team, 1-15, was having it," he said.

Stewart was initially whistled for a loose ball foul. Following a video review, James was then slapped with a flagrant foul two and sent to the locker room. Stewart was handed two



DETROIT: Detroit Pistons' head coach Dwane Casey and guard Cade Cunningham calm down forward Isaiah Stewart after he was struck by LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers during the third quarter of the game at Little Caesars Arena on Sunday in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

technical fouls and thrown out, and Lakers guard Russell Westbrook was called for a technical foul.

James finished with 10 points and five assists. Lakers coach Frank Vogel said he was relieved to see that it didn't escalate further. "Our guys did a good job of protecting our teammate. You want peacekeepers in those situations. Forming a wall around a teammate and standing up before it turned into something uglier."

The only other time James has been ejected from a game was November 17 against the Miami Heat. "His eye was cracked open. He (Stewart) was upset for a reason, but I don't think LeBron is a dirty player," said Pistons coach Dwane Casey.

The Lakers five-game road trip continues Wednesday against Indiana. Cade

Cunningham, the No. 1 overall pick in the entry draft, had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to become the youngest player in Pistons franchise history with a triple-double.

Elsewhere, Paul George scored a game-high 29 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Luka Doncic-less Dallas Mavericks 97-91 in Southern California. Reggie Jackson scored 23 points for the Clippers, who won the first game of a back-to-back series between the two Western Conference teams.

Jackson made four threes and Ivica Zubac recorded his fifth double-double of the season with 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game losing skid. Kristaps Porzingis led Dallas with 25 points and eight rebounds while Jalen Brunson added 20 points and eight assists for the Mavs, who lost their third straight. — AFP

Southgate rewarded with new deal

LONDON: Gareth Southgate has been rewarded with a two-year contract extension after leading England to the final of Euro 2020, the Football Association announced yesterday. Southgate, who also masterminded a run to the semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, has transformed his team into serious contenders at major tournaments after years of underachievement. Reports in recent weeks suggested the 51-year-old was set to sign a new deal, which had been due to end after the Qatar World Cup late next year.

"The FA is delighted to confirm Gareth Southgate and (assistant) Steve Holland have signed new contracts through to December 2024," the FA said in a statement. "Southgate, who marks five years in charge at the end of this month, has overseen a period of positive progress, guiding England to a FIFA World Cup semi-final and UEFA Nations League third place before securing the best men's performance in 55 years with the UEFA Euro final this summer."

The new deal means the England boss will oversee qualification for Euro 2024, which is being held in Germany. "I

am delighted that Steve and I have been able to extend our stay in our respective roles," said the former Middlesbrough boss. "It remains an incredible privilege to lead this team."

"We have a great opportunity in front of us and I know they and the fans are all excited about what this squad could achieve in future," he added. Southgate, a former England international defender, took the England reins in 2016 after Sam Allardyce's reign ended after just one match in the wake of a newspaper sting.

Months earlier Roy Hodgson's England suffered humiliation at Euro 2016, crashing out at the hands of minnows Iceland in the last 16. Southgate took his young team to the semi-finals at the World Cup in Russia, where they lost 2-1 to Croatia in extra-time. His side, combining exciting attacking talent with a solid defensive base, came agonizingly close to ending their trophy drought at this year's Euro 2020 but lost to Italy on penalties at Wembley.

England booked their place at next year's World Cup in Qatar with a 10-0 hammering of San Marino last week to top their group. Expectations are high that England, whose only major tournament win came at the 1966 World Cup, can mount a strong challenge at the World Cup next year, with a crop of young players who now have invaluable experience under the belts. Their challenge will potentially be complicated by a lack of preparation time. — AFP