



3 Amir's envoy says Kuwait keen to boost partnership with UN



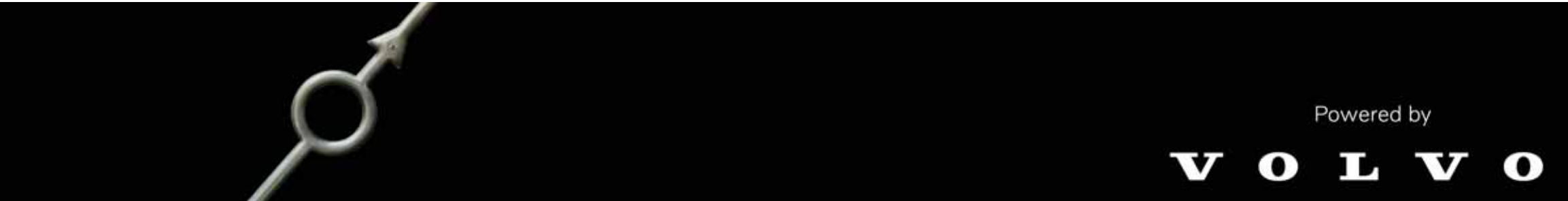
5 Bouteflika buried; Algerians rue 'missed opportunities'



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14 Former England great Greaves dies aged 81



Teachers return to schools after 18 months of closure

Unvaccinated teachers stage protest after being denied entry

MPs want answers after two Kuwaitis sanctioned by US

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MPs Abdulkarim Al-Kandari and Osama Al-Munawer yesterday asked three government ministers about new US sanctions against two Kuwaiti citizens on charges of sending millions of dollars to Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's Revolutionary Guard. The sanctions were imposed by the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) against members of a network of Lebanon- and Kuwait-based intermediaries who allegedly fund the Shiite militia Hezbollah.

The sanctions also targeted members of an international network of financial facilitators and front companies that support Hezbollah and the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guard.

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KUWAIT: Teachers set up a classroom at a public school in Mansouriya after they returned to work on campus yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Around 60,000 teachers working at public and private Arab schools in the kindergarten, primary and intermediate stages returned to schools yesterday after an absence of 18 months due to closures as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Public and private Arabic school students are due to return to classrooms on Oct 3 amid stringent health conditions, including mandating teachers and a majority of students to be vaccinated.

Teachers who have not been fully vaccinated were turned away yesterday, prompting a dozen teachers to stage a symbolic protest outside the education ministry building. The ministry has asked unvaccinated teachers and students to bring a negative PCR test result every Sunday in order to be allowed to enter schools. In the beginning, some students will go to school on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, while another group will go on Mondays and Wednesdays. In the next week, they will swap attendance.

The fate of on-campus classes for private schools depends on their readiness and how they prepare for this hybrid model. Each school will enforce its own plan. For on-campus classes, schools have been advised to reduce the number of students per class. Authorities have also mandated school administrations to implement a one-meter distance between students. School canteens will remain closed, although the education ministry has created a list of food items students can bring with them to school.

PAM allows transfer of commercial visit visas to work permits

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) yesterday said it will allow foreigners in the country on commercial visit visas to transfer to work permits in the private sector (article 18), in a bid to meet high demand for manpower by Kuwaiti companies. Thousands of residents have not been able to return to the country or have left the country for good due to the coronavirus pandemic.

PAM Director General Ahmad Al-Mousa said the decision aims to meet the needs of the labor market affected by the pandemic. "This decision is a result of cooperation between PAM and the interior ministry and the ministerial coronavirus emergency committee, which allows those entering the country on commercial visit visas to transfer to article 18 work visas easily," he said.

PAM also held meeting with the Kuwait Union of Owners of Private Schools and Cultural Institutes. "During the meeting, we reached a decision to modify the IT systems at both PAM and the interior ministry. Work permits will be issued, and based on that the work visa will be issued. This process requires the approval of the ministerial coronavirus emergency committee. The commercial visit visa will then be transferred to an iqama after the employee arrives in the country," stressed Mousa.

"We discussed the transfer of teachers arriving on commercial visit visas to work visas, especially as preparations are ongoing for the start of the new academic year. We reviewed cooperation on this issue with the interior ministry," he added. "PAM exerted efforts to make the procedure easy for all businesses in the private sector to ensure work goes on smoothly for health, education, finance and other businesses during the pandemic," concluded Mousa.



Ahmad Al-Mousa

All Palestinian jailbreakers recaptured

JERUSALEM: All six Palestinian militants who escaped from a Zionist high-security jail through a tunnel dug under a sink are back in custody, after the army said yesterday it had recaptured the last two. The inmates, who were being held for attacks against the Zionist state, became heroes among many Palestinians when reports emerged they had burrowed out using tools as basic as a spoon.

The full weight of the Zionist enti-

ty's security apparatus was deployed to catch them, including aerial drones, road checkpoints and an army mission to Jenin in the occupied West Bank where many of the men grew up. The huge manhunt lasted almost a fortnight, with the first four fugitives recaptured last week. The Zionist Defense Forces said yesterday the remaining two had surrendered "after being surrounded by security forces" that had acted with precision on accurate intelligence.

The men, 35-year-old Ayham Kamamji and 26-year-old Munadel Infeiat, are both members of Islamic Jihad, an armed Palestinian Islamist movement. Islamic Jihad hailed its "heroes" following the

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NAZARETH: Recaptured Palestinian prisoner Munadel Infeiat is surrounded by Zionist police officers as he appears at the magistrates' court yesterday. — AFP

Pacquiao to run for president

MANILA: Philippine boxer-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao declared yesterday he will run for president in 2022, ending months of speculation about whether the legendary fighter would seek the country's top job. "The time is now - we are ready to rise to the challenge of leadership," said

Pacquiao, as he accepted the nomination of a rival faction in President Rodrigo Duterte's ruling party.

The eight-division world champion and beloved national hero made the announcement weeks after losing what could be his last professional fight against Cuban Yordenis Ugas in Las Vegas. Pacquiao, who entered politics in 2010 as a congressman before being elected to the Senate, has long been expected to make a tilt for the country's highest office. The 42-year-old is deeply admired in the archipelago nation for his

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MANILA: Philippine boxer-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao gestures during the PDP-Laban national assembly yesterday. — AFP

Civilian orbital crew completes space mission

WASHINGTON: Four SpaceX tourists returned to Earth safely on Saturday after spending three days in space, successfully concluding the first orbital mission in history with no professional astronauts on board. The SpaceX Dragon capsule, whose heat shield allowed it to withstand descent, was slowed

down by four large parachutes before splashing into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida at 7:06 pm (2306 GMT), according to a video feed by the company.

"That was a heck of a ride for us, and we're just getting started," billionaire captain Jared Isaacman, who financed the trip with a goal of making space a bit more accessible, said shortly after landing. A SpaceX boat immediately retrieved the capsule, before its hatch was opened and the space tourists, smiling broadly and waving their arms in the air, exited one by one. They were next headed for the Kennedy Space Center, where their mission had begun on Wednesday. — AFP (See Page 12)



This photo taken on Sept 16, 2021 shows the Inspiration4 crew (from left) Jared Isaacman, Hayley Arceneaux, Christopher Sembroski and Sian Proctor in orbit. — AFP

Local

Kuwait's Amir sends condolences cable to Algerian President

Sheikh Nawaf meets Crown Prince, Acting Prime Minister



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Shohoumi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday condolences cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune over the death of former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy

and forgiveness upon his soul. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then received Acting

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Shohoumi, and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Shohoumi and Roumi yesterday at Seif Palace. — KUNA

All Palestinian jailbreakers...

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re-arrests, vowing the Palestinian people “will not surrender” in response to Zionist “criminality and aggression”. The pair were arrested in a joint army operation with counterterrorism forces in Jenin and were “currently being interrogated”, the army statement said. Two other men who had allegedly helped the fugitives were also detained, it added.

Taleb Abo Jaafar, who owns the Jenin house in which the two fugitives were found, said he had been surprised to discover his home cordoned off in the middle of the night. “There was shooting around the house. I went out to see what happened, I opened the door and looked at the street, the forces were outside and they told me to go back inside,” he told AFP.

In a call yesterday with Zionist security chiefs, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett branded the escape “a major mishap”. “But you mobilized with joint forces until the mission was completed,” he added, vowing in a separate statement that the security establishment would “correct what needs to be corrected”.

All six fugitives were members of Palestinian militant groups who were convicted by Zionist courts of plotting or carrying out attacks against Zionists. Kamamji, originally from Kafr Dan near Jenin, was arrested in 2006 and jailed for life for the kidnap and murder of a young Zionist settler, Eliahu Asheri. Islamic Jihad said Kamamji

suffered abdominal and intestinal illness in jail and was subject to “medical negligence” by prison authorities. Infeiat, arrested last year, had been jailed multiple times previously for his role in the armed group, and was awaiting sentencing at the time of the escape.

The other four men recaptured last week included Mahmud Abdullah Ardah, the alleged mastermind of the escape, and Zakaria Zubeidi, who headed the armed wing of the Fatah movement of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas. Zubeidi was found hiding in a lorry park just outside Nazareth along with one of the other men, Mohammad Ardash, who was sentenced to life in prison in 2002 for his role in Islamic Jihad's armed wing. The remand of the four was extended at Nazareth's magistrates' court to Sept 29 in a hearing yesterday, police said.

Questions remain over how jailbreak could have happened, and a formal inquiry has been announced. A lawyer for Yaqub Qadri, the sixth escapee, told Palestinian television that the inmates had not planned to escape when they did on Sept 6. She said they rushed ahead with the plan on that day because they feared guards had become suspicious and noticed changes in their cell.

The breakout had been planned for months, Ardah's lawyer told AFP, saying that “Mahmud told me he started digging in December”. Ardah told him he used spoons, plates and even the handle of a kettle to dig the tunnel from his jail cell. Spoons have since become a symbol of Palestinian resistance, with protesters both inside and outside the Palestinian territories carrying them at demonstrations. They have inspired political artwork as far away as Kuwait, where artist Maitham Abdal has sculpted a giant hand clasping what he labelled the “spoon of freedom”. — AFP

A party faction loyal to Duterte also endorsed the president's close aide, Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, for the top job-but he hasn't yet accepted. Pacquiao would face a formidable opponent if Duterte's daughter, Sara, were to run for president, which she is tipped to do. A recent poll showed the Davao city mayor—who belongs to a different party than her father - with the most voter support, well ahead of Pacquiao and other potential contenders. The deadline for registering as a candidate for next year's elections is Oct 8.

The nomination of two candidates for president from PDP-Laban showed “how deep the divisions in the ruling party are”, said Eurasia Group analyst Peter Mumford. “A key watchpoint will be whether most of the anti-Duterte camp falls in behind Pacquiao or whether it splits with multiple different presidential candidates,” Mumford said. “The former would complicate Duterte's succession plans by making victory for the eventual Duterte-backed candidate less assured.”

Pacquiao, a devout evangelical Christian, was a high-profile backer of Duterte and his controversial drug war. International Criminal Court judges last week authorized a full-blown investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of possibly tens of thousands of people. Pacquiao told AFP in a recent interview that he would continue the crackdown, but in a “proper way” that does not abuse “the rights of individuals”. Asked if he would protect the current president from criminal charges if he became leader, he said: “All of us are bound to the law.” — AFP

Iraq launches project to reduce flaring at oilfields

BAGHDAD: Iraq has launched a new project that aims to recover gas normally set alight during oil extraction at two oilfields in the country's south. Flaring, or burning off excess gas during oil extraction, is a highly polluting practice but far less costly than processing it for sale. According to the World Bank, Iraq is the second-biggest user of flaring worldwide after Russia.

The new project, signed in 2017 with oil services company Baker Hughes, will eventually allow 200 million cubic feet (around 5.6 million cubic meters) of gas a day that is usually torched on the Nasiriyah and Gharraf oilfields to be captured, according to a statement from the oil ministry sent to the media yesterday.

It seeks to “exploit the gas that escapes from all oilfields across all Iraq, consolidate national gas production” and help preserve the environment, Oil Minister Ihsan Ismail was quoted as saying in the statement. A ministry official told AFP that the implementation of the project and exploitation of the gas would have to wait 30 months for the completion of infrastructure works.

The World Bank said the amount of gas torched in Iraq annually reached 17.37 million cu m last year. Earlier this month, French giant TotalEnergies signed a contract to invest in oil, gas and solar production in Iraq. The French major plans initially to invest \$10 billion in infrastructure, the proceeds of which will then allow a second round of investments of \$17 billion, the officials said.

One of the projects will see the construction of a complex to exploit production from the sector's gas fields. Rather than flaring or burning off the excess, the plan is to recover it for use in electricity generation. The premier's office has said this will “reduce gas imports”.

“Reducing flaring and increasing gas production is a priority for Iraq as well as for Total,”

TotalEnergies chief Patrick Pouyanne had tweeted earlier this year. Decades of conflict, poor maintenance and rampant corruption have battered Iraq's energy sector.

Despite being the number two producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Iraq is experiencing an acute energy crisis and chronic blackouts that fuel social discontent. It is highly dependent on neighboring Iran, which supplies a third of its gas and electricity needs. Baghdad currently owes Tehran six billion dollars for energy already supplied.

Meanwhile, Iran said yesterday it is willing to sell fuel to Lebanon's government to help ease shortages, days after a first delivery of Iranian fuel arranged by Hezbollah entered the country. “If the Lebanese government wants to buy fuel from us to resolve the problems faced by its population, we will supply it,” foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. He told a news conference that the Islamic republic had already sold fuel to a “Lebanese businessman”, without naming Hezbollah.

Tehran-backed Hezbollah promised in August to bring fuel from Iran to alleviate the shortages sowing chaos in Lebanon, in defiance of US sanctions. On Thursday, dozens of tanker trucks carrying Iranian fuel arranged by Hezbollah arrived in Lebanon and were due to fill the tanks of fuel distribution firm owned by Hezbollah, which has been under US sanctions.

Lebanon's new Prime Minister Najib Mikati had told CNN the shipment “was not approved by the Lebanese government”. He was “saddened” by “the violation of Lebanese sovereignty”. Hezbollah is a major political force in Lebanon and the only group to have kept its arsenal of weapons following the end of the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon is facing one of its worst-ever economic crises, with more than three out of four Lebanese considered to be under the poverty line. Last year, it defaulted on its foreign debt and can no longer afford to import key goods, including petrol and diesel. Mains electricity are only available a handful of hours a day, while the Lebanese are struggling to find petrol, bread and medicine. — AFP

how the accused network conducted its operations and penetrated Kuwaiti financial institutions without being detected.

Munawer however directed his questions to Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah and asked him for details about the two people sanctioned and if they had been interrogated by authorities in the past. He asked the minister what measures the authorities plan to take against the two, including seizing their assets. He also asked if the two suspects or others have been sanctioned for smuggling Iranian oil and then laundering the funds resulting from such smuggling operations.

A high-ranking judicial source told Al-Rai Arabic daily that security authorities are communicating with their US counterparts to verify the accusations against the two Kuwaitis, and if their actions are proved to be criminal, legal action will be taken.

Pacquiao to run for...

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generosity and hauling himself out of poverty to become one of the world's greatest and wealthiest boxers. His boxing credentials along with fighting poverty and corruption are likely to be the key themes of his campaign. “For those asking what are my qualifications, have you ever experienced hunger?” Pacquiao asked the national assembly held by the anti-Duterte faction of PDP-Laban.

“Have you ever experienced having nothing to eat, to borrow money from your neighbors or to wait for leftovers at a food stall? The Manny Pacquiao that is in front of you was molded by poverty.” Pacquiao's star power in a country famed for its celebrity-obsessed politics will put him in a strong position in the presidential race. But it will not guarantee victory.

A public skirmish between Pacquiao and Duterte over the latter's handling of the South China Sea dispute with Beijing and official graft could erode support for the boxer. Duterte - who is allowed to serve only one term as president under the constitution - rivals Pacquiao for the affections of many Filipinos and declared last month he will run for the vice presidency.

MPs want answers after two Kuwaitis...

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“Together, these networks have laundered tens of millions of dollars through regional financial systems and conducted currency exchange operations and trades in gold and electronics for the benefit of the two entities,” OFAC said.

OFAC said one of the Kuwaitis coordinated the transfer of millions of dollars to Hezbollah from Kuwait with the other Kuwaiti citizen. Kandari asked the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and commerce about

Amir's envoy: Kuwait keen to boost partnership with UN

UNHCR: Kuwait left imprint on global humanitarian efforts

NEW YORK/KUWAIT: Kuwait seeks to strengthen strategic partnership with the United Nation and its diverse agencies, said His Highness the Amir's Representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Saturday. In statements upon arriving in New York to head Kuwait's delegation to the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, His Highness Sheikh Sabah stated that Kuwait will continue its humanitarian and political roles to promote peaceful settlement of all regional and international conflicts, fight terrorism, implement sustainable development goals and create a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world. He stressed that Kuwait will continue with its balanced political approach in dealing with various regional and international issues. He hailed the UN's effective role in overcoming challenges facing the world, particularly in the coronavirus era.

His Highness the Prime Minister underlined the importance of cooperation among all world countries to tackle the repercussions of the pandemic. He lauded UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' efforts to promote global stability and greater cooperation among the member states. His Highness the Amir's representative and his accompanied delegation were received at JFK's airport by Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, Consul General in New York Hamad Al

Hazeem, and a number of Kuwaiti officials.

Strong imprint

In other news, a UN official said yesterday that Kuwait has left a strong imprint on global humanitarian efforts, helping millions of refugees worldwide. In a statement to the press after meeting with Secretary General of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Maha Al-Barjas, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Promoting peaceful settlement of conflicts

(UNHCR) to Kuwait Nasreen Al-Rubaian affirmed that the GCC country was not reserved in terms of assisting the UNHCR and its missions.

While visiting the KRCS headquarter, Rubaian indicated that her meeting with the society's officials was part of the UNHCR's efforts in bolstering cooperation with regional and international humanitarian entities. The meeting with Barjas focused on



NEW YORK: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah arrives in New York to head Kuwait's delegation to the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly. — KUNA

venues to boost coordination in service of those in need worldwide, she indicated.

Meanwhile, Barjas affirmed that the KRCS was committed to its mission in helping refugees globally, expressing eagerness to further enhance cooperation with the UNHCR in this regard. The increase

of suffering and disasters in the world required increasing efforts by humanitarian organizations to meet challenges and address crises, indicated Barjas who stressed the important role played by Kuwaiti government and non-government bodies in boosting international humanitarian efforts. — KUNA

Kuwait to merge ministries as part of restructure plan: Report

KUWAIT: The government is preparing a roadmap for restructuring the public sector with a focus on economy through redesigning organizational structures and state public policies, a local daily reported yesterday.

Al-Qabas Arabic newspaper published the most notable items of the roadmap, which includes abolishing some ministries and merging others, and using independent authorities to run ministries that will be abolished. The period of implementing the transformation should take one to four years - from 2022 until the end of 2025.

The report quotes 'official sources' who said not appointing or not renewing some leadership posts in state ministries in the past period was due to the restructuring of the public sector. New leaders who worked sincerely during the past period will be selected to go along with the new restructuring revolution. The most important features of the government roadmap to restructure the public sector include:

- Establishing a ministry of economy and commerce to handle the economic development portfolio from 2022, while authorities similar to it be transferred to it within two and a half years, along with the transfer of economic and investment authorities to it.
- Reviewing investment laws, foreign owner-



KUWAIT: This archive photo shows an aerial view of Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ship, bankruptcy laws and public and private sector partnership.

- Expanding the range of the national fund for developing small and medium projects to include innovation.
- Dismantling the services ministry and creating a communications ministry.
- Dismantling the information ministry and abolishing it, and creating an authority to implement media rules from 2023.
- Creating a ministry for youth, culture and tourism.
- Creating six new local municipalities that cover all Kuwait governorates.

- Creating a state-owned public establishment and preparing an operational strategy for several services.
- Creating a government establishment for electricity.
- Creating a new department for education policies and designing its strategy.
- Merging the Public Authority for Youth and Public Authority for Sport under one entity.
- Abolishing the state ministry for housing.
- Merging the education ministry with the higher education ministry.
- Merging the environment authority with the health ministry.

News in brief

Diwan thanks mourners

KUWAIT: On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amiri Diwan yesterday expressed appreciation and gratitude to the mourners for condolences over the demise of Sheikh Ahmad Yousef Al-Salman Al-Sabah's wife, late Hessa Abdullah Mohammad Al-Rabe'a'a. The Diwan prayed to Allah the Almighty to grant them goodness, protect them against any harm and bestow mercy upon the soul of the deceased.

Trucks ban still on

KUWAIT: The interior ministry yesterday confirmed that the ban on heavy trucks on roads during weekdays is still in force. The ban hours are from 6:00 am to 9:30 am and from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Yesterday, traffic congestions returned after nursery, elementary and intermediate teachers of public and private Arabic schools resumed work. Traffic jams are likely to increase when the rest of the teachers and students return to schools.

100,000 barrels a day

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) witnessed on Saturday the launch of gathering center 31, north of the country, which will produce a daily 100,000 oil barrels, 62.5 million cubic feet of associated gas and 240,000 barrels of treated water. KPC described the newly completed project, which is connected to transport lines for oil, gas and water, as an "important strategic accomplishment", according to a statement. Attending the event was KPC CEO Hashem Hashem alongside representatives of Royal Dutch Shell.



KUWAIT: Kindergarten, elementary and intermediate school teachers started work in campus yesterday in preparation for the beginning of the academic year, which starts Oct 3 under health protocols. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Local

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Kuwait to head 65th session of IAEA General Conference

VIENNA: The Middle East and South Asia group in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nominated Kuwait, on behalf of the group to head IAEA 65th Annual Regular Session of the Agency's General Conference, which kicks off today. This session is the first attended in person since the outbreak of coronavirus after the international conferences almost stopped to take place in Vienna, Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and its permanent envoy to international organizations in Vienna Sadeq Marafi said yesterday. Heading this high-ranking event crowns Kuwait's diplomatic efforts during the last decades and takes in consideration its achievements during the membership of IAEA Board of Governors, Marafi said. He stressed on the importance of IAEA's role in the world, praising the efforts it exerts to promote use of atomic energy for boosting peace in the world. This sixth five-day session is set to tackle IAEA programs for 2022 in using atomic energy for peaceful matters. It is also set to work in boosting the agency's toil in the field of nuclear energy, radiation, peaceful transport and waste disposal, and ways to enhance the agency's activities in the fields of science and technology, nuclear security, nuclear safety and the application of safeguards. — KUNA



Sadeq Marafi

Ambassador releases message on Nepal National Day

KUWAIT: Ambassador of Nepal to the State of Kuwait Durga Prasad Bhandari released the following message yesterday on the occasion of the National Day and Constitution Day of Nepal: "This year, September 19th (3rd Ashwin of Nepali calendar) commemorates the Constitution Day (National Day) of Nepal. The day is declared as the National Day (Constitution Day - Sambidhan Diwas) of Nepal and celebrates the adoption of the new constitution which came into effect from the 3rd Ashwin 2072 of the Nepali calendar (September 20, 2015). To mark this historic occasion, Nepal began to celebrate this day as the National Day of Nepal since 2016. It is the day of historic achievement for the Nepali people. On this happy occasion of the sixth anniversary of the promulgation of the current constitution as well as the National Day of Nepal, I, on behalf of the Embassy of Nepal in the State of Kuwait and on my own, extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to all Nepali brothers and sisters living in the State of Kuwait. At the same time, I am sorry to say that due to adverse situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, we have not been able to celebrate this occasion with the participation of our valued guests, friends and community members as we desired.

"The relationship between Nepal and the State of Kuwait has always remained cordial and friendly. With the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 1972, these cooperative relations have expanded significantly for the mutual benefits of the two countries and people. Nepal attaches high importance to its relations with the State of Kuwait. I am happy to note that Nepali nationals working in the State of Kuwait have been helping to further enhance the relations at peoples' level. We have potential to promote business to business cooperation to give added momentum to trade, tourism and investment between Nepal and the State of Kuwait.

"I congratulate the friendly people of Kuwait who have continuously been achieving peace, progress and prosperity under the visionary and able leadership of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait (May God Protect him), His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince (May God Protect him) and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait. Kuwait's contribution in humanitarian field is acclaimed both within and beyond the region. The significant role played by the State of Kuwait in promoting peace, friendship and understanding in the Middle East and Gulf region, has widely been appreciated.

"In the end, I once again would like to congratulate all my fellow Nepali brothers and sisters on this happy occasion of the National Day and Constitution Day of Nepal. Long live the Nepal - Kuwait Friendship!"



Nepal's Ambassador
Durga Prasad
Bhandari

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This picture taken on September 13, 2021 shows a view from the Jamal Abdunnasser Park in Rawda. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh (To have your picture featured in the Kuwait Times' 'Photo of the Day' section, please send your high resolution, unedited photos to local@kuwaittimes.com, along with the full name and Instagram account, in addition to a description showing the picture's location and date taken)

Zain launches online campaign to reinforce environmental awareness

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, launched #ActivateYourRole, an online awareness campaign on its official social media platforms that aims at raising public awareness towards climate change, sustainability, and preserving natural resources.

Commenting on the new campaign launch, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti said: "We launched #ActivateYourRole as part of our corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the environment. Through this strategy, we are committed to building climate change scenarios that are aligned with the Paris Agreement (2015) to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate physical and environmental risks."

Khashti added: "Zain is well aware of the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis the world is facing today. To achieve sustainable growth, we must protect the environment and preserve its resources."

Khashti further explained: "We are keen on supporting any efforts that serve sustainability and environmental goals, as we believe this is a crucial topic that affects everyone. Zain's social message seeks to tackle the most important issues and reinforce the role of individual efforts like preserving natural resources, decreasing consumption, recycling, and other concepts that will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change."

Khashti continued: "Through this campaign, we use our social media platforms to spread facts that many people might not have heard of before. These facts show the shocking impacts of climate change on our health and on the environment around us. We hope this message encourages positive change and brings more efforts towards achieving sustainable goals in Kuwait."

Khashti concluded: "Our part does not stop at raising awareness and supporting environmental

programs, but also extends to reducing our own footprint. Zain continues to exert more efforts into reducing the environmental footprint of its operations, including preserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption, recycling waste, implementing green solutions for water and electricity management, monitoring the company's overall effects on climate change, and more."

Zain is keen on launching such initiatives that contribute to preserving Kuwait's environment, as well as encouraging volunteering, recycling, and taking part in social activities for all age groups within the community. The company will spare no efforts to contribute to spreading positive awareness for a better environmental culture in the society.

Throughout recent years, Zain took major steps to tackle the impacts of its own environmental footprint by setting a number of goals to lower carbon emissions, reduce waste, spread awareness, as well as identifying the threats and opportunities related to climate change.

In 2019, Zain became a member of the team responsible of tackling the impacts of climate change within the GSMA. The company's long list of efforts in sustainability areas also led it to become a member of the Community Development Program (CDP), especially when it took the decisive step to reveal the impact of its operations on the climate, such as its energy consumption rates and greenhouse gases emissions. Zain successfully managed to become a member of the CDP with an advanced B rating, making it the first telecom operator in the MENA region to receive this rating in combating climate change.

Zain is committed to contributing to regional and international efforts to help with the policies and regulatory reforms, such as the ones stated as part of the Paris Accord that was drafted by the United Nations. This is done through setting goals



to lower emissions, reducing waste, coordinating with Sustainability Developmental Goals (SDGs), as well as other joint efforts.

Eleven-year old pens first adventure story

By Jaimon George

Eva Mary Hormise, a student of class six could not hold back the words that were gushing out from within her. First it was just an idea, then it gained form and shape and grew into a fully-fledged children's novel spread over 125 pages.

The novel narrates the story of six teenagers and their incredible adventure that takes them closer to their dream. Eva's debut novel titled 'The Csirars out on a Magical Adventure', has Carter Owen, the son of business tycoon John Owen and Glidey Owen as the protagonist. The novel that begins in San Francisco ends in the mega city of New York. However, the dream land that the youngsters are trying to set their foot in is the focal point in the novel.

The key to the magical world of this fabulous novel lies in Carter's own words, "I'm a normal boy, or was a normal boy. Circumstances made me a 'savior'." The novel opens up an enchanting world of unique imagery and is sure to take children on a spectacular magical journey. The amazing depiction of how children react to adults' behavior patterns makes this book an interesting read for children, as well as a great reading experience for adults. This novel surely opens a door to the thought process and ideas of the new generation.

The novel is available on all online retail plat-



Eva Mary Hormise

forms including Amazon.

Eva is a student at Rajagiri Christu Jayanthi Public School, Kakkanad, Kochi, in the southern Indian state of Kerala. She is also the winner of RJ Hunt Radio Super Star that was organized by noted publishing house Harper Collins India. It took Eva eight months to complete this novel. She is the daughter of businessman Hormise Issac Vithayathil and Riya Syriac who is a software engineer. She has a two-year-old brother, Eric.

Revealing that she got the idea for her novel in her sleep, Eva says her dream is to pen even more interesting novels and stories in the future.

Ambassador to meet Indian senior citizens

KUWAIT: Indian senior citizens in Kuwait who are planning to leave the country for good are invited to meet Ambassador of India to Kuwait Sibi George and share their experience during their stay in the Gulf state, the Indian embassy said in a statement yesterday.

"There are many senior Indian nationals, who are returning to India after completing their professional career having spent considerable time in Kuwait," the embassy wrote in the statement. "All senior citizens (aged above 60 years) along with their spouses who are returning on completion of their stay in Kuwait are invited to meet the Ambassador individually to share their experiences during their stay in Kuwait. They may also share valuable thoughts and ideas for further improving the welfare of the Indian community in Kuwait and also for further promoting the bilateral relations between India and Kuwait. All senior citizens irrespective of the nature of their job are welcome to join."

"Those desirous of meeting the Ambassador before their final departure may please send an email message with their contact details and proposed date of final travel to socsec.kuwait@mea.gov.in, well in advance, so that appointments can be scheduled accordingly," the embassy indicated.

Prisoners, newcomers and spoilers: Russia candidates



BEIJING: Volunteers search for Chen Shaohua, who suffers from Alzheimer's, at a mall in Beijing where Chen was last seen. —AFP

China's health time bomb

10 million diagnosed with degenerative - and incurable - brain disorder

BEIJING: The first time Chen Shaohua went missing and was picked up by police, the 68-year-old's family put it down to confusion. When he disappeared a second time, they realized he was deeply unwell - but it was already too late. "We missed the early signs," daughter Chen Yuanyuan explained, adding: "For several years our mother complained he was lying... but we couldn't judge because we haven't lived with them for years."

Doctors diagnosed Chen with Alzheimer's Disease, the most common form of dementia, where people suffer impaired cognitive function including memory loss, eventually needing full-time care. Approximately 10 million people have been diagnosed with the degenerative - and incurable - brain disorder in China, which accounts for approximately a quarter of the world's cases.

As the country's population is rapidly aging, this figure is expected to soar to 40 million by 2050, according to a study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The report warned this surge in cases would cost the economy \$1 trillion each year in medical expenses and lost productivity as caregivers drop out of the workforce. The World Health Organization says that while dementia is not "an inevitable consequence of biological aging", the strongest risk factor for getting it is age.

And while this is a growing problem worldwide - experts say China is poorly prepared for the challenge. The United States has 6.2 million Alzheimer's patients and 73,000 beds in specialist treatment centers, while China has double the cases but fewer than 200 beds. "No healthcare problem looms larger in China than Alzheimer's Disease," said Wei Shouchao, a neurologist from Guangdong medical university. "It is the fastest-growing major illness on the mainland, and we are not at all equipped to deal with it."

'We never suspected'

When Chen started misplacing his keys or wallet,

Church in former IS Iraqi stronghold gets new bell

MOSUL: A bell was inaugurated at a church in Mosul on Saturday to the cheers of Iraqi Christians, seven years after the Islamic State group overran the northern city. Dozens of faithful stood by as Father Pios Affas rang the newly installed bell for the first time at the Syriac Christian church of Mar Tuma, an AFP correspondent reported.

It drew applause and ululations from the crowd, who took photos on mobile phones, before prayers were held. "After seven years of silence, the bell of Mar Tuma rang for the first time on the right bank of Mosul," Affas told them. IS swept into Mosul and proclaimed it their "capital" in 2014, in an onslaught that forced hundreds of thousands of Christians in the northern Nineveh province to flee, some to Iraq's nearby Kurdistan region.

The Iraqi army drove out the jihadists three years later after months of grueling street fighting. The return of the Mosul church bell "heralds days of hope, and opens the way, God willing, for the return

of Christians to their city," said Affas. "This is a great day of joy, and I hope the joy will grow even more when not only all the churches and mosques in Mosul are rebuilt, but also the whole city, with its houses and historical sites," he told AFP.

'Back to life'

The bell weighing 285 kilograms was cast in Lebanon with donations from Fraternity in Iraq, a French NGO that helps religious minorities, and transported from Beirut to Mosul by plane and truck. The church of Mar Tuma, which dates back to the 19th century, was used by the jihadists as a prison or a court.

Restoration work is ongoing and its marble floor has been dismantled to be completely redone. Nidaa Abdel Ahad, one of the faithful attending the inauguration, said she had returned to her home town from Arbil so that she could see the church being "brought back to life". "My joy is indescribable," said the teacher in her forties. "It's as if the heart of Christianity is beating again." Faraj-Benoit Camurat, founder and head of Fraternity in Iraq, said that "all the representations of the cross, all the Christian representations, were destroyed," including marble altars.

"We hope this bell will be the symbol of a kind of rebirth in Mosul," he told AFP by telephone. Iraq's

cated care facilities or increasing the capacity of public hospitals to treat dementia patients. "Rural doctors aren't trained for early diagnosis," said Wei. "Even Beijing has only one care home with staff trained to handle Alzheimer's patients."

Missing parents

Chen is a former army musician who plays several classical Chinese instruments including the bamboo flute. He is physically fit and has a clear memory of things that happened decades ago. On the surface, the only indicator that something is amiss is when he talks of past events as if they are happening now. "Chairman Mao attended one of our performances," he told AFP, referring to a concert in the central city of Wuhan in the 1960s.

Dementia patients often need round-the-clock care, and the physical and mental toll on caregivers can be significant, particularly if there is little professional help. Chen's son Chen Yunpeng has a busy job at a logistics company but as there are no community facilities he must instead bring his father to the warehouse where he juggles full-time work with keeping his father safe. And when he disappeared, the family had to rely on a volunteer group that helps find elderly people reported missing.

Over a dozen people - including retired civil servants, teachers and housewives - rushed to the site where Chen was last seen and helped police pore over hours of CCTV footage from public cameras to find clues about where he went. The team says it has helped find about 300 missing Alzheimer's patients since 2016. "We get calls almost every day about missing parents from families across the country," said Su Xiao, head of Beijing Zhiyuan Emergency Rescue Services Center. "The real danger is of the elderly being trapped in abandoned construction sites or falling into open pits or being out during bad weather." —AFP

MOSUL: People gather to inaugurate the new bell at Syriac Christian church of Mar Tuma in Iraq's second city of Mosul. —AFP

Christian community, which numbered more than 1.5 million in 2003 before the US-led invasion, has shrunk to about 400,000, with many of them fleeing the recurrent violence that has ravaged the country. Camurat said around 50 Christian families had resettled in Mosul, while others travel there to work for the day. "The Christians could have left forever and abandoned Mosul," but instead they being very active in the city, he said. —AFP

Algerians rue 'missed opportunities' of the Bouteflika era

TUNIS: Algerians looked back on two decades of "missed opportunities" as flags flew at half mast yesterday during the funeral of former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika. His death at age 84 was announced late Friday, more than two years after the former strongman quit office. The long-time leader had risen to power in 1999 on a wave of popular support as his amnesty offer to Islamist militants helped bring an end to a devastating decade-long civil war.

But 20 years later, mass protests broke out in response to his announcement that he intended to stand for a fifth term, and the army stepped in to force his resignation. Bouteflika, a fighter in the war for independence from France, had suffered a mini-stroke in 2013 that affected his speech, and he was forced to use a wheelchair. Dubbed "Boutef" by Algerians, he had won respect as a foreign minister in the 1970s to his mentor, Algeria's second president Houari Boumedienne. Algerian journalist Adlene Meddi said it was nostalgia for the heady Boumedienne days of the late 60s and 70s that had given Bouteflika his initial honeymoon period as president. "For some, he was a reassuring presence, reviving memories of the 'glorious' years under Boumedienne, when Algeria was the leader of the developing world-all in sharp contrast with the smouldering ruins of Algeria of the late 1990s," Meddi wrote on online news outlet Middle East Eye.

Weakened institutions

Hasni Abidi, head of the CERMAM studies centre in Geneva, said Bouteflika had also benefited from high oil prices of the era which had inflated government coffers. "His popularity was guaranteed by a high (price of a) barrel and a 'civil concord' law negotiated by the army" that put an end to the war with the Islamists, he said. "Unfortunately, Bouteflika missed his rendezvous with history-he was the president of missed opportunities. "He became a man of power and intrigue and not a statesman." University of Algiers politics lecturer Louisa Dris Ait Hamadouche said the nation had suffered a "litany of missed opportunities" as Bouteflika "failed to achieve his own ambitions or those of the Algerian state". He wanted "to surpass Boumedienne, enshrine the presidency, bring all military institutions under its command, boost Algeria's influence on the regional stage, be the one to turn the page on the black decade (of civil war)," which killed around 200,000 people, Dris Ait Hamadouche said. "But the outcome has been that in 2021, the institutions of the state have never been so weakened, so divided or so discredited." Dris Ait Hamadouche said that for many younger Algerians, the only memory they would keep of their former president would be the "distressing image of an old man in a wheelchair".

More than half the country's population is younger than 30. She said she regretted that death had spared him having to answer for "the mistakes committed during the exercise of his duties". Bouteflika faced criticism from rights groups and opponents who accused him of being authoritarian. —AFP

International

France accuses Australia, US of 'lying' in escalating crisis

France calls off meeting with Swiss president over jet snub

PARIS: France has accused Australia and the United States of lying over a ruptured Australian contract to buy French submarines, warning a grave crisis was underway between the allies. Australia's decision to break a deal for the French submarines in favor of American nuclear-powered vessels sparked outrage in Paris, with President Emmanuel Macron recalling France's ambassadors to Canberra and Washington in an unprecedented move.

The row has sparked a deep rift in America's oldest alliance and dashed hopes of a post-Donald Trump renaissance in relations between Paris and Washington under President Joe Biden. Speaking to France 2 television, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian gave no indication Paris was prepared to let the crisis die down, using distinctly undiplomatic language towards Australia, the United States and Britain, which is also part of the three-way security pact. "There has been lying, duplicity, a major breach of trust and contempt," Le Drian said. "This will not do."

He described the withdrawal of the ambassadors for the first time in the history of relations with the countries as a "very symbolic" act that aimed "to show how unhappy we are and that there is a serious crisis between us". But Australia has rebuffed French accusations of betrayal, with Defense Minister Peter Dutton insisting Canberra had been "upfront, open and honest" with Paris about its concerns over the deal.

Yesterday, Australian Finance Minister Simon Birmingham said his country had informed the French government "at the earliest available opportunity, before it became public". He told national broadcaster ABC that it was "always going to be a difficult decision" to cancel the French deal. "We don't underestimate the importance now of... ensuring that we re-establish those strong ties with the French government and counterparts long into the future," he added. "Because their ongoing engagement in this region is important."

'The third wheel'

Le Drian also issued a stinging response to a ques-

tion over why France had not recalled its ambassador to Britain, which was also part of the security pact that led to the rupture. "We have recalled our ambassadors to (Canberra and Washington) to re-evaluate the situation. With Britain, there is no need. We know their constant opportunism. So there is no need to bring our ambassador back to explain," he said.

Of London's role in the pact under Prime Minister Boris Johnson, he added with derision: "Britain in this whole thing is a bit like the third wheel." NATO would have to take account of what has happened as it reconsiders strategy at a summit in Madrid next year, he added. France would now prioritize developing an EU security strategy when it takes on the bloc's presidency at the start of 2022, he said. Admiral Rob Bauer, chair of NATO's Military Committee, earlier played down the dangers, saying it was not likely to have an impact on "military cooperation" within the alliance.

'Resolve our differences'

Biden announced the new Australia-US-Britain defense alliance on Wednesday, in a pact widely seen as aimed at countering the rise of China. It extends American nuclear submarine technology to Australia, as well as cyber-defense,

applied artificial intelligence and undersea capabilities. The move infuriated France, which lost a contract to supply conventional submarines to Australia that was worth Aus\$50 billion (\$36.5 billion, 31 billion euros) when signed in 2016.

Le Drian has described it as a "stab in the back" and said the behavior of the Biden administration had been comparable to that of Trump, whose sudden changes in policy long exasperated European allies. State Department spokesman Ned Price on Saturday stressed the "unwavering" US commitment to its alliance with France. "We hope to continue our discussion on this issue at the senior level in coming days, including at UNGA next week," he said, referring to the United Nations General Assembly, which both Le Drian and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will attend.



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (right) speaks with presidential diplomatic advisor as they take part in the Cedre conference at The Foreign Affairs Ministry in Paris. France has recalled its ambassadors to US, Philippe Etienne, and Australia, Jean-Pierre Thebault, for consultations in a ferocious row over the scrapping of a submarine contract.—AFP

Australia has also shrugged off Chinese anger over its decision to acquire the nuclear-powered submarines, while vowing to defend the rule of law in airspace and waters where Beijing has staked hotly contested claims. Beijing described the new alliance as an "extremely irresponsible" threat to regional stability, questioning Australia's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and warning the Western allies that they risked "shooting themselves in the foot".

France calls off meeting

In another development, a long-planned meeting between the Swiss president and his counterpart in Paris has been called off due to French anger about Bern's decision to purchase US, not French, fighter jets,

media reported yesterday. Two Swiss dailies, Le Matin Dimanche and SonntagsZeitung, reported that the French had pulled the plug on Swiss President and Economic Affairs Minister Guy Parmelin's talks with President Emmanuel Macron in November.

Citing unnamed diplomatic sources, both newspapers said that France had opted to drop the meeting due to anger over how the Swiss had conducted their negotiations in the run-up to their June decision to buy 36 Lockheed Martin F35A jets. According to the sources, Paris charged that the Swiss defense ministry had continued negotiations with other manufacturers, including with French Rafale maker Dassault, after the decision had already been reached to buy the US fighters.—AFP

Amid French fury, UK defends 'hard-headed' security deal

LONDON: Britain's Foreign Secretary yesterday defended the country's new security relationship with Australia and the United States as showing "readiness to be hard-headed in defending our interests," despite more furious reaction from France. As part of the alliance, Australia tore up a deal for French submarines in favor of American nuclear-powered vessels, sparking outrage in Paris which recalled France's ambassadors to Canberra and Washington in an unprecedented move.

Liz Truss wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that the pact, announced this week, "shows our commitment to security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region" and demonstrated the government's ambition to build a "Global Britain" following its departure from the European Union. "Our new security pact will not just make us safer at home, it could also create hundreds of new and high-skilled jobs," she wrote.

"By positioning the UK at the heart of a network of economic, diplomatic and security partnerships... we are making our country safer and more competitive, standing up for our values," Truss, who was promoted to the role on Wednesday, said the move highlighted Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "vision for Global Britain". But her French counterpart on Saturday said Britain was a "third wheel" in the deal as he accused Sydney and Washington of lying over the ruptured Australian contract to buy French submarines, warning a grave crisis was underway between the allies.

Speaking to France 2 television, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian gave no indication Paris was prepared to let the crisis die down, using distinctly undiplomatic language towards Australia, the US and Britain.—AFP

Burundi rebel group claims airport attack

NAIROBI: A rebel group has claimed a series of mortar attacks launched overnight on the airport of Bujumbura, Burundi's economic capital, a day before President Evariste Ndayishimiye was due to fly out for the UN General Assembly in New York. The attacks, which did not claim any victims or cause damage, were heard as far away as the city centre late on Saturday.

"We fired several shells towards the Bujumbura international airport," RED-Tabara rebels said overnight on Twitter. "We also had at least an hour-long exchange of fire with the military in one of the positions protecting the airport." An airport official, who refused to be named, told AFP he heard "shell explosions and the firing of automatic weapons" overnight. "We were really scared but it didn't last long," he said. "There is no damage, a Kenya Airways plane even landed this morning without any problem." —AFP

Ex-inmates decry worsening state of NY's 'hellhole' jail

NEW YORK: It's held disgraced producer Harvey Weinstein, rapper Tupac Shakur and ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn: New York's notorious Rikers Island prison is now under intense scrutiny over the deaths of at least nine inmates this year. Officials who visited the high-profile jail this week, and former inmates spoken to by AFP, say conditions have worsened dramatically at the sprawling complex due to widespread staff shortages during the pandemic.

"It's the wild, wild West in there," said Johnny Perez, who was in and out of Rikers between 1996 and 2001 on robbery and gun possession charges. Glenn Martin - who spent three days in Rikers, where he was stabbed four times in an attack, after a shoplifting arrest as a 16-year-old in the late 1980s - calls it a "hellhole."

"It's described as a gladiator school for a reason," the 49-year-old told AFP, listing another of Rikers' monikers: "torture island." Marvin Mayfield, detained for a total of 22 months over two stretches in the 1980s and 2007 for burglary, said Rikers leaves "a stain on the soul of everyone" who goes there. The jail, which opened in 1932 and also housed John Lennon killer Mark David Chapman and the Sex Pistols' Sid Vicious, has long had a reputation for

being a hotbed of violence.

Incidents against inmates and guards have in part been blamed on its remote location in the East River between The Bronx and Queens boroughs. But law-makers and activists say the situation has spiraled out of control in recent months, with conditions becoming unsafe for both prisoners and officers. They say basic sanitary needs are not being met and rates of self-harm are rising. "What I witnessed was a humanitarian crisis. A horror house of abuse and neglect," said New York State assemblywoman Emily Gallagher, who visited this week. "There's garbage everywhere, rotting food with maggots, cockroaches, worms in the showers, human feces and piss," Gallagher tweeted, adding that broken limbs were not being treated. New York City's department of corrections (DOC) says nine people have died at Rikers this year, up from seven last year and three in 2019. Local media has reported 10 deaths in 2021, at least five from suicide. The DOC has been struggling with staffing for months; posts have been unattended with inmates left to fend for themselves.

Closure plans

Some 2,700 guards - almost a third of the city's entire prison force - are currently not working, some because of coronavirus which spread through US jails. Prison officers unions say guards are overworked from triple shifts while others are recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and injuries inflicted by

Haitian migrants' tortuous journey ends in limbo

TAPACHULA: After weeks on the road, traversing mountains and jungles, risking assault and drowning, thousands of Haitian migrants hoping to reach the United States have instead found themselves stranded in Mexico. Many embarked on the journey encouraged by family and friends already living the American dream - but who often failed to mention the dangers that lay in wait. Tens of thousands of migrants, including many Haitians previously living in South America, are stuck in the southern Mexican city of Tapachula, waiting for documents that would allow them to continue.

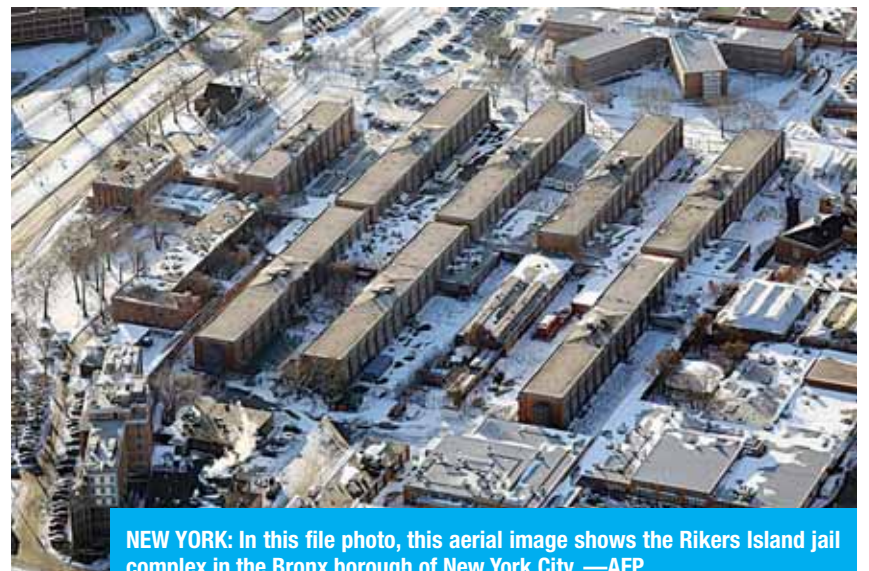
Those who tire of waiting or run out of money try crossing Mexico anyway, hoping not to be caught by the authorities and deported to Guatemala. But when they reach the border with the United States, they find themselves trapped again. Thousands of migrants, many of them Haitians, are now crowded

under a bridge in Texas after crossing the Rio Grande river, hoping to be allowed into the country. Despite the hardships, migrants keep pouring into southern Mexico from Guatemala.

Fleeing quake fallout

Every night, Murat "Dodo" Tilus wakes with an excruciating pain in his arm - the result of a fall on a Colombian mountain on his way to the United States, where he hopes to join his brother. He set off from Chile with his wife, daughter and two grandchildren on August 8, leaving a country that had welcomed him following the 2010 earthquake that left 200,000 dead in Haiti. "My house collapsed (in the quake), my relatives died, then I decided with my wife to go to another country," the 49-year-old electrician said.

But the "Chilean dream" began to fade in 2018 when the government imposed measures making life harder for migrants. These days in Chile, "it's very difficult to get a work permit. Everything became more expensive, so people want to leave to look for a better life," he said. He and his wife Rose Marie raised about \$5,000 for the journey, settling off by bus. After a month-long odyssey crossing 10 countries, they arrived in Tapachula. Now they



NEW YORK: In this file photo, this aerial image shows the Rikers Island jail complex in the Bronx borough of New York City.—AFP

inmates. They add that many are forced to stay away because conditions have become too dangerous, but officials say some are abusing an unlimited sick leave policy. Mayor Bill de Blasio launched an emergency relief plan for Rikers this week, boosting staffing and implementing 30-day suspensions for officers who go AWOL.

The proposal included emergency contracting to repair broken doors and clean facilities. On Friday, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the immediate release of 191 inmates to help temper what she called a "volatile" situation. The number of inmates at Rikers has fallen from around 20,000 in the 1990s to almost

6,000 today. The vast majority are awaiting trial. They are also overwhelmingly from Black and Hispanic communities. Perez has made return visits for advocacy work and says the jail has not improved since his release. "It's ten times as worse," he said.

In June, the DOC launched initiatives to increase staffing and safety and says it is making "every effort" to improve conditions. Lawyers and criminologists have been calling for the prison's closure for years, citing its age and reputation for violence. It is due to close by 2026 under a \$8.7-billion proposal by de Blasio to replace it with four smaller facilities. But he leaves office at the end of this year.—AFP



TAPACHULA: Haitian and Central American migrants march to the Siglo XXI Migratory Station in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico.—AFP

sleep in a room in a home that they share with four other Haitian families, while they wait for an appointment to process their refugee claim.

It is only thanks to money sent by Tilus's brother that they are not sleeping in the streets like some migrants. The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance is struggling with a backlog

of requests for documents. So far this year, it has arranged about 77,559 permits for migrants, compared with 70,400 for all of 2019. Hundreds of migrants tried to cross Mexico on foot this month in caravans but were blocked by the Mexican authorities. "I want to continue (to the United States) legally," Tilus said.—AFP

International

Russian president's party set to retain parliament majority

Elections marred by claims of censorship and rampant ballot stuffing

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin's party was set to retain a majority in parliament as Russia yesterday concluded a three-day election in which most Kremlin critics were barred from running. The vote comes in the wake of an unprecedented crackdown on the opposition this year, with Russian authorities jailing Putin's best-known domestic foe Alexei Navalny and banning his organizations as "extremist".

In the lead-up to this weekend's vote, all of his top allies were arrested or had fled the country, with anyone associated with his groups kept from running in the parliamentary and local polls scheduled to close at 8:00 pm yesterday across 11 time zones. "These essentially aren't elections. People in effect have no choice," 43-year-old businessman Vladimir Zakharov told AFP in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg. The elections were also marred by claims of censorship and rampant ballot stuffing.

As voting kicked off Friday, Apple and Google caused an uproar among Russia's opposition after they removed Navalny's "Smart Voting" app, which showed supporters which candidate they should back to unseat Kremlin-aligned politicians. Sources familiar with Google and Apple's decision told AFP the move was taken under pressure from Russian authorities, including threats to arrest the tech giants' local staff. By late Friday, the popular Telegram messenger had also removed Navalny's "Smart Voting" bot, and yesterday Google Docs and YouTube videos containing the lists of the recommended candidates had also been blocked.

Navalny's team, which promptly made new Google Docs and YouTube videos with the lists, said that Google had complied with demands made by Russia's media regulator Roskomnadzor. In a

final pitch to voters from behind bars yesterday, Navalny wrote on Instagram: "Today is a day when your voice truly matters." Turnout was at 35 percent as of yesterday morning, according to Russia's elections commission.

'Putin celebrating victory'

Russian social media meanwhile was inundated with reports of ballot stuffing and military servicemen patrolling polling stations. Critics also pointed to online voting, new limits on independent election observers and the polls being spread over three days as presenting opportunities for mass voting fraud.



Most Kremlin critics barred from running

In Saint Petersburg, 43-year-old voter Kirill Sergeyenko said yesterday he waited to cast his ballot until the final day because "hopefully there will be fewer chances for election rigging". "Even if nothing depends on us, we must do at least something," he said. As of yesterday afternoon, the independent Golos election monitor - which authorities branded a "foreign agent" ahead of the polls - had tracked more than 3,600 reports of voting violations.



MOSCOW: Russian Communist party leader Gennady Zyuganov casts his ballot on the last day of the three-day parliamentary election in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

Elections chief Ella Pamfilova said her commission had received 137 reports of voting "coercion". Going into the lower house State Duma vote, Putin's United Russia party was polling at historic lows. Recent surveys by state-run pollster VTsIOM showed fewer than 30 percent of Russians planning to vote for the party, down at least 10 percentage points in the weeks ahead of the last parliamentary election in 2016. While 68-year-old Putin remains popular, United Russia has seen its support drop as living standards decline

following years of economic stagnation.

But the ruling party is widely expected to retain its two-thirds majority in the lower house, allowing it to push through legislative changes without resistance. In addition to United Russia, 13 more parties are running in the elections. They, however, are widely seen as token opposition doing the Kremlin's bidding. On Saturday, Navalny ally Leonid Volkov said "Putin was celebrating a huge victory" after tech giants "caved in to the Kremlin's blackmail" but still called on supporters to vote. — AFP

Prisoners, newcomers and spoilers: Russia candidates

MOSCOW: Russia's three-day parliamentary and local elections close yesterday, with most Kremlin critics banned from running and the ruling United Russia party expected to retain its majority. From spoiler candidates to TV personalities, here are five types of candidates that Russians will see on their ballots on the last day of voting:

Newcomers

With United Russia facing historically low popularity ratings, the Kremlin sought to revamp its image and introduce fresh faces. Among them is doctor Denis Protsenko, who is in charge of Moscow's main Covid-19 hospital and a symbol of the fight against the coronavirus. He initially refused the nomination, but after a call from President Vladimir Putin, the 46-year-old stepped forward.

Another new name is Maria Butina, who in 2018 was sentenced to 18 months in prison in the United States for illegally acting as a foreign agent for Russia. After her deportation, the 32-year-old gun rights activist became

a frequent guest on state television and now co-hosts a show on RT, a Kremlin-funded TV channel. This year, she took a film crew to the prison of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny-then on hunger strike and demanding medical care-comparing his conditions in jail to a summer camp.

Struggling opposition

Nearly all vocal Kremlin critics were barred. Ahead of the polls, organizations linked to top Putin critic Navalny were labeled "extremist", preventing his allies from balloting. Navalny himself barely survived poisoning by nerve agent last summer and was jailed on old fraud charges in February. Kremlin critic Andrei Pivovarov, who is running for parliament, was hauled off a flight and detained. The 39-year-old campaigned from behind bars in the southern city of Krasnodar, with the help of his lawyer and volunteers.

The former executive director of the now-disbanded group of Putin critics Open Russia, Mikhail



KRASNODAR: Activists run a campaign event for Andrei Pivovarov - former head of the exiled Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky's pro-democracy group Open Russia (that was outlawed in 2017) - who is being held in the city's Detention Centre No 1. — AFP

Khodorkovsky, faces up to six years in prison for his involvement in an "undesirable" organization. Darya Artamonova, 19, an independent candidate running for city council in the Siberian town of Berdsk, said she has received numerous threats, including a funeral wreath sent to her parents.

Spoilers

The use of spoilers-non-winning, often similarly named candidates who run to weaken support for a popular

politician-is a common tactic. In Saint Petersburg, the ploy was taken to the extreme. Opposition politician Boris Vishnevsky, who is running for re-election to the regional parliament in Russia's second city, is competing against two others named "Boris Vishnevsky" and who, like him, are balding and sport a short salt-and-pepper beard. Moscow-based opposition politician Ilya Yashin, who was barred from running, said he too has a rival with the same surname. — AFP

Hong Kong elite selects 'patriots only' committee

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's political elite began selecting a powerful committee yesterday which will choose the city's next leader and nearly half the legislature under a new "patriots only" system imposed by Beijing. The financial hub has never been a democracy - the source of years of protests - but a small and vocal opposition was tolerated after the city's 1997 handover to authoritarian China.

Huge and often violent democracy rallies exploded two years ago and Beijing responded with a crackdown and a new political system where only those deemed loyal are allowed to stand for office. The first poll under that new system - carrying the slogan "Patriots rule Hong Kong" - took place yesterday as members of the city's ruling classes cast votes for a 1,500-seat

Election Committee.

In December, that committee will appoint 40 of the city's 90 legislators - 30 others will be chosen by special interest groups and just 20 will be directly elected. The following year, it will pick Hong Kong's next Beijing-approved leader. Beijing insists the new political system is more representative and will ensure "anti-China" elements are not allowed into office. Critics say it leaves no room for the pro-democracy opposition, turning Hong Kong into a mirror of the authoritarian Communist Party-ruled mainland.

"Hong Kongers are completely cut off from electoral operations," Nathan Law, a prominent democracy leader who fled to Britain last year said. "All election runners will become puppet showmen under Beijing's entire control... with no meaningful competition." Ted Hui, a former lawmaker who moved to Australia, said Hong Kong's political system was now "a rubber-stamp game completely controlled by Beijing". "It's more than a managed democracy. It's an autocracy trying to pretend to be civilized," Hui said.



HONG KONG: A protester stands behind a mock jail with photos of the 47 pro-democracy figures already in prison as Hong Kong's political elite began selecting a powerful committee which will choose the city's next leader. — AFP

4,800 voters, 6,000 police

Back in 2016, some 233,000 Hong Kongers were allowed to select the Election Committee. That figure has now been trimmed to around 4,800 - 0.06 percent of Hong Kong's 7.5 million population. Police said 6,000 officers were on standby to ensure there were no protests or disruptions. When polls closed yesterday evening,

authorities said turnout among the select group of electors was 86 percent. "This is an important election although the number of people eligible to join is not large," Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam told reporters, adding the new system would ensure "anti-China troublemakers" would no longer be able to "obstruct" the government. — AFP

Under-fire Australian minister resigns over anonymous donation

SYDNEY: An under-fire Australian minister who accepted an anonymous donation to sue public broadcaster ABC after it published rape allegations against him has resigned, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced yesterday. The accusation that an unnamed senior government minister raped a 16-year-old girl in 1988 helped to spark nationwide women's rights protests in March. Then-attorney general Christian Porter went public to deny the allegations soon after they emerged and was later

demoted to a lesser portfolio but remained a key member of the conservative government.

His political future was thrown into doubt last week after he revealed he had accepted funds from a blind trust to pay some of his legal fees in the ABC case, throwing up the possibility of an ethics violation. Morrison, who had sought advice on whether that was a breach of ministerial standards, said yesterday Porter had resigned to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest over the unknown donor. "That is the appropriate decision in these circumstances (and) that reinforces our government's commitment to those standards," Morrison said.

Porter was expected to remain as a member of parliament but will sit on the backbench, the prime minister added. In a statement to ABC, Porter insisted his disclosure was within the rules, but said the issue had become an "unhelpful distraction for the govern-

ment". While he did not receive any damages from the broadcaster after dropping the defamation suit, an editor's note was added to the original article stating the broadcaster had not intended to suggest he committed the criminal offences.

The woman at the centre of the story died in June 2020, reportedly by suicide. The accusations emerged just weeks after a young government staffer separately alleged she was raped by a colleague in parliament in 2019 and failed by her bosses when she reported the incident. The cases spurred tens of thousands of women to take to the streets, calling for gender equality and an end to sexual violence in Australia. As part of its response, the government has introduced a new parliamentary code of conduct and recently held an online "women's safety summit" that was panned by some advocates as ineffectual. — AFP

News in brief

Convoy hit by roadside bomb

YANGON: Myanmar anti-junta dissidents have carried out a bomb attack on security forces near Yangon, with several killed in an ensuing firefight, the military and media said. The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the military toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February, sparking mass pro-democracy protests and a bloody crackdown by the military. Various townships across Myanmar have formed so-called "people defense forces" to fight back against the junta, although the majority of clashes have been reported in rural areas. Security forces were travelling through Khayan, a suburb of Myanmar's commercial hub Yangon on Friday when they were attacked with a homemade bomb, the junta said in a statement on Saturday. "Both groups fired back and forth - a member of the security forces was injured," the statement said, adding that firearms and ammunition were confiscated after the clash. — AFP

Johannesburg mayor killed

JOHANNESBURG: The mayor of Johannesburg was killed in a car accident as he returned from campaigning with South Africa's president on Saturday, just over a month after being elected, his office said in a statement. Jolidee Matongo, 46, was returning from a voter registration drive in Soweto township ahead of local elections when the accident happened. "It is hard to comprehend this tragedy, given the vitality and passion with which Mayor Matongo interacted with me and residents of Soweto so shortly before his death," President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a tweet. "Nothing could prepare any of us for this sudden loss, which has deprived our nation's economic centre of its second Executive Mayor in two months." Matongo's predecessor died from Covid-19 complications in July, and Matongo was elected on August 10. Gauteng province premier David Makhura, who was also at the Soweto voter registration drive, said the news had left him "shocked and shattered". — AFP

IS claims Syria attack

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group on Saturday claimed an attack on a major natural gas pipeline southeast of the Syrian capital that led to power outages in the city and surrounding areas. IS fighters "were able to plant and detonate explosives on the gas pipeline feeding the Tishreen and Deir Ali plants," the group said in a statement. The Deir Ali station southeast of Damascus generates half of Syria's power needs, Electricity Minister Ghassan Al-Zamel said Saturday in comments carried by the official SANA news agency. He said an attack on the gas pipeline on Friday evening with explosive devices caused the station to go out of service temporarily. The outage affected several other stations, causing blackouts in Damascus, its outskirts and other areas, Zamel said, before power was restored some thirty minutes later. — AFP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Business

Soaring rents spark housing seizure referendum in Berlin

Rent campaigners secure referendum after collecting 346,000 signatures

BERLIN: In her apartment in suburban Berlin, Regina Lehmann despairs at the letter from her landlord, a big real estate group: The rent is going up. Effective November 1, the increase of 12.34 euros (\$14.54) on her monthly rent of 623.44 euros will be “difficult” to finance with her only income a disability pension, Lehmann tells AFP.

Almost 700 of her neighbors in the popular Berlin neighborhood of Spandau will suffer the same fate, boosting their rent by up to eight percent. Increases like these are at the root of a popular initiative to “expropriate” real estate companies such as Adler, which owns Lehmann’s flat, that will culminate in a local referendum on September 26, the same day as national and municipal elections.

Residents in the capital have become increasingly frustrated with rising housing costs, as the city’s attractiveness to outsiders has grown in recent years. And beyond Berlin, the cost of housing has become a hot topic on the campaign trail in the contest to succeed Angela Merkel as chancellor.

Back in Lehmann’s living room, surrounded by pictures of her family, Lehmann says she simply “won’t pay” the rise. “I think, if we pay, after a while they’ll just increase the rent again,” she says.

364,000 signatures

Rent campaigners secured the referendum in Berlin after collecting 346,000 signatures in support of their proposition—well above the number needed. They are pushing to “expropriate” homes from real estate companies with more than 3,000 properties. The result of the poll will not be binding, but advocates hope to force city government to respond to soaring rents, with the cost of housing going up by

85 percent between 2007 and 2019. The rise has been painful for residents in the capital where 80 percent of people are renters, and 19.3 percent of people live under the country’s poverty line, compared to 15.9 percent in the country as a whole.

Campaigners lay the blame at the door of major real estate groups, such as Adler, which owns 20,000 properties in Berlin. In Lehmann’s Spandau district, activists argue Adler’s attempt to hike rents is illegal, exceeding a legal reference index linked to the average rent in each area.



Major real estate groups to blame for spike in rents

The property group, in response, describes an “improved environment” around the lodgings that gives it grounds to charge more. Supporters of expropriation have upped the tempo of their campaign in recent weeks to win over undecided voters, hanging posters and organizing demonstrations across the city.

Many Berliners experienced rent increases after the German constitutional court struck down a rent cap which had been introduced by the city earlier this year, and a poll by the Tagesspiegel daily



BERLIN: Demonstrators take part in a protest against the soaring living costs of tenants, in Berlin. — AFP

showed 47 percent of residents supported the radical proposal put forward in the referendum.

“We have to fight for our rights,” says Catia Santos, 41, who recently attended a rent protest with her partner. “Recently my rent has gone up by 100 euros, even though I am not earning any more than before.”

Political clash

On Friday, just over a week before the vote, the city of Berlin announced the purchase of 14,750 residential properties for 2.4 billion euros from German real estate giants Deutsche Wohnen and

Vonovia, a deal forged under pressure to find an answer to rising rents. Forcibly taking ownership of privately owned accommodation has largely been rejected by national and local politicians in favour of plans to speed up the building of new homes.

“The best protection for renters is and always will be having enough places to live in,” Armin Laschet, the conservative candidate to succeed Merkel as chancellor, told a real estate conference in Berlin in June. The social-democrat favorite in the local Berlin elections, Franziska Giffey, also declared her opposition to the proposal, saying it could “damage” the city’s reputation. —AFP

Fed expected to stay cautious amid mixed signals

WASHINGTON: With the United States on the upswing from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Reserve is expected to weigh in next week on whether the economy is healthy enough to begin withdrawing stimulus measures credited with aiding the revival.

But the two-day meeting of the central bank’s policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) beginning tomorrow ultimately may be a static event, like many others in recent months. Analysts do not expect the Fed to immediately begin the much-expected slowing of its massive bond purchases, and while the committee will release updated economic forecasts, few big changes are expected from previous estimates released three months ago.

The FOMC “likes to prepare markets for any major change,” said Joe

Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM US. When he addresses the press after the meeting, Fed Chair Jerome Powell “may choose the opportunity to signal that the tapering is coming, which would likely be a November announcement with a December start,” the economist said.

The Fed took several emergency measures starting in March 2020, acting quickly as the pandemic caused the world’s largest economy to collapse. In addition to slashing the benchmark lending rate to zero, the Fed began buying massive quantities of bonds and other securities to ease lending conditions and ensure the financial system would not seize up.

Powell has said the bank could begin drawing back on those purchases by the end of the year, but experts expect them to take their time. “I think the tapering train left the station last meeting already,” said Roberto Perli, founding partner and head of global policy research at Cornerstone Macro, who also expects the bank to begin slowing its purchases in the last two months of the year.

Better or worse?

The FOMC will convene as the economy sends mixed signals about



WASHINGTON, US: People take pictures of the Federal Reserve building in Washington, DC. — AFP

two of the central bank’s top priorities: employment and prices. The United States added a disappointing 235,000 new jobs last month, though there were better employment gains in prior months as Americans returned to positions lost to COVID-19 business closures or found new ones.

“The Fed is never swayed by just one report, they look at the trend and the trend is still pretty good,” Perli said. “I think they’ll read the data and say we’re still very much on a safe

track. I don’t think the data changes anything in their mind.”

The rebounding economy has spurred a sharp uptick in inflation this year, but in August, the consumer price index grew at a slower pace than in prior months. Analysts will closely examine the Fed’s updated economics projections, particularly in light of the inflation spike and the Delta variant of COVID-19, which has added to uncertainty across the economy and harmed hiring and business operations. —AFP

Canada vote heralds more govt spending

OTTAWA: Canada spent hundreds of billions of dollars to aid workers and keep businesses afloat during the pandemic, causing its national debt to soar. But the usually frugal Canadians don’t seem to mind. Today’s snap election is expected to herald an era of more big spending, with both Liberals and the usually thrifty Tories, running neck and neck, promising more government aid, a monumental shift for Canada after decades of belt-tightening.

“It’s not that I don’t care about the debt, I just don’t think about it as much as my parents and previous generations who thought it was a huge issue,” Meg Sweeney, 23, a recent university graduate, told AFP. Canadians aged 65 or older, who will soon make up one quarter of the population, aren’t concerned about having to repay the borrowed funds, while millennials on whom it will likely fall support higher social spending. “In this election, I’m looking at issues such as climate change, relief from student loans, racial justice and tackling social issues — like others of my generation,” Sweeney added.

Canada entered the pandemic in a strong fiscal position after a long era of frugality, allowing it to dole out hundreds of billions of dollars in COVID emergency aid. That, however, cost it its AAA debt rating after Fitch downgraded the country a notch to AA+. It also sent Ottawa’s debt soaring to a forecasted Can\$1.2 trillion (US\$960 billion) in the



GATINEAU, Canada: In this file photo (from left) Conservative leader Erin O’Toole, Canadian Prime Minister and Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, Green leader Annamie Paul, New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh and Bloc Quebecois leader Yves-Francois Blanchet stand at their podiums before the federal election. —AFP

fiscal year 2021-2022, with a peak debt-to-GDP ratio of 51.2 percent that would fall only marginally by 2025-2026, from an average 31 percent prior to pandemic.

Justin Trudeau’s Liberals are proposing Can\$78 billion in new spending. His main challenger, Conservative leader Erin O’Toole, also believes the government should spend more to steer the country out of recession. O’Toole is proposing Can\$51 billion in new spending to “kick the economy into turbo drive” and use the ensuing uptick in revenues to balance the budget in 10 years.

“This election is about who you think can get us out of the recession and rebuild the economy,” O’Toole said at the start of the election campaign.

When asked about the debt, Trudeau replied: “It matters to be fiscally responsible. It matters to live within our means. I think it also matters to be making the right investments so that future generations can prosper.”

Trudeau noted that record low interest rates have made the cost of borrowing cheap. But Kevin Page, head of the University of Ottawa’s Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, warned that there is always a risk that rates would go up. Although economists agree the debt is sustainable, Page said: “There’s a rightful concern that it’s an open bar, people assuming with low interest rates that we can run up the debt and there will be no significant costs.” —AFP

10th round of KGDP starts for graduates seeking banking career

KUWAIT: Within the “Kafa’a” Initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Institute of Banking Studies and Kuwaiti banks, the tenth round of the Kuwaiti Graduates Development Program (KGDP) will be receiving applications by those interested in a career in banking as of 19 September and till 4 November 2021, the CBK announced.

CBK Governor and IBS Board Chairman Dr Mohammad Y Al-Hashel stated that



Dr Mohammad Y Al-Hashel

KGDP is the best opportunity and option available to graduates wishing to enter the sector. This, he said, is due to the diversity of its content and the actual hands-on training it provides at Kuwaiti banks and other renowned institutions in the field. The IBS is keen to cooperate with international banks of notable excellence in asset and wealth management and to sign training contracts with such institutions to guarantee such high-level skills and knowledge for the trainees.

Regarding “Kafa’a” Initiative, Dr Al-Hashel said its programs are catered to Kuwaitis employed in the finance and banking sector, as well as fresh graduates of finance and monetary specializations. The initiative, he stressed, covers a wide array of topics and the training is mindful of global best practices. The applicants are approved objectively and with the specific needs of the banking and finance sector in mind.

In addition to the “Kafa’a” Initiative, the CBK shall continue to provide the best training and continue to stress national capacity building to ultimately boost the national economy, all within its strategy aiming to support overall development in Kuwait.

For more details and terms of application, please contact the IBS on phone number (22901100) or visit the official Kafa’a Initiative website: www.kafaakw.org

Business

NBK Money Market Report

Markets wait for Fed amid tepid inflation

US retail sales bounce back; Inflation in UK jumps

KUWAIT: Consumer prices in the US rose at a relatively moderate pace in August, hinting that inflationary pressures associated with the economic reopening from COVID lockdowns are easing after hitting a 13 year high. Consumer Price Index (CPI) - the figure published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics - was released on Tuesday where it rose 5.3 percent in August compared to a year ago. The reading was just shy of the 5.4 percent increase reported for July, which is the highest reading since 2008. Looking at the month-over-month reading, price gains slowed to 0.3 percent from July, a distinctly lower reading than the 0.9 percent jump from May to June and the 0.5 percent rise from June to July. Core CPI, the reading that excludes volatile items such as food and energy, also clocked a deceleration with the monthly pace falling to a 0.1 percent increase, the smallest increase since February. On yearly basis, core prices climbed 4 percent compared with the 4.3 percent in July.

Most of the price gains seen so far in the year have stemmed from sectors most vulnerable to supply bottlenecks and other pandemic related disruptions. The recent data accompanied with the data from July showed signs that these gains were abating, especially for used car prices and travel expenses, the main drivers of the increases for 2021. July started with signs of the cool-down and August readings came to confirm that price pressures in these sectors are starting to subside. Prices of used cars and trucks still remain 32 percent higher on annual basis, but that is after dipping 1.5 percent from July.

The travel industry is now showing signs of the more contagious Delta variant denting business activity. Airline fares dropped 9.1 percent month-on-month while hotel room rates dropped 2.9 percent. Despite a slower growth pace in August, consumers remain braced for higher inflation to continue, with expectations over the short and medium term now at the highest level since 2013, according to data published by the New York Branch of the Federal Reserve on Monday. Over the next year, consumers anticipate inflation of 5.2 percent, up 0.3 percent from July in the tenth consecutive monthly increase. Over a three year horizon, they expect gains of 4 percent.

However, the CPI report did show that some inflationary pressures are building in other sectors, housing included. Owners' equivalent rent, the reading that measures what homes would rent for, rose another 0.3 percent from July's year-on-year increase, to clock a yearly increase of 2.5 percent in August.

Retail rebound

The US retail sales reading published on Thursday showed sales bounced back as Americans stocked up on school supplies in preparation to go back to schools,

in addition to spending on home decor in a sign of their willingness to spend. The Census Bureau said sales were up 0.7 percent in August compared to July, a 180 degree turn from analyst's expectations for a 0.8 percent drop following the resurgence of COVID and the dampened consumer confidence due to rising prices. In July, sales fell 1.8 percent compared to an estimate of a 1.1 percent drop.

The drivers for the increase in August were demand at department stores as well as home improvement and furniture outlets, as well as stronger spending online. Grocery stores also registered gains, in a sign of continued demand for food consumed at home. Food services sales on the other hand, were flat. Nevertheless, retail sales remain well above pre-pandemic levels. Major retail chains booked robust quarterly revenues in the early part of summer, bolstered by back to school shopping and homeowners taking up new projects. Consumers also looked to be allocating some of their spending to experiences not reflected in retail sales readings, spending more on travel, accommodation, and tickets to concerts and sporting events as many COVID restrictions wane.

The reading saw yields on both short and longer term US Treasury bonds rising to session highs. The benchmark 10-year note, which yield moves in tandem with economic expectations, was up 0.05 percent to 1.35 percent. Shorter dated yields, which move with interest rate expectation, also saw a rise as investors increased their bets that the Federal Reserve may take the first step towards unwinding its pandemic era monetary policy in its meeting next week. The US dollar saw support with the Index closing the week 0.61 percent higher at 93.195, taking its toll on its peers in the forex market. The Fed is now facing somewhat of a dilemma given the data it has in its hand. The CPI reading of August shows support for team transitory and their narrative that the peak has passed. Meanwhile, the strong retail sales figures support the pro taper side of the argument. Markets will keep a close eye on the Fed's FOMC meeting this week. No taper announcement is expected especially after August's lackluster jobs report. The Fed is now expected to keep its options open by restating that tapering this year could be appropriate, while acknowledging the recent weakness in hiring, but markets are still pricing in a taper announcement in 2021.

Falling retail sales

Data from the UK showed retail sales unexpectedly contracted for the fourth consecutive month in August, raising concerns over the country's post pandemic recovery. The volume of monthly retail sales in Great Britain fell 0.9 percent from July to August. The reading follows a sharp contraction in July, while missing the 0.5

percent expansion forecast by economists.

The data throws doubt in whether or not the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee would be in a position to hike its rates as soon as February. But Jonathan Athow, a senior statistician in the Office for National Statistics said the data suggested that "the drop in food stores' sales is linked to an increase in eating out following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions." However, one of the reasons for the drop looked to be supply chain disruptions with around 7 percent of retailers reporting not being able to secure the materials, goods or services they needed in August. Supply chain issues were especially high with 18 percent of department stores and 11 percent of clothing stores.

Food store sales, volumes fell 1.2 percent in August, showing some evidence of consumers increasing social spending, such as eating at restaurants instead of cooking at home. Non-food stores on the other hand reported a fall of 1 percent, driven by a contraction at department stores among other stores such as sports equipment and computer outlets. In contrast, automotive fuel sales volumes rose 1.5 percent as people started to travel more.

Inflation heat

Earlier in the week, data showed that inflation in the UK jumped faster in one month than at any time since the Bank of England gained its independence to set interest rates, rising 1.2 percent to reach 3.2 percent from July to August, the highest level since 2012.

The unexpected surge looks to be undermining the regulator's view that price rises are manageable and temporary. With CPI inflation at more than 1 percent above the BoE's 2 percent target, Governor Andrew Bailey is now forced to write a letter to the chancellor explaining why prices have risen so quickly and what the central bank intends to do in order to bring back inflation to its target. For August, the rise in food, transport, recreation, furniture and restaurant prices was more than 1 percent. With the BoE already expecting inflation to rise to 4 percent by the end of the year, the rapid acceleration will come as a shock. Gas and electricity bills are set to increase sharply during the fall season, reflecting rises in wholesale prices. Also, value added tax will rise back to its full 12.5 percent for the hospitality sector at the end of the month and food and clothing prices are also expected to jump in the fall.

Economists are still split on whether inflation will become a significant problem in the months ahead or disappear after a largely one off price rise as the economy opens up following the COVID shock.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30070

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma account campaign

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

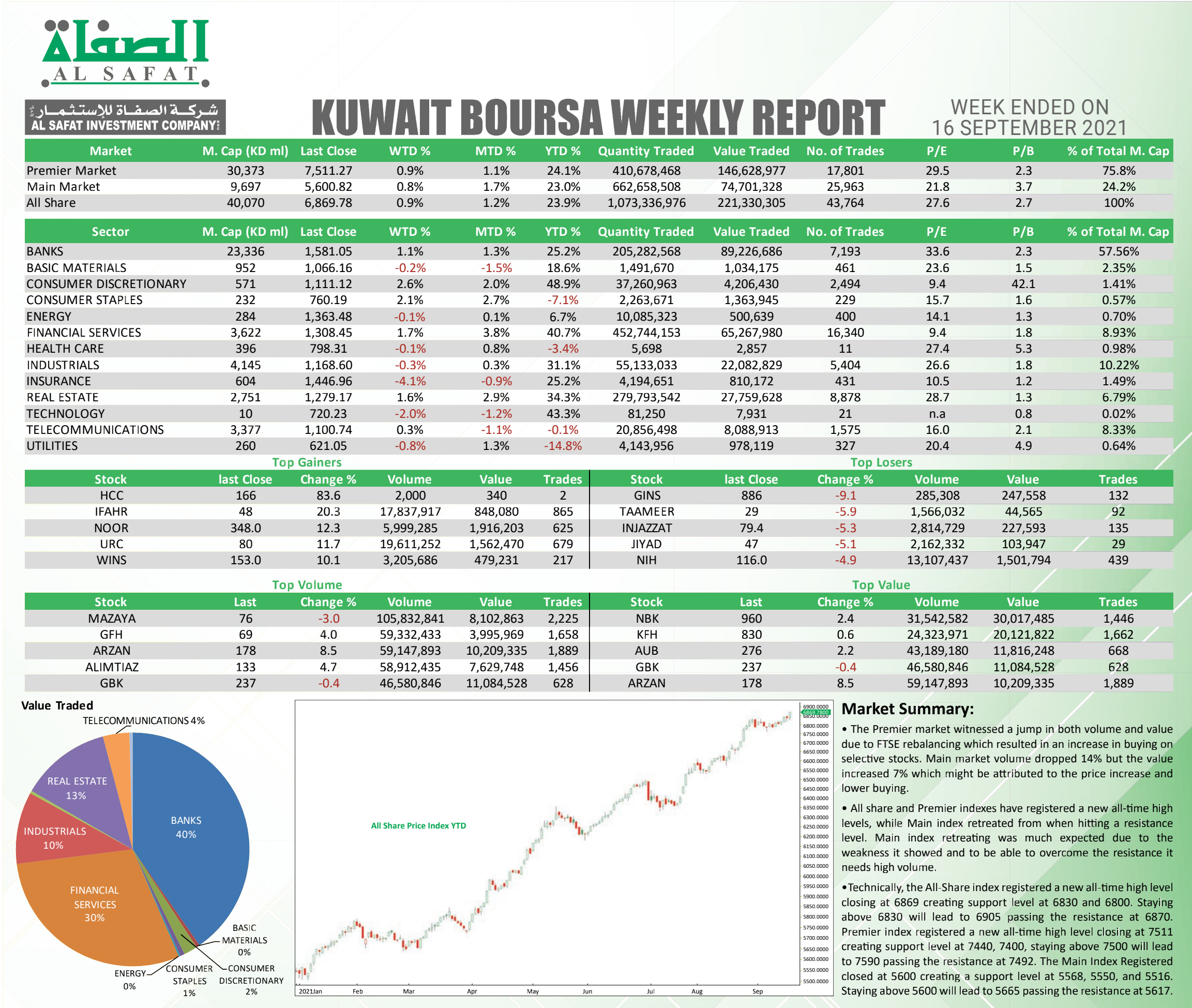
The results of the draws were as follows:

- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 went to the winner Georges Naddour Naddour
- Salary account campaign - the prize of up to KD 1,000 - went to the winner Mohammad Khaled Al-Rasheedi

The bank stated that the salary campaign is aimed at customers who transfer their salaries of KD 500 or more to the bank, especially Kuwaiti employees and residents working in the government, oil sectors and companies listed with the Bank as well as retirees, and take advantage of the benefits of this campaign and get an instant cash gift from KD 400 to KD 500 or an interest-free loan for a period of up to 4 years and up to KD 70,000, Kuwaiti pensioner, along with expatriate customers who transfer their debt to the bank will receive an instant cash gift of 2 percent from their transferred debt up to KD 1,000. The bank stated that Al-Najma Account prizes are distinguished by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that the account offers weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000.

Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 200, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

The bank revealed that Al-Najma account is available to everyone, and anyone can open Al-Najma account through CBK mobile application in simple steps from anywhere and at any time.



Business

KFH-Bahrain introduces financing offers for Durrat Marina project

Bank signs memorandum of understanding with Bahraini real estate firm

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Durrat Marina, one of the most prestigious real estate development companies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, to provide special and exclusive financing offers for customers wishing to own and invest in the Durrat Marina project.

The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Hamed Mashal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bahrain, and Othman Janahi, a representative from Durrat Marina. As part of the agreement, KFH-Bahrain will provide customers with real estate financing offers which include competitive profit rates and free fire insurance, in addition to exempting customers from administrative fees, while facilitating a swift completion process for all financing applications.

Commenting on this occasion, Hamed Mashal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bahrain said: "Our collaboration with Durrat Marina comes as part of our initiative aimed at accelerating and facilitating the process of owning a luxurious residential unit for clients. We are pleased to be a part of our valued customers' journey of owning their dream

home, and we continuously strive to provide competitive financing offers to help facilitate the process."

"It gives us great pleasure to be cooperating with such a reputable banking institution such as KFH-Bahrain to provide real estate financing offers for the apartments in the Durrat Marina project. This partnership will contribute to facilitating customers' process of owning a property in the project, and we, in turn, assure the readiness of all residential units and their availability for immediate delivery," commented Othman Janahi, Chief Investment Officer at Durrat Marina.

Durrat Marina apartments are available in a variety of sizes to suit the different needs and requirements of buyers, and include from one to three bedrooms in each apartment. The apartments

range in size from 85 to 244 square meters, all containing a living room, kitchen, storage area, balcony and a minimum of a master and secondary bathroom in one apartment. The project also includes common facilities for residents, including open spaces, a swimming pool and a gym.

Apartment prices start from 60 to 125 thousand Bahrain dinars.

MoU to help real estate customers

The Durrat Marina project overlooks stunning sea views and is located in the far south of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is also within a short distance from the Marina area. The project's designs are characterized by a blend of Arabic culture along with contemporary and modern touches, giving residents a luxurious residential experience.

Kuwait Finance House-Bahrain provides Islamic commercial and investment banking services.



Established in 2002 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait) — an industry leader for 40 years-KFH-Bahrain specializes in developing and bringing to market the highest quality Islamic compliant banking and investment products, all of which are delivered by a staff of experienced and dedicated professionals with a deep understanding of the market and the clients we serve.



Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

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

The lucky winners are:

- Mohamed Sageer Beeran
- Suhad Warsam Abdullah
- Munceerah Fadheel Al-Mutairi
- Kinda Mohammad Eskandar
- Awatef Saadoun Al-Otaibi

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

NBK celebrates graduation of 8th cohort of Moody's curriculum program

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of the "Moody's Credit Curriculum Program", which was designed and organized in partnership with the international credit rating agency, Moody's Analytics.

The ceremony was attended by Salah Al-Fulaij - CEO NBK Kuwait, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq - Deputy CEO NBK Kuwait, Emad Al Al-Ablani - GM - Head of Group Human Resources, as well as other bank executives. The training program was attended by 19 trainees from various departments across the bank, including Domestic Corporate Banking Group, Consumer Banking Group, Foreign Corporate and Group Risk Management. The program was provided over a period of three months through virtual & E-Learning platforms.

The course covered a variety of topics, such as introduction to banking services, financial analysis, Corporate Credit Risk Analysis, Structure Risk, credit and finance challenges, cash flow forecasts, and corporate solutions. It also shed light on relationship management fundamentals and collaborative business conversations.

Developing NBK's employees is one of the key



priorities and strategic pillars for sustainable growth, maintaining the bank's excellence and consolidating its leadership. To embed this vision, NBK seeks to keep pace with the latest training and development trends to continuously support, empower, and qualify its employees.

All training and development programs are designed according to methodological and scientific standards in cooperation with the best banking experts and the most prominent international training institutions. Moody's is one of the best and oldest financial corporations specializing in economic research, financial analysis, and evaluation of private

and government institutions in terms of strength, financial position and creditworthiness.

A training partnership extending nearly five years with Moody's Analytics reflects NBK's strategy to upgrade its human assets, by being the cornerstone of all leading institutions, through organizing the best training programs. It also incorporates the Bank's endeavors in establishing a growing path in the career of its employees, by providing them with training programs organized in partnership with leading universities and international institutions, in addition to training them to bring solutions to challenges in the banking sector.

Ooredoo honors winners of its ProPing tournament



Fatima Dashti, Thamer Al-Tahous and Nouf Al-Mashaan



Fadi Kaware and Tapan Tripathy



Mijibi Al-Ayoub, Fatima Dashti and Fadi Kaware



Winners

KUWAIT: It goes without saying that online video games are the new global idiom. These shared gaming spaces allow gamers to connect, communicate their passion and commitment to online play, learn from others, and boost their challenging spirit and involvement in society. With this in mind, and in tandem with its commitment to embracing digitalization and leading the way in meeting the growing demands for online digital users along with supporting youth, Ooredoo Kuwait has successfully launched its annual ProPing online gaming tournament, and honored the winners in a special awarding ceremony happened last Saturday night, September 18, 2021.

Ooredoo Telecom, the first to introduce innovative digital services in Kuwait, announced last Saturday night, September 18, 2021 the winners of this year's ProPing online gaming tournament, organized jointly with FASTtelco and Blink, a leading international electronic commerce, gaming console and accessories company in Kuwait. The awarding ceremony was hosted in Ooredoo Tower where Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director, Corporate Communications, and Nouf Al-Mashaan, Director - Fixed Segment Marketing at Ooredoo Kuwait, honored the winners and welcomed the attendees including the gaming influencers: Hubkw, gamersnak, iTunesQ8, and Jacqui.

ProPing online gaming tournament

The tournament took place virtually and players competed from their homes online in two different games: "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" and "Fortnite". The selected teams competed in a purely digital environment on a weekly basis during the tournament period, which extended from August 26 to September 16, 2021.

"Call of duty: Modern warfare" winners

Valuable prizes were awarded to the top



A group picture

three winners. Mishaal Nayef Al-Mutairi won the first place and was awarded with a Platinum line worth of KD 20,000 from Ooredoo, and gaming chair, gaming desk, gaming monitors from Blink (x4). Osama Luqman Al-Dhafiri won the second place and was awarded with a KD 600 in cash; and Talal Samir Al-Sarraf won the third place and was awarded with a KD 400 in cash.

Fortnite winners

Waleed Talal Al-Mutairi won the first place; Bader Khalid Ayed won the second place; Ayed Saled Obaid Myasara won the third place; and Mohammad Waleed Zaman won the fourth place. All winners were awarded with Xbox Series X.



Winners

ProPing

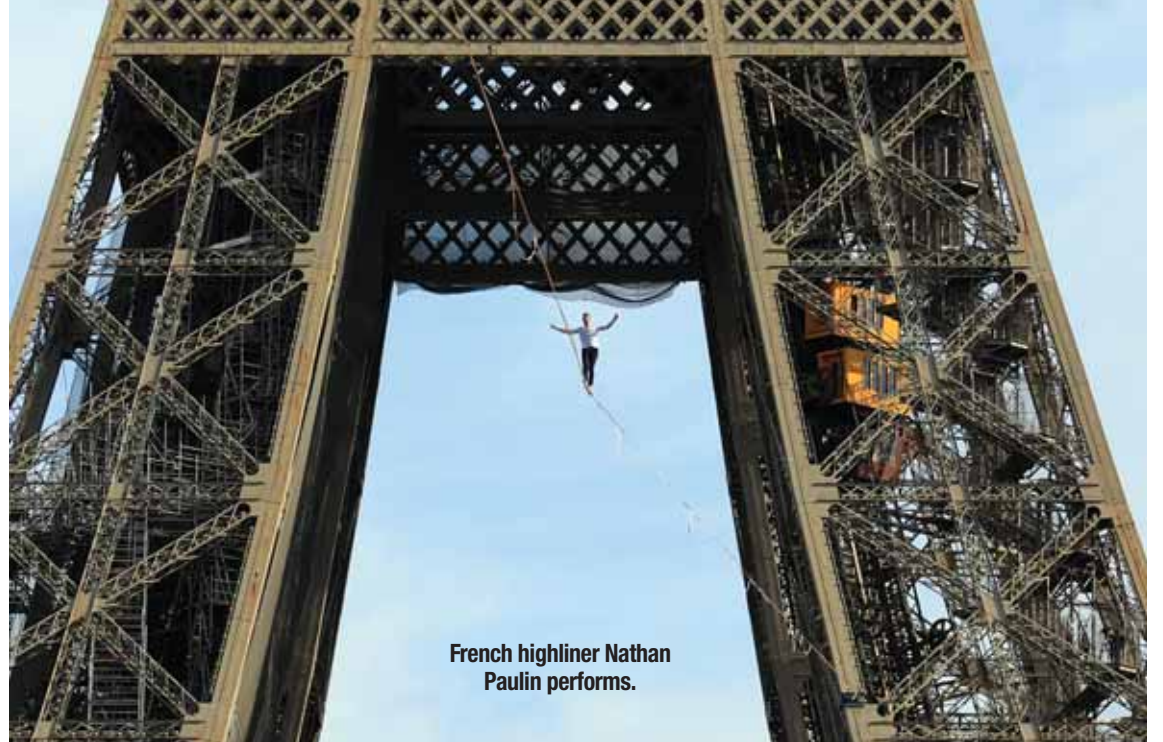
During the awarding ceremony, Ooredoo Kuwait shed lights on its constant commitment to drastically adapt and promote digital transformation, and provide the latest and best for its customers. Hence, ProPing was one of the major steps the company took to offer its customers and gamers a highly social, playful spaces to connect. ProPing was previously provided by FASTtelco via optical fibers. The company has worked to develop and provide the ProPing service over the fifth generation network, where the service became available allowing users a direct line of communication with the largest global gaming systems and sites. ProPing has been tailor-made for gaming enthusiasts, who need fast, reliable, and consistent internet service, with speeds reaching 100

Mbps, providing an unparalleled gaming experience. Customers will be able to add more service in addition to routers with competitive prices.

It is a service that is provided for gamers using Ooredoo's 5G service. It has low ping rates making your gaming experience faster and better. This is done by decreasing the number of servers between the gamer and the Middle East gaming server. In gaming, the quicker the information goes from gamer to server back to gamer, the less lag you will experience during online gaming. Ooredoo 5G ProPing, which is specially designed for online gaming on the fifth generation network, starts from KD 30 only. Customers can also subscribe to a ProPing 5G internet plan with a Huawei 5G CPE Pro 2 router or Nokia Fast mile 5G Gateway CPE for KD 33 per month.



French highliner Nathan Paulin performs on a 70-metre-high slackline spanning 670 meters between the Eiffel Tower and the Theatre National de Chaillot, as part of the 38th European Heritage Days and the launch of the Cultural Olympiad in Paris. — AFP photos



French highliner Nathan Paulin performs.

FRENCH DAREDEVIL TAKES HAIR-RAISING SEINE TIGHTROPE WALK

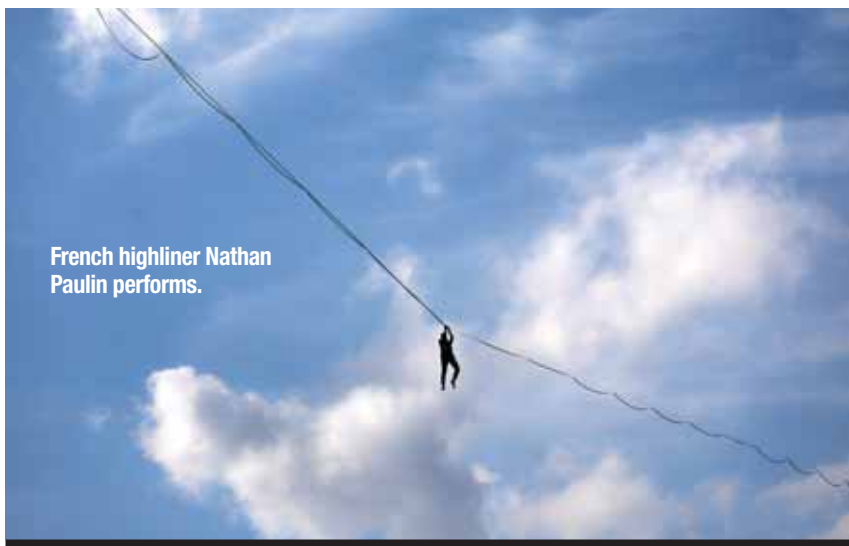
A French tightrope walker has crossed the Seine in Paris 70 meters up in a breathtaking feat watched by cheering crowds on the Eiffel Tower and along the riverbanks. Attached by a strap to a safety lanyard, 27-year-old Nathan Paulin slowly progressed barefoot on a line stretched across the river between the Eiffel Tower

and the Chaillot Theatre. He stopped for a few breaks, sitting or lying on the rope. "It wasn't easy walking 600 meters, concentrating, with everything around, the pressure ... but it was still beautiful," he said after the performance on Saturday.

He said obtaining the necessary authorizations had been a difficulty for him, plus "the stress linked

to the audience, the fact that there are a lot of people". Paulin, holder of several world records, performed the feat to celebrate France's annual Heritage Day - when people are invited to visit historic buildings and monuments that are usually closed to the public. He said his motivation was "mainly to do something beautiful and to share it

and also to bring a new perspective on heritage, it is to make heritage come alive". He had already crossed the River Seine on a tightrope, on Heritage Day in 2017. — AFP



French highliner Nathan Paulin performs.



French highliner Nathan Paulin performs.



Spectators applaud as French highliner Nathan Paulin performs.

Lopez doesn't feel she 'belongs' in Hollywood

Jennifer Lopez doesn't feel like she "belongs" in Hollywood. The 'On the Floor' hitmaker may have over 30 movies under her belt, a successful beauty business and a music career, but she has admitted she sometimes feels like an "outsider" when she compares herself to other celebrities in the glitzy and glamorous industry. Speaking in a new video for her cosmetics and skincare brand JLo Beauty, the 52-year-old actress said: "It's so important for all of us to feel like we belong and, like most people, there are so many times in your life where you feel like an outsider. I feel that way in Hollywood sometimes. I still feel that way. But you just need your little tribe. I believe we all have this limitless power inside us that makes us unstoppable. I worked really hard to get where I am today and I've learned that the only way to truly feel beautiful is to love and accept yourself fully." A time when Jennifer really needed her "tribe" to

lean on was when she missed out on an Oscar nomination for her role as Ramona in 'Hustlers'. She said last year during an interview with Oprah Winfrey: "I felt like I let everyone down a little bit. I was sad. I was a little sad because there was a lot of buildup to it. There were so many articles, I got so many good notices - more than ever in my career - and there was a lot of: 'She's going to get nominated for an Oscar, it's going to happen; if it doesn't you're crazy.' I'm reading all the articles going: 'Oh my God, could this happen?' And then it didn't and I was like: 'Ouch.' It was a little bit of a letdown." But that hasn't stopped producers from snapping her up, as she's got two upcoming movies; 'Marry Me' and 'Shotgun Wedding'. Her love life is also on the up as she's currently dating her ex-boyfriend Ben Affleck again and they are said to be "very happy" together.



Kaya Scodelario is pregnant

The 29-year-old actress took to Instagram to reveal that she and husband Benjamin Walker, 39, are expecting their second child together. She posted a picture of her bump and wrote: "I tried to set up one of those beautiful pregnancy reveal pictures with the meadow and the golden sunset and the hay and the puppy's and the perfectly put together BoHo outfit & flowing natural hair with baby chicks nesting in it but then I realised that IM WAY TOO tired, achey and lazy right now. So here's me pulling an awkward face in the mirror whilst wearing makeup for the first time in 6 months instead. We are very happy obviously. But mostly super tired (sic)." Kaya and Benjamin tied the knot in 2015 and welcomed their son in November 2016. Speaking previously about balancing motherhood and her career, she

said: "When I first started out I was just looking for employment, I just wanted to work. "But now I think being a mum I have to be pickier if I'm going to be away for six months on the other side of the world." Kaya Scodelario rose to fame as Effy Stonem in 'Skins' and has starred in 'The Maze Runner' series and 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales'.



Justin and Hailey Bieber are 'obsessed' with each other

The 24-year-old model has shut down rumors that her husband is aggressive towards her after a video of the 'Peaches' hitmaker appearing to shout at her in Las Vegas, Nevada, went viral last week, and she's adamant they've actually never been more in love. Speaking during the podcast '4D with Demi Lovato' on Friday, Hailey said: "There are so many narratives that float around about me, about him, about us together. Like, 'Justin is not nice to her and mistreats her' and I'm just like... it's so far from the truth and it's the complete and utter opposite. I really am lucky to say I'm with someone who is extremely respectful of me, who makes me feel special every single day. "So when I see the opposite of that, I'm just like, 'Huh?' If the lie is, 'They're miserable in their relationship.' Well, the truth is that we've literally never been more obsessed with each other and we have so much fun together." The couple hit the headlines once again earlier this week when Justin put his hand on Hailey's stomach - sparking speculation that they are pregnant with their first baby - when they posed for photographs on the red carpet at the Met Gala in New York. And, although the blonde beauty tries really hard not to let the rumours get to her, she has praised the 27-year-old singer for keeping her afloat. She explained: "I think Justin does a very good job of reminding me because I have my low days where I'm like, 'This is too much and all the things people are saying, I can't take it today.' Again, he'll come in and be like, 'Well, the truth is this, the truth is that you're good and you're secure and you're loved and all of your friends love you and your family loves you and I love you.'

Notre-Dame de Paris finally ready for restoration

France's Notre-Dame cathedral is finally ready to undergo restoration work more than two years after a blaze ravaged the heritage landmark, and remains on course to reopen in 2024, authorities said Saturday, following months of painstaking work to secure the building. The great mediaeval edifice survived the inferno on April 15, 2019, but the spire collapsed and much of the roof was destroyed. The focus until now had been on making the cathedral safe before restoration work could begin, which included the strenuous task of removing 40,000 pieces of scaffolding that were damaged in the blaze.

"The cathedral stands solid on its pillars, its walls are solid, everything is holding together," said Jean-Louis Georgelin, head of the public entity tasked with rebuilding the cathedral. "We are determined to win this battle of 2024, to reopen our cathedral in 2024. It will be France's honor to do so and we will do so because we are all united on this goal."

The aim is to celebrate the first full service in the cathedral on April 16, 2024 — five years after the fire despite delays caused by the pandemic and the lead that spread during the blaze. Authorities will now call for tenders to select the companies to carry out the restoration work. The cathedral's interior walls and floors will also undergo "a thorough cleaning process" later this month. Notre-Dame's famous Grand Organ is already being restored, with its 8,000 pipes dismantled and sent to organ builders all over France. It is expected to be put together again in October 2023, said Georgelin, the former head of France's armed forces who was appointed by President Emmanuel Macron to oversee rebuilding efforts. — AFP



This file photo shows a giant crane outside Notre-Dame Cathedral, which was partially destroyed when fire broke out beneath the roof. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



Fashionistas and influencers take pictures during an event in Istanbul.



Fashionistas and influencers take pictures during an event in Istanbul.



Fashionistas and influencers take pictures.— AFP photos

‘Change the game’: Supermodel Halima Aden reinvents modest fashion

Halima Aden, the first supermodel to wear a hijab and pose in a burkini, has ripped up her lucrative contracts in an industry she feels lacks “basic human respect” and entered the world of modest fashion design instead. For the Somali-American who was born in a refugee camp in Kenya, it was a matter of preserving her self-worth and well-being in a fast and loose sector that increasingly clashed with her Muslim values. “Since I was a little girl, this quote-‘don’t change yourself, change the game’-has gotten me through so much in life,” she told AFP in an interview in Istanbul. “When I took the decision to quit, that is exactly what I did,” she said. “So I am very, very proud.”

Aden’s departure last November delivered a shock to fashionistas and Muslim influencers who have admired her trail-blazing career. Aden, who turns 24 on Sunday, broke ground in Minnesota, where she became the first contestant to wear a hijab and a burkini—a full-body swimsuit whose appearance has stirred controversy on some European beaches—in a US state beauty pageant in 2016.

She posed in them again for Sports Illustrated’s annual swimsuit issue when her fame was spreading in 2019. But personally, Aden felt increasingly boxed in—sometimes literally.

“I was always given a box, a private place to change in, but many times I was

the only one given the privacy,” she said. “I got to see my fellow young women having to undress and change in public, in front of media personalities, cooks and staff, designers and assistants,” she recalled. “To me, it was very jarring,” she said. “I couldn’t be in an industry where there is no basic human respect.”

‘Poison!’

Aden sounded liberated when she announced her decision to abandon photo shoots and catwalks last year. She is becoming a designer instead. “Wow this is actually the most RELIEF I felt since I started in 2016. Keeping that in was literal POISON!” she said on Instagram. She felt her traditions, starkly different from those of most other supermodels, were caricatured and turned into a gimmick by some brands. One, American Eagle, replaced a headscarf with a pair of jeans on her head in a 2017 campaign.

“But... this isn’t even my style??” she protested on Instagram at the time. “I got to a place where I couldn’t recognize my hijab the way I would traditionally wear it,” Aden told AFP. Aden looked far more at ease in Istanbul, surrounded by Middle Eastern fashionistas while attending an event organized by Modanisa, her new home. She will be designing collections exclusively for the Turkish online brand, which is one of the biggest names in the



Somali-American former model Halima Aden poses during an event in Istanbul.

modest fashion industry, valued at \$277 billion in 2019. It already makes up more than a tenth of the \$2.2 trillion global fashion industry, with plenty of room to grow, according to DinarStandard, an advisory firm specializing in emerging Muslim markets.

‘Taste of the world’

World capitals as diverse as Moscow, Riyadh and London have staged modest fashion shows in the past few years. The trend is particularly strong in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, where Aden rejoices at the melee of cultures on the streets. “What I love the most about Turkey, especially

Istanbul, is that it is very diverse, you see women who don’t wear the hijab right alongside women who wear the hijab,” she said. “You get a taste of the world in Istanbul.”

The industry has taken off in the past decade, thanks in part to the modeling careers of women such as Aden. Soft-spoken but smiley, Aden sounds confident in modest fashion’s ability to withstand crises like the coronavirus pandemic and changing fads. “It is the oldest fashion staple, it’s been around for hundreds of years, it will continue to be around for hundreds of years,” she said. Islam and fashion “are 100 percent compatible because there’s



Fashionistas and influencers take pictures.

nothing in our religion that says you can’t be fashionable,” she said.

Luxury brands such as DKNY and Dolce & Gabbana have already picked up on the trend, creating collections catered to modest women. But Aden hit out at “a lot of tokenism, especially in the fashion industry, where they want our money but they don’t want to support us in the issues that we are faced with.” “I think fashion needs to do a greater job,” she said. “You are representing your clients who are Muslims, it is important to speak up when they are faced with injustices.”— AFP



This screen grab shows the first all-civilian crew aboard SpaceX's Inspiration4 before splashdown during their return to Earth off the Florida coast. — AFP photos



This screengrab taken from the SpaceX live webcast shows Inspiration4 crew (from left) Christopher Sembroski, Jared Isaacman, Sian Proctor and Hayley Arceneaux in orbit.

SpaceX all-civilian orbital crew completes historic mission

Four SpaceX tourists returned to Earth safely on Saturday after spending three days in space, successfully concluding the first orbital mission in history with no professional astronauts on board. The SpaceX Dragon capsule, whose heat shield allowed it to withstand descent, was slowed down by four large parachutes before splashing into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida at 7:06 pm (2306 GMT), according to a video feed by the company. “That was a

heck of a ride for us, and we’re just getting started,” billionaire captain Jared Isaacman, who financed the trip with a goal of making space a bit more accessible, said shortly after landing.

A SpaceX boat immediately retrieved the capsule, before its hatch was opened and the space tourists, smiling broadly and waving their arms in the air, exited one by one. They were next headed for



This screen grab shows SpaceX's Inspiration4 with first all-civilian crew aboard returning to Earth off the Florida coast.

the Kennedy Space Center, where their mission had begun on Wednesday. The stated goal of the mission, called Inspiration4, was to encourage the democratization of space by proving that the cosmos are accessible to crews that have neither been handpicked nor in training for years. “Congratulations @Inspiration4x !!!” SpaceX founder Elon Musk tweeted after the landing. The four space novices—Isaacman and three other Americans—spent three days orbiting Earth, traveling farther than the International Space Station (ISS), at an orbit of about 575 kilometers (357 miles) high, and circling the globe more than 15 times each day.

Isaacman, who paid SpaceX tens of millions of dollars, offered the other three seats to strangers: Hayley Arceneaux, a 29-year-old nurse; Sian Proctor, a 51-year-old professor; and Chris Sembroski, 42, a US Air Force veteran. However, the exact price that the 38-year-old founder of

the capsule, spoke with actor Tom Cruise from the vessel, ate pizza and listened to music.

‘Second space age’

“Welcome to the second space age,” mission director Todd Ericson said at a press conference after the landing. With its completion, “space travel becomes much more accessible to average men and women.” There was only one minor issue during the flight, with the capsule’s toilet system, but a solution was quickly found, Ericson said, without giving further details. “Best ride of my life!” Proctor tweeted after disembarking from the capsule. The mission served as a huge fundraiser for St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, a leading facility in Tennessee. Arceneaux received treatment there as a child, and now works there.

The crew took with them various objects—including a ukulele, which Sembroski briefly played live from the vessel on Friday—that will now be auctioned off with proceeds going to the hospital. The landing marked the third time that Musk’s company has taken humans to space and back, after the return of two NASA missions, one in August 2020 and another in May of this year. Both were bringing astronauts back from a stay at the ISS. Unlike NASA astronauts, the members of the Inspiration4 mission did not go to the ISS but remained in orbit around the Earth.

The space adventure comes after a summer marked by the battle of the billionaires Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos to reach the final frontier. However their separate suborbital flights only offered a few minutes in zero gravity. SpaceX is already planning further space tourism flights. In fact, “the amount of people who are approaching us through our sales and marketing portals have actually increased significantly,” said Benji Reed, SpaceX’s director of human spaceflight programs. The next trip is scheduled for January 2022, with three businessmen on board. — AFP

What life is like aboard the SpaceX Dragon capsule

The first space tourism mission by Elon Musk’s SpaceX blasted off from Florida on Wednesday and the four crew members—a billionaire and three other Americans—have already seen more than 25 sunsets and sunrises. SpaceX has released few details about their adventure since they reached an orbit which is more distant than that of the International Space Station. Here’s what we know about their life on board:

Nine square meters

The four space tourists are aboard the SpaceX crew capsule called Dragon. It is 8.1 meters (26.7 feet) tall and has a diameter of four meters (13 feet). The capsule is composed of a trunk, which is inaccessible to the crew, upon which sits the living quarters. The entire volume of the capsule is just 9.3 square meters (328 square feet). Chris Sembroski, a 42-year-old Air Force veteran who is one of the crew members, has compared it to traveling with friends in a van—one you can’t step away from though if you want to take a break.

Toilets with a view

The exact technology behind the toilets aboard the capsule is a SpaceX secret. But Hayley Arceneaux, one of the four crew members, said in a Netflix documentary that the “bathroom is on the ceiling.” “Really literally a panel that we take off and there’s like a funnel,” Arceneaux said. “There’s no upside down in space.” The toilet is located near the clear glass observation dome, or cupola, installed on Dragon, which provides a spectacular

360-degree view of the cosmos. “When people do inevitably have to use the bathroom, they’re going to have one hell of a view,” billionaire Jared Isaacman, the mission commander, told Business Insider. Privacy is ensured with a simple curtain.

‘Eating, doing chores’

SpaceX released a video call Friday between the Inspiration4 crew and patients at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The 29-year-old Arceneaux, who was treated for bone cancer as a child at St. Jude and works there now as a physician assistant, was asked by a patient what the astronauts do for “fun” in space. She said they have spent time “eating, doing chores and looking out the window at the world.” Sembroski said they’ve also been doing “a lot of blood tests and glucose monitoring.”

The astronauts were also asked what is their favorite “space food.” “My favorite space food is pizza which I had yesterday and I’ll probably have for dinner tonight also,” said Sian Proctor, 51, who teaches geology at a small college in Arizona and was a finalist to become a NASA astronaut. Musical interludes are also planned. Each passenger drew up a 10-song playlist and Sembroski planned to bring his ukelele. The instrument and other objects are to be auctioned later with the proceeds going to St. Jude. The goal of the mission is to raise \$200 million for the hospital, with Isaacman personally donating \$100 million.

Scientific research

SpaceX tweeted on Thursday that the crew had carried out a “first round of scientific research.” One of the goals of the mission is to collect data on the effects of the environment of space on complete novices. Their cardiac rhythms, sleep and blood oxygen levels will be monitored along with radiation exposure. Their cognitive functions were tested before the flight and will be examined again on their return. — AFP



This image courtesy of Inspiration4 shows the Inspiration4 crew member Hayley Arceneaux looking out of an observation window while in orbit.

heck of a ride for us, and we’re just getting started,” billionaire captain Jared Isaacman, who financed the trip with a goal of making space a bit more accessible, said shortly after landing.

A SpaceX boat immediately retrieved the capsule, before its hatch was opened and the space tourists, smiling broadly and waving their arms in the air, exited one by one. They were next headed for



Image courtesy of Inspiration4 shows the Inspiration4 crew member Jared Isaacman communicating while looking out of an observation window while in orbit.

Lifestyle | Features

From topical to biologics: Kuwait now has access to more reliable and innovative treatments to eczema

A common kind of eczema, atopic dermatitis (AD), is a common inflammatory skin disease. AD causes an itchy rash and dry skin and has a substantial impact on quality of life. In Europe and the US, recent data suggests that the prevalence of AD among children is approximately 20 percent and, among adults, it ranges between 7 percent and 14 percent, with substantial variation between countries. In Kuwait, 22.2 percent of adolescents suffer from eczema. AD leads to substantial social and financial costs and accounts for the largest global burden of disability owing to skin diseases.

The cause of atopic dermatitis is multifactorial, with genetics, environment and impaired immune response being the most predominant factors. The role of genetics has been demonstrated in studies of families and twins. People with eczema, especially AD, have a transmutation of the gene responsible for creating filaggrin. Filaggrin is a protein that supports our bodies preserve a healthy, protective barrier on the very top layer of the skin. Without enough filaggrin to make a strong skin barrier, moisture can escape and bacteria, viruses and more can enter. This is why many people suffering from AD tend to have extremely dry and infection-prone skin.

Numerous environmental factors have been associated with atopic dermatitis: Exposure to allergens, irritants, bacteria and hard water; socioeconomic status; and large family size. There is evidence that atopic dermatitis is a risk factor for childhood asthma, affecting asthma occurrence, severity and persistence.

Atopic dermatitis can have a significant impact on morbidity and quality of life. Children may be affected by itching and associated sleep disturbance, the social stigma of a visible skin condition, and the need for frequent application of topical medications and physician visits. It has been estimated that children with atopic dermatitis lose an average of 1.9 hours of sleep per night, and their parents lose an average of 2.1 hours per night. Other significant problems reported in children with atopic dermatitis include irritability, daytime tiredness, dependence, fearfulness and mood changes.

The pressing issues surrounding AD

A study published by American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology has observed that an estimated 10 to 20 percent of children have eczema, with about 60 percent of those with eczema experiencing symptoms by age 1, and another 30 percent experiencing symptoms by age 5. While this disease is part of a syn-



Dr Atial Al-Lafi, Head of As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center and Chairman of Derma Council in Kuwait.

drome known as atopy, and it is genetically determined, the precise gene(s) responsible have not yet been identified. Eczema is triggered by a combination of a number of factors that may include food, weather, stress, airborne allergens and hormonal changes among others.

It has also been seen that other diseases that form part of atopy include extrinsic allergic asthma, rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis and certain forms of allergic food reactions, with individual patients likely to have any combination of these clinical entities. A number of researches have established that for some patients suffering from eczema, a number of food allergies may or can trigger it. Often, there are common misconceptions about eczema that can get in the way of effective treatment. People with eczema tend not to see eczema as a long-term condition.

Dr Atial Al-Lafi, Head of As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center and Chairman of Derma Council in Kuwait, said: "This is particularly true of adolescents and parents of children with eczema, which can lead to disappointment and frustration if it does not disappear when they get older. Many a time, they may not see the need for long-term treatment, and often seek a cause or cure for the condition. Many eczema sufferers also feel that their condition is underestimated by others or dismissed as 'easy to manage,' which can be quite distressing."

Then, there is a rampant belief that over-the-counter products are too weak to treat eczema and that topical steroids are the only way to treat eczema. Actually, those suffering from eczema must develop a 360-degree approach to treatment

and topical steroids do not cure eczema. "Since it's a chronic condition, over-dependence on powerful drugs, self-medication and unauthorized home remedies may have potential side effects and may cause other complications. We always suggest patients and their guardians to seek doctors specializing in these types of diseases to avoid misdiagnosis," Dr Al-Lafi added.

While addressing misconceptions is crucial, it is equally important to discuss the emotional aftereffects of eczema. Flareups may be shattering and feel painful and uncomfortable. AD often requires regular attention to keep flareups under check, though for some this may not be enough. AD can be both frustrating and embarrassing and may result in self-consciousness about appearance; symptoms of anxiety also have been reported in people with AD. For many, having eczema can be tough, as it's a constant battle with their bodies.

The importance of correct diagnosis and early treatment

Eczema is a common long-lasting condition that can be very uncomfortable and can affect one's quality of life. If left untreated, it can keep one from sleeping, be distracting and make one feel self-conscious in public. It is crucial for eczema sufferers to consult a dermatologist or other healthcare provider as soon as they start to see signs of it. A thorough physical examination, assessment of medical history and identification of triggers must be carried out to confirm the diagnosis of eczema and start the treatment plan.

"Though seeking second opinion is very important, it is also crucial that patients should look for one trusted doctor and sticking to his/her treatment plan as this will play a very important factor for recovery," added Dr Al-Lafi. Above all, what eczema sufferers in Kuwait and around the world need to remember is that they are not alone since around 15 to 20 percent of people are likely to experience eczema or another type of dermatitis at some point in their lives.

Managing eczema is a lifelong commitment

While eczema is a lifelong condition, there are effective treatments available, and with proper follow-up, they soothe itching, treat flareups and reduce their frequency. Preventing flareups with good skincare practices is an important part of the overall treatment of atopic dermatitis. Dry skin is a feature in nearly all patients with the condition. Emollients are the mainstay of maintenance therapy for atopic dermatitis.

Numerous studies have evaluated a variety of dietary, environmental and alternative approaches to the prevention of atopic dermatitis flareups. Unfortunately, many of these approaches have been shown to be ineffective. Expert opinion supports the use of comfortable fabrics (eg, cotton or other smooth fibers) for clothing and bedding. Patients should avoid known environmental or dietary triggers. Irritants that cause itching also should be avoided. The development of the "scratch-itch-scratch" behavior that begins with habitual scratching and perpetuates dry, irritated skin can be effectively modified with psychological treatment.

When suffering from eczema, there are various topical creams that can help soothe, and one is advised to seek expert advice before using them. Topical creams are the standard medication and can be used to soothe redness and thus prevent scratching.

Topical steroids

Topical steroids are grouped by potency. They range from class 1 (strongest) to class 7 (least potent). Most of the more potent topical steroids aren't suitable for children, so always consult with your child's doctor first. For short-term treatment, low potency topical corticosteroids are available over the counter. You can apply hydrocortisone immediately after you moisturize your skin. It is most effective for treating a flare-up. The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommends treating the affected area twice daily. Topical corticosteroids are not for long-term use. Instead, the AAD recommends occasional preventative use.

Topical calcineurin inhibitors

Topical calcineurin inhibitors (TCIs) are a relatively new class of anti-inflammatory drug. They do not contain steroids. Yet they're effective in treating the rash and itching caused by AD. In some patients the use of TCIs has been limited due to a localized burning sensation on the first days of treatment, and also due to fear of other adverse effects.

Phototherapy

- Narrowband UVB phototherapy can be used to treat severe atopic dermatitis.
- Treatment involves standing in the cabinet two to five times weekly, so may not be suitable for young children or the infirm who cannot stand unaided.
- Phototherapy is usually combined with the usual topical treatments.

Oral medications

On occasion, your doctor may prescribe oral medications such as:

- Oral corticosteroids for widespread, severe and resistant AD.
- Cyclosporine or interferon for severe AD.
- Antibiotics are used for the treatment of clinical infection caused by *S aureus* or flares of disease. They have no effect on stable disease in the absence of infection. Laboratory evidence of *S aureus* colonization is not evidence of clinical infection because staphylococcal organisms commonly colonize the skin of patients with AD.
- Antihistamines are useful to control dermatographism and other forms of urticaria in some patients with atopic dermatitis, but not for routine use.

Targeted biologic therapeutics in atopic dermatitis

With recent developments in research for alternative treatments, experts of this field have also started using innovative biologics treatment that are considered more effective because they are amongst the most targeted therapies available today, as they essentially use human DNA to treat certain diseases at the immune system level. Taken subcutaneously (through the skin) or intravenously (in the vein), biologics are genetically engineered medications that contain proteins derived from living tissues or cells cultured in a laboratory. Initially available in the US, these treatments are now available in Kuwait.

Dupilumab was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2017 for adults with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis not adequately controlled with topical prescription therapies or when those therapies are not advisable. In 2019, this indication was expanded to include adolescents aged 12 years or older, and in 2020 to include children as young as 6 years. It is a subcutaneous injection administered every two weeks. Baricitinib, a new biologic agent belongs to the family of JAK inhibitors that will be available soon in Kuwait and is also approved for treating severe atopic dermatitis in adults.

What's new in the near future?

Novel therapies are in the pipeline and comprise both new doses and formulations of well-known pharmaceutical molecules and novel approaches targeting unique inflammatory pathways and mechanisms of disease, with a promise of higher efficacy and less harmful side effects.

New York Philharmonic marks 'homecoming' after pandemic cancellations

Following 556 days of pandemic-inflicted cancellations and unconventional concerts, the New York Philharmonic opened its new season Friday, a "homecoming" for musicians limited to live streams, one-off and outdoor shows for more than a year. After enduring months of crisis, the Phil, one of America's oldest musical institutions, reopened its subscription season with a program featuring Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, Anna Clyne's "Within Her Arms," Aaron Copland's "Quiet City" and George Walker's "Antifonyes." The pandemic forced the famed symphony orchestra to cancel its 2020-21 season, resulting in more than \$21 million in lost ticket revenues.

Hundreds of people queued outside Alice Tully Hall in Manhattan's Upper Westside in evening wear, showing mandatory proof of vaccination in order to gain entry for the night of orchestral music. Catherine Colson arrived with friends ahead of what she anticipated would be "a memorable night of phenomenal music." "It was a really long year. I feel rejuvenated," she told AFP. "It's like a rebirth in a way." Adam Baltin said he wanted to attend opening night to "celebrate the city and the arts." "It's been so long."



Musicians stand during the New York Philharmonic's first concert after its reopening.



Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts the New York Philharmonic's first concert after its reopening at the Alice Tully Hall in New York.

'Feels like a homecoming'

On top of the challenges presented by COVID, the Phil is homeless: the orchestra's longtime base, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, is in the middle of a major \$550-million renovation. Most of the 2021-22 season will be played at two other venues at the Lincoln Center arts complex on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Despite everything, Chris Martin, the orchestra's principal trumpet player, said the start of a fresh season "feels like coming home." "I'm very excited. I feel like almost like a

rebirth as a musician," he told AFP at a dress rehearsal ahead of the evening.

"We play 130, 140 concerts a year, and you never take it for granted, but sometimes you think, 'Oh, I'm a little tired today, I've got to play this again', but not anymore-I feel really such gratitude." During the Phil's canceled season, members began playing small pop-up concerts at surprise locations throughout the city, getting creative for New Yorkers starved for live music. "To play outdoors is wonderful," Martin said, adding it allows artists "to connect with the city in a different way." "But to come back in this space... to have an audience again, that's the part that really feels like a homecoming."

'Exciting new beginning'

Friday's show comes days after news broke that Jaap van Zweden, the Phil's maestro since 2018, will step down after the 2023-24 season. The conductor spent much of the pandemic in his home country of the Netherlands with his family, and cited shifting work-life balance priorities in announcing his decision. "It is not out of frustration, it's not out of anger, it's not out of a difficult situation," van Zweden told The New York Times. "It's just out of freedom." The pandemic, which dealt an early and particularly deadly blow to New York, hit in the middle of the violinist-turned-conductor's second season as music director.

He was isolated from his musicians, prevented for months from traveling to New York due to a ban on European travelers visiting the United States. Friday's show comes amid a ramped-up arts schedule in the city, days after the extravagant fashion-centric Met Gala and ahead of the Governors Ball music festival along with the Metropolitan Opera's re-opening on September 27. —AFP



Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts the New York Philharmonic's first concert after its reopening at the Alice Tully Hall in New York. — AFP photos



People wait in line to attend the New York Philharmonic's first concert after its reopening at the Alice Tully Hall in New York.



People attend the New York Philharmonic's first concert after its reopening at the Alice Tully Hall in New York.

Late Jimmy Greaves hailed as England's most lethal striker

Former England football great dies aged 81

LONDON: Injury denied him a role in England's greatest triumph, but Jimmy Greaves, who died yesterday aged 81, will be remembered as one of the most prolific strikers in English football history. With 366 goals in 528 top-flight appearances for Chelsea, AC Milan, Tottenham and West Ham, he scored more goals in Europe's five major championships than any other player until Cristiano Ronaldo finally surpassed his total in 2017.

Greaves also found the net 44 times for England and while a gashed leg stopped him playing in the 1966 World Cup final win over West Germany, his breath-taking strike rate ensured his legacy remained secure.

Only Bobby Charlton, Gary Lineker and record holder Wayne Rooney have scored more England goals than Greaves. "I had a goal drought once," Greaves used to quip during after-dinner speeches. "Worst 15 minutes of my career."

A short, quick and remarkably sure-footed player, Greaves struck the ball unerringly with both feet and was renowned for the deliberateness of his finishing, often rounding the goalkeeper to score.

"When he got the ball in the penalty box, the world stopped," remembered Greaves' former West Ham team-mate Harry Redknapp. "It was like some-

body had hit pause on the television screen. The action around him carried on, but Jim appeared to be operating in another dimension; Slower, calmer, making his mind up oblivious to the surrounding frenzy."

His 266 goals in 379 games for Tottenham make him the club's all-time leading scorer and he also scored 132 times in 169 games for Chelsea. Fifty years after his retirement from the pro-



366 goals in 528 games

fessional game, his goal-scoring feats still rank alongside the best of the sport's modern stars.

Love affair

Raised in Hainault, northeast London, Greaves joined Chelsea as a teenager, made his debut aged 17 and had scored 100 league goals by the age of 20. Italian giants Milan signed him in June 1961 for the then significant sum of £80,000

(£121,600), but despite scoring nine goals in 12 Serie A games, he failed to settle in Lombardy.

By December he was back in London with Tottenham, who secured his services for £99,999. The unique fee was devised by Spurs manager Bill Nicholson, who did not want to saddle Greaves with the burden of being English football's first six-figure player.

Thus began the great love affair of Greaves's career. He won two FA Cups at White Hart Lane, scoring against Burnley in the 1962 final, and netted twice in a 5-1 drubbing of Atletico Madrid in the 1963 European Cup Winners' Cup final, which made Spurs England's first continental trophy-winners.

He finished as the English top-flight's leading scorer in six seasons, but on the international scene, fortune was to desert him in the cruelest fashion. He started the 1966 World Cup on home soil as a guaranteed starter, only for an ugly foul by France's Joseph Bonnel to leave him with a shin wound that cost him his place in the team.

Greaves was fit to play in the final, but manager Alf Ramsey persevered with West Ham's Geoff Hurst, who etched his name in English football folklore with a match-winning hat-trick. "I danced around the pitch with everyone else, but even in this moment of triumph and great



LONDON: In this file photo taken on July 20, 1966, England international football player Jimmy Greaves (left) fights with French footballer Jacky Simon, during the match between France and England of the football World Cup, at the Wembley stadium. — AFP

happiness, deep down I felt my sadness," Greaves later reflected.

Greaves struggled with alcoholism towards the end of his top-flight career, which ended at West Ham. After retiring, he penned a long-running column in tabloid newspaper The Sun and

appeared as one half of 'Saint and Greavesie' in a television double act with the former Liverpool and Scotland striker Ian St John. He survived a stroke in 2015 and was awarded an MBE in 2020. He is survived by his wife, Irene, and their four children. — AFP

News in brief

Ajax enjoy 9-0 romp

AMSTERDAM: Free-scoring Ajax Amsterdam cruised to a 9-0 rout of Cambuur in the Dutch top flight on Saturday, their fourth win this season in which they have scored at least five goals. David Neres scored twice while the other seven goals were shared amongst Jurrien Timber, Steven Berghuis, Noussair Mazraoui, Dusan Tadic, Mohamed Daramy, Danilo and Sebastian Haller. Ivory Coast international Haller had scored four times in Wednesday's 5-1 triumph over Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League. Ajax had already celebrated two other big wins in the Eredivisie this season — 5-0 against both NEC and Vitesse. Victory on Saturday put Ajax on top of the table with 13 points from five games although second-placed PSV have a game in hand and boast a perfect record of four wins in four matches so far. — AFP

Chara back with Islanders

NEW YORK: Slovakian defenseman Zdeno Chara, the oldest player in the NHL at 44, has come full circle with a one-year contract with the New York Islanders. Islanders president Lou Lamoriello had been looking to bolster the team's depth since trading left-hander Nick Leddy to the Red Wings in July. Chara, who has 207 goals, 459 assists and 2,000 penalty minutes in regular-season play and another 18 goals in the playoffs, played 55 of 56 regular-season games last season for the Washington Capitals. He had inked a one-year deal with the Caps after 14 seasons and one Stanley Cup as captain of the Boston Bruins. Still a formidable presence on the ice, Chara can surpass Hall of Famer Chris Chelios (1,651) for the most career NHL games for a defenseman. Chara was selected in the third round of the 1996 NHL draft by the Islanders, making his debut for them on November 19, 1997. — AFP

Four-time champion retires

PARIS: Germany's Tony Martin will hang up his bike after the World Road Cycling Championships this week in Flanders, his Jumbo team announced yesterday. Martin, 36, won four world titles in the individual time trial, in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016. Competing at the top level since 2008, Martin also won five stages of the Tour de France between 2011 and 2015 and two on the Vuelta a Espana. This year he exited the Tour de France in an ambulance early on stage 11 after suffering face and leg injuries when tumbling into a deep roadside ditch, having been at the center of a crash-marred opening day that saw a fan knock half the peloton down. — AFP

Former cyclist dies

BRUSSELS: Former pro cyclist Chris Anker Sorensen was killed in a road accident on the sidelines of the world championships in Belgium on Saturday, local media reported, citing Denmark's TV2 Sport. The 37-year-old, who won a stage of the Giro d'Italia in 2010, was in Belgium to report on the tournament which started yesterday. Belgian broadcaster Sporza said that Sorensen was out cycling when he was involved in a collision with a car. In his riding career, Sorensen competed for the CSC, Saxo Bank and Tinkoff teams. As well as winning the eighth stage of the 2010 Giro, he captured the sixth stage of the 2008 Criterium du Dauphine and was Danish national champion in 2015. — AFP

Inter crash six past Bologna to move top of Serie A

MILAN: Inter Milan bounced back from midweek Champions League disappointment on Saturday with a 6-1 hammering of Bologna which moved the reigning champions top of Serie A. Simone Inzaghi's side were sucker-punched in the last minute by Real Madrid in Wednesday's single-goal defeat but made no mistake this time at the San Siro.

They moved to top following a thumping win which came thanks to goals from Lautaro Martinez, Milan Skriniar, Nicolo Barella, and Matias Vecino and a brace from Edin Dzeko. Bologna sit eighth on seven points after their first defeat of the season, made no better by Arthur Theate's late consolation goal.

"I was worried about this match because after a game like the one with Madrid, in which we definitely deserved more, there was a bit of worry (for the reaction)," said Inzaghi to DAZN. "But the boys approached

the game in the best way possible."

Denzel Dumfries made an almost instant impact on his first Inter start since signing from PSV Eindhoven last month, replacing Achraf Hakimi who moved to Paris Saint-Germain, as Inter ran riot in front of their delighted fans on a beautiful evening in Milan.

The Netherlands wing-back, who scored twice at Euro 2020 and was a highlight for the disappointing Dutch, laid on Martinez's opener and caused havoc down the right flank throughout the match. "I'm very happy. I think it was a good game from us, after the defeat of Real Madrid we needed to bounce back and we did a very good job as a team," said Dumfries to DAZN. "I feel good, my teammates gave me a warm welcome and helped me a lot so I'm happy to be here."

Dumfries danger

Just five minutes had passed when

aging director Arnaud Pouille. "Unfortunately, the region's image is affected by what happened."

"I have a precise idea of the facts, but I don't want to influence anyone," he added. "You've seen the images. There were some gestures that sparked things and a reaction which is damaging." Six people sustained minor injuries and police made two arrests, according to the Lens sub-prefect.

The trouble comes the week after Nice were docked a point following the ugly incidents that led to their August 22 home match with Marseille to be abandoned. That game will be replayed at a neutral venue on October 27. Nice were also ordered to play three matches behind closed doors.

A clash between Montpellier and Marseille on the opening weekend of the season was also interrupted for about 10 minutes after fans threw bottles onto the pitch. "This start of the season is not going to help us. A reality check is quickly needed for everyone involved in football, starting with supporters," tweeted French sports minister Roxana Maracineanu.

Lens beat Lille in derby blighted by pitch invasion

PARIS: Lens defeated reigning French champions Lille 1-0 on Saturday in a northern derby overshadowed by a pitch invasion that delayed the start of the second half by 30 minutes. Dozens of Lens supporters stormed the Stade Bollaert-Delelis pitch at half-time to confront the visiting Lille fans nestled away in a corner of the ground after tensions flared with other spectators.

Riot police intervened to separate the factions of opposing supporters as both sets of fans hurled seats at each other over a partition wall. "We're in the process of trying to get a clear view. It unfolded in some confusion. Of course, any act of violence is condemned by Lens," said the club's man-

Rooney vows to stick with Derby despite looming administration

LONDON: Derby County manager Wayne Rooney said Saturday he was committed to the English second-tier club despite the financially-stricken side's impending administration. The 35-year-old former Manchester United and England striker, in his first managerial role, insisted he wanted to help rebuild Midlands club Derby after a 2-1 win over Stoke in the English Championship on Saturday. Derby led when Max Bird celebrated his 21st birthday with a 25-yard strike in the 32nd minute and Curtis Davies headed the Rams into a 2-0 lead two minutes later.

Rooney's side could have gone even further ahead before Stoke pulled a goal back in the 58th

minute through former Derby winger Tom Ince. But Derby held out to give their fans something to celebrate amid the looming threat of a points deduction.

Derby announced late Friday the club's directors "had no choice but to make the tough decision" to file notice to appoint administrators following a failure to secure new owners and because of the impact of COVID-19 on their finances. "I've said a few times I'm committed to this club and to the group of players and the staff, I care about them, so I'll keep doing everything I can to help us get through this," said Rooney. He added: "My job is to bring some pride and dignity back to the club, it's got a big fan base and those fans deserve my full attention and the players' full attention."

Rooney revealed he only found out about the club's plan to go into administration from watching television news. "I saw it on the TV which is not ideal, I think communication is key, I've still had no contact with Mel (Morris, the owner) for a while now so it's been very difficult for me to address the



MILAN: Inter Milan's Slovakian defender Milan Skriniar heads the ball and scores a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Bologna at the San Siro stadium in Milan on Saturday. - AFP

Dumfries burst down the right and rolled an inviting low cross from which Argentina forward Martinez could not miss. Skriniar headed home the second from Federico Dimarco's corner on the half-hour and Barella made it three four minutes later fol-

lowing another charge and low cross from Dumfries. And a comfortable win turned into a rout once Vecino tapped home from Academy product Dimarco's low cross which evaded Dzeko and Dumfries in the 59th minute. — AFP



LENS: Riot police officers arrest a man after Lens' supporters invaded the pitch during the French L1 football match between Lens and Lille at Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens, northern France, on Saturday. —AFP

Fans must 'set an example'

Poland midfielder Przemyslaw Frankowski scored the winning goal on 74 minutes as Lens climbed up to second in Ligue 1, unbeaten through six games. "They told us there had been some incidents between supporters,

for us to focus on ourselves and that we would restart," said Lens goalkeeper Jean-Louis Leca. "It's always annoying when supporters come to blows in a football stadium. They too have to set an example because there are kids in the ground." — AFP

fans when I don't know what the situation is. It's been a very difficult 24 hours finding out the news of going into administration. I imagine there will be people who will lose their jobs who have mortgages and bills to pay so to have that snatched away from them is heartbreaking. Today was a game I obviously wanted to win but I wasn't that interested in the result, it was more about the players showing character and showing the fans they care."

Derby are already facing separate points penalties for previous breaches of financial fair play rules. The Rams avoided relegation from the Championship on the final day of last season after drawing 3-3 at home to Sheffield Wednesday. They were then spared a points deduction, which would have sent them down, when the English Football League decided not to appeal against a decision to only fine the club for failing to comply with finance rules. Derby's greatest days were in the 1970s when they were twice crowned champions of England by winning the old First Division. — AFP

Sports

Ducati's Bagnaia holds off title chasing Quartararo in San Marino

Bastianini finishes third after producing race's standout performance

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy: Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia won his home San Marino MotoGP with a dominant display from pole at Misano yesterday. The Italian, who celebrated his debut win in the premier category last weekend in Aragon, came under intense pressure from championship leader Fabio Quartararo in the closing laps. But he had enough left in the tank to hold off Yamaha's French rider.

Despite missing out on adding to his five wins this term Quartararo, 22, still had plenty to smile about. With four races left his lead remains a solid one at 48 points over Bagnaia whose red-hot form is ensuring there is nothing at all processional about Quartararo's attempt to become the first ever French MotoGP world champion. Defending champion Joan Mir is 67 points adrift in third.

"When I saw Fabio lost time in the early laps coming at me over the last 10 laps it was really hard, but I gave it everything," said Bagnaia. "I found it difficult enough to get my first MotoGP win and now I've won two in a row, I'm so happy." Quartararo said: "It was so hard, I lost time in the early laps. I was pushing at my limit. I wanted the win."

Joining this pair on his first ever podium was

Enea Bastianini who arguably produced the stand-out performance of this 14th round of the campaign. Starting 12th on the grid he stormed through the field with some serious lap times to take third for Ducati's satellite Avintia stable.

Bagnaia, seeking to follow up last weekend's breakthrough win in the premier class, jumped off from a pole position acquired in style 24 hours earlier with a track record. His Ducati teammate Jack Miller followed him through turn one.

Quartararo was in a battle for third with Jorge Martin until Martin's Ducati satellite bike went from underneath him. With Bagnaia looking bulletproof up front Miller lost chunks of time going wide on turn 13 with over half the race completed.

Quartararo seized second spot away from Miller shortly after, the gap under three seconds and 14 laps to go. At the 10 laps to go marker Quartararo had chiseled away at Bagnaia's lead to under two seconds.

Quartararo had said on the grid at the start "I feel good today" and he would need to be at his best as he set about hunting down his Sunday afternoon prey kitted out in Ducati red. The stage was set for a thrilling final five laps of the famous Misano circuit with Bagnaia prevailing.



MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy: Race winner Ducati Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia celebrates after winning the San Marino MotoGP Grand Prix at the Misano World Circuit Marco-Simoncelli yesterday in Misano Adriatico, Italy. —AFP

The 23,000 fans in attendance may have been disappointed to witness motorcycling legend Valentino Rossi's slow march to retirement contin-

ue with another lowly finish in 17th. But they couldn't quibble over the heavily Italian-flavored result. —AFP

Black Caps in Dubai after abandoning Pakistan tour

DUBAI: The New Zealand cricket team arrived in Dubai early yesterday after fleeing Pakistan but officials refused to give details of the security threat that forced them to abruptly cancel their tour. While some information had been shared with the Pakistan Cricket Board, "specific details could not, and will not, be disclosed - privately or publicly", New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said.

Upcoming scheduled tours by England, Australia and the West Indies are now in jeopardy. "The BLACKCAPS have arrived in Dubai after leaving Islamabad on a charter flight last night," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement. "The contingent of 34 players and support staff are now settling into their Dubai hotel and undergoing their 24-hour period of self-isolation." White said he appreciated what a "terribly difficult time" it was for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), but added New Zealand had no choice but to abandon their visit.

"What I can say is that we were advised this was a specific and credible threat against the team," White said. "We had several conversations with New Zealand government officials before making the decision and it was after informing the PCB of our position that we understand a telephone discussion was conducted between the respective Prime Ministers. Unfortunately, given the advice we'd received, there was no way we could stay in the country." White said New Zealand remained comfortable with its initial decision to tour Pakistan, based on comprehensive assessments of the security situation, and the risk-mitigation measures promised. "Everything changed on Friday," he said. "The advice changed, the threat level changed and, as a consequence, we took the only responsible course of action possible."

The New Zealand players and staff were taken in bullet-proof buses from their Islamabad hotel to the airport where they boarded the charter flight to Dubai. Players not involved in next month's Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates will return to New Zealand as soon as flights and quarantine facilities can be arranged. —AFP



AMMAN: Kuwait and Jordan in action during the Asian Women's Handball Championship in Amman, Jordan. —KUNA

Kuwait lose to Jordan in Asian women's handball

AMMAN: Jordan beat Kuwait 28-11 on Saturday at the Asian Women's Handball Championship, currently held in Amman, Jordan. Along with Jordan, the Kuwaiti team are competing in a group that includes

Japan, Syria, Palestine, and Iran. The top five finalists in the tournament, which ends on September 25, qualify to the world championship which takes place in Spain in December 2021. —KUNA

Chicago pitcher Wright suspended for plunking Ohtani

LOS ANGELES: Major League Baseball slapped Chicago White Sox pitcher Mike Wright with a three-game suspension on Saturday for "intentionally" throwing at Japan's Shohei Ohtani a few nights prior. White Sox manager Tony La Russa was also hit with a one-game ban for arguing Wright's ejection.

Wright was thrown out of the contest on Thursday with two out in the ninth inning of a 9-3 White Sox loss for hitting the Los Angeles Angels two-way star Ohtani in the calf with a fastball. Ohtani was not seriously hurt and was awarded a walk by the umpire.

Ohtani, who has been battling a sore arm and some hitting woes, is expected to return to the pitching mound on Sunday against the Oakland A's. He missed his scheduled pitching start Friday, and manager Joe Maddon has considered shutting the Japanese star down for the season on the mound. But Ohtani threw 30 pitches on Friday, and the Angels decided he isn't done yet.

Ohtani has pitched 115 1/3 innings this season while also playing almost every day as the Angels' designated hitter. He has struggled at the plate in the second half of the season, batting .200 with just seven homers in 44 games heading into Friday's contest.

This season, Ohtani also emerged as the best pitcher in the Angels' starting rotation, with a dominant fastball and a stellar command of an array of breaking pitches. In 21 starts, he has a 3.36 ERA, 136 strikeouts and a 9-2 record. In August, he had thrust himself into the American League Most Valuable Player conversation, notching his 40th home run of the season on August 18. —AFP

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NOTICE
September 16, 2021

Mr. Royston Rahul Carnelio, son of Mr. Ranes Carnelio, resident of Christa Kripa, Kurkal Subhasnagar, Udipi, Karnataka-574105 and Ms. Priscilla Mary Castillo, daughter of Mr. Percival Castillo, resident of 17, Bedia Danga Masjid Bari Bye Lane, Kasba, Kolkata, West Bengal-700039 both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965-22550171, 00965-22533125).

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Chelsea outclass Spurs 3-0

Stars pay tribute to Greaves; Man United's De Gea, Lingard shine



LONDON: Chelsea's Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga (right) and Chelsea's Spanish defender Marcos Alonso block a shot from Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (center) during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Chelsea powered to the top of the Premier League with an impressive 3-0 win at Tottenham, while David de Gea saved a stoppage-time penalty to preserve Manchester United's 2-1 victory at West Ham after Jesse Lingard returned to haunt his old club yesterday. On an emotional day in north London, Chelsea and Tottenham paid tribute to their former striker Jimmy Greaves, who died aged 81 yesterday.

In a moving tribute, several former Tottenham greats, including Greaves' old team-mate Martin Chivers, lined up on the touchline to join both teams and the 62,000 crowd in a minute's applause. It was Chelsea who showed the predatory instincts that made Greaves Tottenham's record scorer with 266 goals in 379 appearances between 1961 and 1970. Greaves started his career with a prolific spell at Chelsea and netted 44 times in 57 appearances for England, featuring in their 1966 World Cup-winning squad. He would have admired the ruthless way Chelsea killed off their London rivals.

Thiago Silva put Chelsea ahead with a 49th minute header before N'Golo Kante netted with a long-range effort that deflected off Eric Dier eight minutes later. Kante's first club goal since December 2019 was followed by Antonio Rudiger's fine low finish in stoppage-time. Thomas Tuchel's unbeaten side sit top of the Premier League after winning four of their first five games, while Tottenham have suffered two successive top-flight defeats. Chelsea have only conceded one league goal so far this season despite a tricky fixture list that featured trips to Liverpool, Tottenham and Arsenal.

At the London Stadium, West Ham boss David Moyes, who tried to re-sign Lingard after his successful loan spell last season, saw the United substitute curl in the 89th minute winner. There was still time for heart-stopping drama when VAR ruled United defender Luke Shaw had handled the ball in the area. Moyes sent on club captain Mark Noble to take the spot-kick but De Gea leapt to his left to keep it out, prompting wild scenes of celebration

from the United players when the final whistle blew seconds later.

It was the United keeper's first penalty save since April 2016, ending a run of 40 successive spot-kicks faced for club and country without a save, including shoot-outs. Lingard's goal was welcome redemption for the England forward, whose woeful back-pass gifted Swiss side Young Boys a 2-1 Champions League win against United in midweek. "I had a good time at West Ham but I have to move on and do my best with Man United," Lingard said after securing his side's fourth win in five league games this term. "I have been working hard and to overcome last week wasn't easy but to get minutes and score was good."

Ronaldo strikes

Earlier, Cristiano Ronaldo tapped in to cancel out Said Benrahma's opener for his fourth goal in three games since his return to United from Juventus. West Ham took the lead in the 30th minute when Benrahma's effort from the edge of the box took a

huge deflection off Raphael Varane and completely wrong-footed De Gea. The goal galvanized the visitors and they were level just five minutes later, with Ronaldo poking the ball past Lukasz Fabianski after the goalkeeper had saved his initial shot following a Bruno Fernandes cross. Lingard left the Hammers faithful with a bitter taste in their mouths when he bent a beautiful shot into the top right corner.

Moyes defended his decision to hand penalty duties to Noble, usually rock-solid from the spot. "We got a penalty kick and I have one of the best penalty takers in the Premier League and Europe," he told the BBC. "I think if I hadn't made the decision I'd have been more annoyed with myself." Brighton maintained their surprisingly strong start, beating Leicester 2-1 to move up to fourth place. Neal Maupay scored a first-half penalty and Brighton doubled their lead through Danny Welbeck early in the second half. Jamie Vardy scored his 150th goal in all competitions for Leicester but it was not enough to rescue a point. — AFP

Dortmund hold off Union Berlin to climb to 2nd

BERLIN: Erling Braut Haaland scored with a stunning lob as his two-goal haul yesterday helped Borussia Dortmund hold off Union Berlin with a 4-2 home win to go second in the Bundesliga table. Haaland, 21, chipped the ball over the Union goalkeeper from the edge of the area seven minutes from time to see off Union who had fought back with second-half goals.

Raphael Guerreiro put Dortmund ahead with a stunning early volley at Signal Iduna Park before Haaland powered in a header. Union were 3-0 down early in the second half when their defender Marvin Friedrich turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Haaland. However, Germany striker Max Kruse netted a penalty for Union before his replacement Andreas Voglsammer headed the visitors back into the game with nine minutes left.

Haaland settled the matter when he spotted Union goalkeeper Andreas Luthe off his line and lunged at full stretch to lob the ball into the net. Having also hit a hat-trick in the German Cup this season, and also netted in the Champions League win at Besiktas on Wednesday, Haaland has scored 11 goals this season, including seven in five league games, making him the Bundesliga's joint top-scorer alongside Robert Lewandowski.

The Poland striker also netted on Saturday as Bayern Munich went top for the first time this season with a 7-0 thrashing of Bochum. The win over Union leaves Dortmund second in the table, a point behind Bayern, but level with third-placed Wolfsburg, who can regain top spot yesterday night if they beat



DORTMUND: Dortmund's Belgian midfielder Axel Witsel (left) looks on as Dortmund's German defender Mats Hummels (right) and Union Berlin's German midfielder Levin Oeztunali vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match yesterday. — AFP

Eintracht Frankfurt at home. Earlier, teenager Florian Wirtz inspired Bayer Leverkusen to a 3-1 win at Stuttgart despite the visitors playing with only 10 men for an hour after Robert Andrich was sent off for a first-half red card.

Wirtz, already a full Germany international who turned 18 last May, slotted home Leverkusen's third goal to kill off Stuttgart's fightback after Andrich saw

red with only 30 minutes played. Leverkusen raced into a 2-0 lead after goals by Andrich and Patrik Schick, but Stuttgart pulled one back by Belgium attacking midfielder Orel Mangala before Wirtz grabbed the winner 20 minutes from time. The win lifts Leverkusen to fourth in the table, three points behind Bayern, while Stuttgart are down in 14th with just four points from their first five games. — AFP

Celtic suffer a shock defeat; Rangers held

GLASGOW: Celtic suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at Livingston, while champions Rangers were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw against Motherwell in yesterday's Scottish Premiership action. Andrew Shinnie's first-half strike consigned Celtic to a sixth defeat in seven away games under new boss Ange Postecoglou.

Shinnie, playing as a makeshift striker, got across Stephen Welsh and fired the only goal into the top corner in the 25th minute. Livingston held on for their first league win of the season as they climbed off the bottom of the table. That cool finish was the sort of quality Celtic lacked in the final third as they failed to make their possession count, leaving them without a win in their last five games at the Tony Macaroni Arena.

Rangers dropped league points at Ibrox for the first time since March 2020. On the day fans cheered the unfurling of the Premiership champions flag for the first time in a decade before kick-off, Steven Gerrard's side saw a run of 21 home wins ended. Fashion Sakala scored his first competitive goal for the club with 12 minutes gone. But Motherwell would spoil the party in the 66th minute when Kaiyne Woolery stabbed home an equalizer.

Rangers sit top of the table, one point clear of second-placed Hibernian and four in front of sixth-placed Celtic after six games. Ian Harkes' late strike earned Dundee United a 1-0 victory over Dundee in the first top-flight derby between the rivals since 2016. Chances were few and far between but the hosts eventually made the breakthrough with nine minutes left when Harkes fired home from the edge of the area. Dundee, who were denied a stoppage-time equalizer when Jordan Marshall's shot was blocked on the line by Ryan Edwards, are still without a win after six league fixtures this season. — AFP