



3 Kuwait law still allows beating a child if motive is to discipline



8 Kuwait needs clear strategic plan to limit climate change impacts



13 Saudi women DJs go from hobbyists to headliners



16 Nunez outshines Haaland as Liverpool beat Man City



Urgent decree unlikely to pass expat residency law

Government to request new National Assembly to approve the law

KUWAIT: It is unlikely that the residency law to regulate the expatriate population in the country would be approved by a decree of emergency nature. It is primarily out of fear that the decree may be struck down by the constitution which has made it legal for the government to issue urgent decrees and gave itself the authority to strike them down if there was a legal justification, official sources said.

It said the urgent decree must be for laws issued in the absence of a parliament in session — either by dissolution or on holiday — and on a matter that is of emergency nature and any postponement of the decree may constitute a danger to the interests of the country. The government was previously allowed to

issue urgent decrees in the absence of parliament and when it reconvenes the decrees will be voted on and if passed, it will become official. If not, it will become null and void, and all decisions, procedures and implications based on the decree will also be null and void.

But now, every citizen has the right to contest any such urgent decree. The parliament can discuss it and can strike it down if it finds it does not have any emergency nature.

The government feels that it needs to settle the issue of expat residency law that was prepared previously, sent it to the National Assembly and was also discussed by the interior and defense committees. Certain comments were made on the law in the pres-

ence of the government, but the government believes that its approval with an urgent decree means it will start implementing it. Then there is a fear that the constitutional court may strike down the decree, opening the doors for lawsuits by expatriates for damages for depriving them of residency and other matters mentioned in the law.

The sources said that the government prefers postponement of the law for the new National Assembly that will be formed following early parliamentary elections before the end of the year. It will ask for urgent consideration of the law by the National Assembly and its approval so that it becomes effective next year.

They said the law is an indispensable part of the government efforts to rectify the population imbalance that exists in the country and an effective measure to curb marginal labor and stamp out residency violators. In addition, it will encourage specialized labor in such a way that it serves the local market, bolster economic reform and boost foreign direct investments into the country. The government also proposes to introduce a 15-year residency permit to attract high net-worth investors into the country.

The sources said limiting the residency of the non-investing expatriates or children and spouses of Kuwaiti women is something linked to the need and the wish of who brought them to stay or not.

Beirut's grain silos collapse

BEIRUT: Parts of Beirut's grain silos collapsed on Sunday, just days before the second anniversary of a catastrophic explosion at the Lebanese capital's port that ravaged the stores and parts of the city. AFP correspondents said a cloud of dust covered Beirut's port, while local media reported that two towers fell in the heavily damaged silos' northern section, where a fire has been burning for more than two weeks.

Footage of the incident showed part of the silo crumbling and a large cloud billowing up after debris hit the ground. The structure had absorbed much of the impact of the devastating explosion on August 4, 2020 at Beirut's port that killed more than 200 people and injured more than 6,500.

The silos shielded large swaths of the city's west from the devastating effects of the blast, which was

caused by haphazardly stored ammonium nitrate fertilizer catching fire. Sunday's partial collapse came around two weeks after a fire erupted in the port's northern silos due to the fermentation of remaining grain stocks along with soaring summer temperatures, according to authorities.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister this week warned they could fall. "The northern group of silos are now in danger of falling," Najib Mikati said Wednesday in a statement, which added that the silos still contained thousands of tons of wheat and corn. He told the army to be prepared and warned workers, civil defense members and firefighters to keep a safe distance from the site. Once boasting a capacity of more than 100,000 tons, an imposing 48-metre (157-foot) high remnant of the silos has become emblematic of the catastrophic port blast.

The government in April ordered their demolition due to safety concerns, but that move was suspended amid objections, including from relatives of blast victims who want the silos preserved as a memorial site.

Continued on Page 6



BEIRUT, Lebanon: An aerial picture shows a Lebanese Army helicopter releasing water over the heavily damaged grain silos at the port of the capital Beirut, on July 31, 2022, following a partial collapse due to an ongoing fire since the beginning of the month. — AFP

Former Philippine president Fidel Ramos dies

MANILA: Former Philippine president Fidel Ramos, who oversaw a rare period of steady growth and peace that won him the reputation as one of the country's most effective leaders ever, has died aged 94, his family said Sunday. Known as "Steady Eddie" for his unflappable demeanor during the country's regular moments of upheaval, he was frequently pictured chewing unlit cigars as he guided the Philippines with a sure hand from 1992-1998.



Former president Fidel Ramos — AFP

A career military man who never previously held elected office, his professional conduct was unlike the bombastic image of many Filipino politicians. He was also the first Protestant to win the top office in the overwhelmingly Catholic nation, despite opposition from some in the Church. He later made an aggressive push for family planning to rein in rapid population growth.

But like other top officials of his generation, Ramos played a role in the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, which saw thousands killed and thousands more arbitrarily imprisoned. In a brief statement, the Ramos family said it was "profoundly saddened" to announce the patriarch's death. The cause was not released.

Continued on Page 6

Lebanese face long queues to buy bread

BEIRUT: In bankrupt Lebanon, Khalil Mansour has to queue for hours every day just to buy bread for his family and some days he can't afford any. In a country which once boasted the nickname "Switzerland of the Middle East" for its thriving banking sector before financial crisis hit in 2019, the chronic shortage of the staple of the Lebanese diet has been hard to take.

Lebanon defaulted on its national debt in 2020 and its currency has lost around 90 percent of its black market

value. The World Bank has branded the financial crisis one of the worst since the 19th century while the United Nations now considers four out of five Lebanese to be living under the poverty line.

Faced with demands from international creditors for painful reforms in return for the release of new aid, the embattled government has been forced to end subsidies on most essential goods—although not so far on wheat. The price of subsidized bread has gone up, although by less than if there were no subsidy, but bakeries have started rationing the staple. A bag of flat Arabic pitta-like bread now officially sells for 13,000 Lebanese pounds (43 US cents). On the black market it costs more than 30,000.

Continued on Page 6



BEIRUT: An elderly man rests outside a bakery after buying a bag of subsidized flatbread, as others continue to wait in a queue, in the Lebanese capital Beirut amid a shortage of wheat supplies. — AFP

Sadr followers continue sit-in at parliament

BAGHDAD: Hundreds of followers of powerful Iraqi preacher Moqtada Sadr camped at the country's parliament Sunday for a second day, protesting against corruption and political mismanagement. Despite tear gas, water cannon and baking temperatures that touched 47 degrees Celsius (116 degrees Fahrenheit), they stormed the complex on Saturday after pulling down heavy concrete

barricades on roads leading to Baghdad's fortified Green Zone of diplomatic and government buildings.

The health ministry said at least 100 protesters and 25 security personnel were hurt in the confrontation. Nearly 10 months after October elections, Iraq is still without a new government despite intense negotiations between factions.

Analysts have said Sadr, a mercurial cleric who once led a militia against US and Iraqi government forces, is using street protests to signal that his views must be taken into account in any government formation. Both the United Nations and European Union warned about escalating tensions.

Continued on Page 6



BAGHDAD: Supporters of Iraq's powerful preacher Moqtada Sadr, protesting against a rival bloc's nomination for prime minister, occupy Iraq's parliament in Baghdad's high-security Green Zone, on July 31, 2022. — AFP

Local

Kuwait's Amir condolences with UAE, Iran presidents over floods' victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Saturday to the President of UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan over the victims of the floods that swept through some parts of the UAE. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon the dead

and for a speedy recovery for the injured, hoping that the UAE overcome the natural disaster. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the UAE President.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Saturday to the President of Iran Dr Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi over the victims of the floods that swept through some parts of Iran. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon the dead

and for a speedy recovery for the injured, hoping that Iran overcome the natural disaster. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Iran's President. — KUNA

Kuwait Heart Foundation marks anniversary

KUWAIT: As a non-profit organization, Kuwait Heart Foundation (KHF) continued for 40 years to spread awareness on heart diseases, focusing its campaigns on promoting treatments and preventative measures for such serious ailment. Established on August 1, 1982, the KHF continues to build strategies and adopt global policies to lessen the impact of heart disease on the population. Speaking to KUNA on this occasion, foundation member Dr Hind Al-Shoumar affirmed that the foundation accepted all those interested in battling against heart diseases whether they were medical professionals or activists. She pointed out that the KHF had embarked on numerous functions and activities that promoted healthy lifestyles and countered bad habits leading to heart disease. Heart diseases are considered one of the main culprits when it came to the number of deaths both nationally and internationally, Dr Shoumar said, adding that battling heart diseases and other ailments was part of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The most prominent campaigns launched by KHF was Saed (help), a project geared toward teaching the public how to resuscitate collapsing due to heart and lung condition, she said. Dr Shoumar also indicated that the foundation had been involved in campaigns and projects launched by other entities to highlight the importance of cardiovascular health and good habits. — KUNA



Dr Hind Al-Shoumar

UAE minister hails ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT: The United Arab Emirates' Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan on Friday admired the deeply-rooted relations between the UAE and Kuwait. This came dur-

Youth Public Authority, Boeing announce Kuwait Digital Startup Campus

KUWAIT: The Youth Public Authority and Boeing have initiated work planning for the Kuwait Digital Startup Campus project, which aims to create a sustainable knowledge-based ecosystem for youth, based on innovation and technology.

Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, Dr Mishaal Al-Shaheen Al-Rubaie, said that this project reflects the visionary initiatives put forth by His Highness Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; through the optimal utilization of the State properties to support and empower Kuwaiti youth, develop their technological capabilities and help them in building their future career.

Rubaie said that this project will assist young entrepreneurs to transform their tech ideas into tangible outcomes and establish their startups and enhance the competitive capabilities of the existing SMEs. The project will also contribute to knowledge and technology transfer, attraction of foreign investments, and digitalization of the government, economic and financial sectors.

As part of investments in the Kuwaiti vision 2035,

ing his reception of the outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador to UAE Salah Al-Baijan on the occasion of the end of his tenure, the UAE news agency (WAM) reported. He added that bilateral relations are steadily developing thanks to the wise leadership of the two Arabian Gulf states. The UAE minister wished Kuwait and its people further progress and welfare under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He described Kuwait as an essential

Boeing will work with Youth Public Authority to design a physical space that will create a creative collaborative environment for the entrepreneurial community. Boeing Aerospace Xelerated, along with its partners, will also conduct an ecosystem canvassing study to identify and meet with key stakeholders in the Kuwaiti innovation landscape.

Kuljit Ghata-Aura, President of Boeing Middle East, Turkey and Africa, said, "We are pleased to cooperate with Youth Public Authority on the Kuwait Digital Startup Campus project. The project will equip digital entrepreneurs with the resources and skillsets they need to be successful in the global competitive landscape."

Youth Public Authority is a government entity established by an Amiri Decree No 100/2015 to support and develop youth, enhance their societal and economic participation, and empower them to lead the economic development in Kuwait. In 2021 Kuwait led the Arab countries and ranked 27 (out of 181) in the Global Youth Development Index.

Boeing is a leading global aerospace company, with manufacturing and servicing capabilities for commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems. The Boeing Aerospace Xelerated team delivers innovation programs with the goal of supporting, steering, and growing startup ecosystems globally. The Youth Public Authority and Boeing extend their gratitude and appreciation to the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), for the efforts put forth to facilitate the partnership.

pillar of the joint Gulf action. He thanked the Kuwaiti Ambassador Baijan for his role in strengthening bilateral relations and bolstering cooperation in various domains. Ambassador Baijan expressed gratitude to the UAE leaders, government and people for their hospitality and cooperation with him to render his mission successful. He also commended the wise policies of the UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UAE achievements in all domains. — KUNA

Kuwait maintains clear stance on Zionist entity's boycott



Meshari Al-Jarallah

CARIO: Kuwait remains committed to its clear stance on an economic boycott against the Zionist entity, a customs official said on Sunday, underlining a total ban on any product with even the remotest links to the Zionist entity. Any retailer found to be carrying goods with a connection to Zionist entity will face "stiff penalties," Meshari Al-Jarallah, a legal researcher at Kuwait's customs department, told pan-Arab talks on the matter, emphasizing the need to "ratchet up" enforcement of an economic boycott on the Zionist entity. The talks in the Egyptian capital yielded plans to ban "certain companies" on suspicion of having links to the Zionist entity, added the Kuwaiti official. — KUNA

On the occasion of the



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

For individuals only

Tel: 24833199 ext: 353-355-356



kuwaittimes.com

Kuwait's real estate market liquidity drops marginally

KUWAIT: The latest data released by the Ministry of Justice -Real Estate Registration and Authentication Department- indicate a slight decline in real estate market liquidity during June 2022 versus May 2022 (excluding the artisanal activity and the coastal strip system), whereby the total value of contracts and Power of attorneys (POAs) decreased by 2.4 percent from May to June, dropping from KD 368.6 million to KD 359.6 million.

Compared to June 2021, liquidity decreased by -8.2 percent from KD 391.9 million. Trading activity during June 2022 was distributed between KD 352.1 million in contracts Value and about KD 7.5 million in POAs value. Number of real estate deals in June scored 645 of which 624 contracts and 21 POAs.

Al-Ahmadi Governorate has the highest share of real estate deals of 48.7 percent, representing 314 deals. Hawally Governorate share is about 17.2 percent, the second highest share, representing 111 deals. Al-Jahra Governorate has the lowest share of 3.6 percent, representing 23 deals. The value of the private residential activity scored KD 186 million, rising by 6.1 percent compared with KD 175.3 million in May 2022, while its contribution percentage slightly declined to 51.7 percent of total real estate trading versus 47.6 percent in May 2022.

The liquidity domination of the private residential activity is the result of converting residential areas into investment ones. The monthly average trading value of private residential activity in the last 12 months scored KD 217.2 million. June trading value was low by -14.4 percent than the 12-months-average, whereby the number of deals for

this activity rose to 477 deals versus 389 deals in May 2022. Accordingly, the average value of private residence activity deal scored KD 389.9 thousand versus KD 450.7 thousand in May 2022, a decrease of -13.5 percent. The value of residential investments activity increased from KD 102.9 million in May 2022 to KD 123.4 million in June 2022 (19.9 percent increase), in addition to an increase in its contribution to total liquidity (34.3 percent in June versus 27.9 percent in May). The monthly trading average value of residential investments during the last 12 months scored KD 84.8 million, indicating that the trading value during June 2022 was higher by 45.4 percent compared with the last 12 months' average.

Deals raised to 137 deals compared with 134 deals in May 2022. Therefore, the average value per deal for residential investments scored KD 900.5 thousand versus KD 768 thousand in May 2022, representing an increase of 17.3 percent. Commercial activity trading value decreased to KD 48.1 million, or by -39.2 percent compared with KD 79.1 million in May 2022 its contribution to total real estate trading value drop to 13.4 percent in June versus 21.5 percent in May 2022. The trading average value of commercial activity in June 2022 was 25.8 percent higher than the TTM average of KD 38.3 million. Moreover, 30 deals were counted in June compared with 12 deals in May 2022. The average value per deal for June 2022 scored KD 1.6 million versus KD 6.6 million for May 2022, a -75.7 percent decrease. Moreover, the warehouse activity had one deal amounting to KD 2.2 million in value during June 2022.

When comparing total June 2022 trading with June 2021, we note that real estate markets liquidity decreased from KD 391.9 million to KD 359.6 million, a -8.2 percent decrease as mentioned previously. The drop was driven by the decrease of the commercial activity by -39.2 percent, and an increase of the private residential activity by 6.1 percent and Residential investments activity by 19.9 percent. — Al-Shall report



Local

Kuwait's law still allows beating a child if the motive is to discipline

Stricter laws needed to protect children from physical abuse

By Saoud Al-Marzouq

KUWAIT: At age 11, Abdullah felt ashamed of himself when his father slapped him across the face multiple times for breaking a vase. This experience in Abdullah's formative life is not abnormal for Kuwaiti youths, nor was Abdullah in a minority of Kuwaiti children who experience this form of physical abuse and deal with the psychological aftermath. And physical abuse targeted at children is only bound to keep occurring if clear laws prohibiting physical abuse towards children are not adopted.

Currently, Kuwaiti Penal Code allows for physi-

Author and Clinical Psychologist Dr Naif Al-Mutawa said to Kuwait Times, "I think a hotline if implemented properly, with a proper educational atmosphere, can be helpful. But it's not the end all be all. You need things such as halfway houses, a foster care system, and a place where the abused kids can be safe."

Brutal abuse

For Dana, 15, the physical abuse was more brutal. After her father caught her smoking cigarettes, she was beaten with a belt, and a metal rod, and threatened with a knife. While remembering that traumatizing time in her life, she stated, "I was depressed, I used to think about the scene of my father beating me all day. I thought he hated me."

Dana went on to say that the incident affected her quality of life and mental health "negatively at the time, but positively over time" as she went to a therapist to help deal with the trauma stemming from her father's physical abuse. "Although access to a therapist can be scarce for many Kuwaiti kids."

Abdullah said that he is unable to ask his parents to go to a therapist because they will think that he is mentally ill, a drug addict, or lacks adequate faith in God. And Abdullah is not alone in his experience.

Dr Naif Al-Mutawa said that this stigma towards therapists in Kuwait was exacerbated by Kuwaiti's experience with mallicenced therapists that had their licenses fast-tracked by the Ministry of Commerce to deal with massive amounts of PTSD in the Kuwaiti population stemming from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990/91.

Punishment 'constructive'

Fahad, a father of three children, on the other hand, believes that corporal punishment is constructive, he stated, "Sometimes you have to beat your kids because they don't take your words



seriously. This young generation is not disciplined because they are not beaten. My generation was beaten and we turned out fine." The last phrase that Fahad uttered is a rebuttal many parents give when being urged by psychologists and therapists to refrain from employing corporal punishment in child-rearing.

Yet how do people such as Fahad normalize the past abuse inflicted on them? Dr Mutawa argues that the process by which abused people normalize the abuse that occurred to them is in many ways a psychological defense mechanism. He explains, "People don't normalize their past abuse because not normalizing it is difficult. If I think it's not normal and my parents did this to me, it would be difficult to honor and love them, which is a requirement in Kuwaiti society. It touches on many socio-psychological fault lines."

Despite many parents believing that corporal punishment creates discipline, Dr Mutawa

explained that beating does not create discipline, "if it does, it is at the expense of so much more." Generally, it is at the expense of the child's sense of self and self-worth.

Dr Mutawa went on to add that the psychological consequences of physical abuse "Depend on the child's core. The consequences can range from becoming an abuser, or the opposite, being extremely passive, avoidant, and socially isolated." Physical abuse can also make children detach from their emotions and feelings, making them susceptible to engaging in risky behavior and abusing substances down the road.

Parents often beat their kids intending to discipline them. The word discipline comes from the Latin root discipline, meaning to learn or teach. Yet all that corporal punishment teaches children is that it is normal to use violence if you have authority over another human being and if it is for the perceived good of the person being abused.



Fear of stigmas drive children away from seeking help

cal abuse if the motive is to discipline. Moreover, the Child Rights Act of 2015 allows for so-called "light" corporal punishment, as well as putting in place the child protection hotline as the only reporting mechanism to fight the epidemic of physical child abuse in Kuwait.

Yet for Abdullah and many other children, a hotline is not enough; aside from him being unaware of the hotline at the time, he explained, "I would not have called anyway, because my parents would have buried me afterward."

A hotline is not an adequate solution given the extremely top-down parent-child relationships and authoritarian family structures in Kuwait.

Kuwait job industry needs to incorporate more teens

By Nada Al-Oqaifi

KUWAIT: During a time of technological innovation, creativity is crucial for any workspace to get ahead in the game. 'Teens are the most creative age group' and incorporating them is the most scientifically proven way to get ahead in terms of innovation, according computational neuroscientist Paul King. Young adults weren't part of the corporate picture when it comes to recruitment, until recently. As more adequate search sources were in grasp, more and more young entrepreneurs have started emerging from the help of newfound technology. So came Mark Zuckerberg, who at the age of 19,

was successfully able to cofound the app Facebook, now worth over \$ 60 million, which helped pave the way for other young inventors to follow suit including Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy (Snapchat app). Both apps rank the top 10 in the social media category. What sparked these young minds? Could young age truly be a factor to success?

Neurologically speaking, the teenage brain itself is a wonder. It's number one superpower being its plasticity, a unique entity characterized by changeability and easiness to adapt to new and difficult environments. Imagination being a forgotten factor in adults is prime to teenagers, as their ability to imagine and be able to think freely is a given in exchange for naiveness. Teens working hand-in-hand with mature adults give businesses the ability to stem new ideas from teens, then be conducted into real world action by trained adults. They go hand-in-hand, not to mention.

According to Forbes, soft skills such as dedication, flexibility and critical thinking are what's on

the watchlist for employers this decade. Unfortunately for teens, this is their kryptonite. Soft skills are learnt through practice, says Harvard MBA professor Harold Brierly. By recruiting a younger workforce, not only you are reincorporating these skills, but preparing them to excel and reinforce these skills in later years, giving them the chance to pursue higher roles in the job force as they've met the standard.

Despite the major known benefits, employers in Kuwait are faced with a practical constraint with regard to child labor laws as the legal age for work in Kuwait is 15 as per Section 5, Article 20 of the Kuwait's Labor Law for private sector. Yet, when we look at the number of places to work as a teen, they're as rare as white peacocks! Notwithstanding, youth employment is crucial as much as it is beneficial to building a better equipped generation of workers and a more flourishing work environment for any company as many of these young entrepreneurs have taught us. As the dictum goes, age is truly just a number.

Three dead in traffic accidents around Kuwait

KUWAIT: Two people died in an accident reported on Third Ring Road on Sunday. Firemen and paramedics rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call reporting that an SUV caught fire after being involved in the accident. The victim, a man and a woman, were pronounced dead on the scene and their bodies were taken to the coroner, while an investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident, Kuwait Fire Force said in a statement. Meanwhile, an SUV driver died in a head-on collision with a garbage truck on Road 500 near Wafra, KFF said. An investigation was opened into the incident. In the meantime, firemen battled a blaze reported in a building in Fahaheel, KFF



reported. The fire started in the basement of the 10-storey building which was converted into a storage area, KFF said, adding that firemen evacuated

the building before putting the fire out. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire, KFF said.



In my view

The Manhattanhenge effect

By Ali Al-Hamadani

local@kuwaittimes.com

For four days a year, the sunset in New York aligns directly with the city's grid. This event creates what is called the Manhattanhenge effect. The American Museum of Natural History announces the dates and locations every year where the sun will get closest to the street stretching its rays over the buildings so people can see the effect.

The effect would not be perceivable without the grids of Manhattan's map. The city presented in 1811 the Commissioners' Plan which was the city's vision for the future, New York was becoming the world's largest city so instead of random city planning seen mostly south of Houston Street, the north of Manhattan became a perfect grid.

So, I went to 14th street to see Manhattanhenge. People were on the streets trying to take photos of the effect - as I did too. The magnificence of the scenery and colors reminded me of Jose Arcadio Buendia's efforts in designing Macondo, the city, in One Hundred Years of Solitude. Wanting to distribute Macondo's resources equally, he intentionally paved the streets and placed the houses according to the river and the sun's movement.

As most Arab nations are developing their economies to fit the modern world, governments are building advanced cities with innovative designs and sustainable projects. Kuwait's Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City project shows that Kuwait is capable of being a place that utilizes the environment to fit the human need as, in building the project, they used the natural water currents and original water erosion of the land to complete the project. Can Kuwait's vision use the concept of Manhattanhenge to continue and increase the number of cities built with nature in mind?



Local

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 353/3561
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.com



Ministry staff allowed to exchange leave days for cash

KUWAIT: Social Affairs Ministry will complete its review of all applications by staff who want to convert their unused annual leave days into cash, in order to approve the ones that meet rules and conditions put forth by the council of ministers. The number of applicants until the deadline of mid-June reached 3,500, sources said, adding that the ministry is expected to approve more than 2,500. When the review is completed, reports will be submitted to take the necessary action towards payment, the sources added.



Gold price rises to \$1,766 per ounce

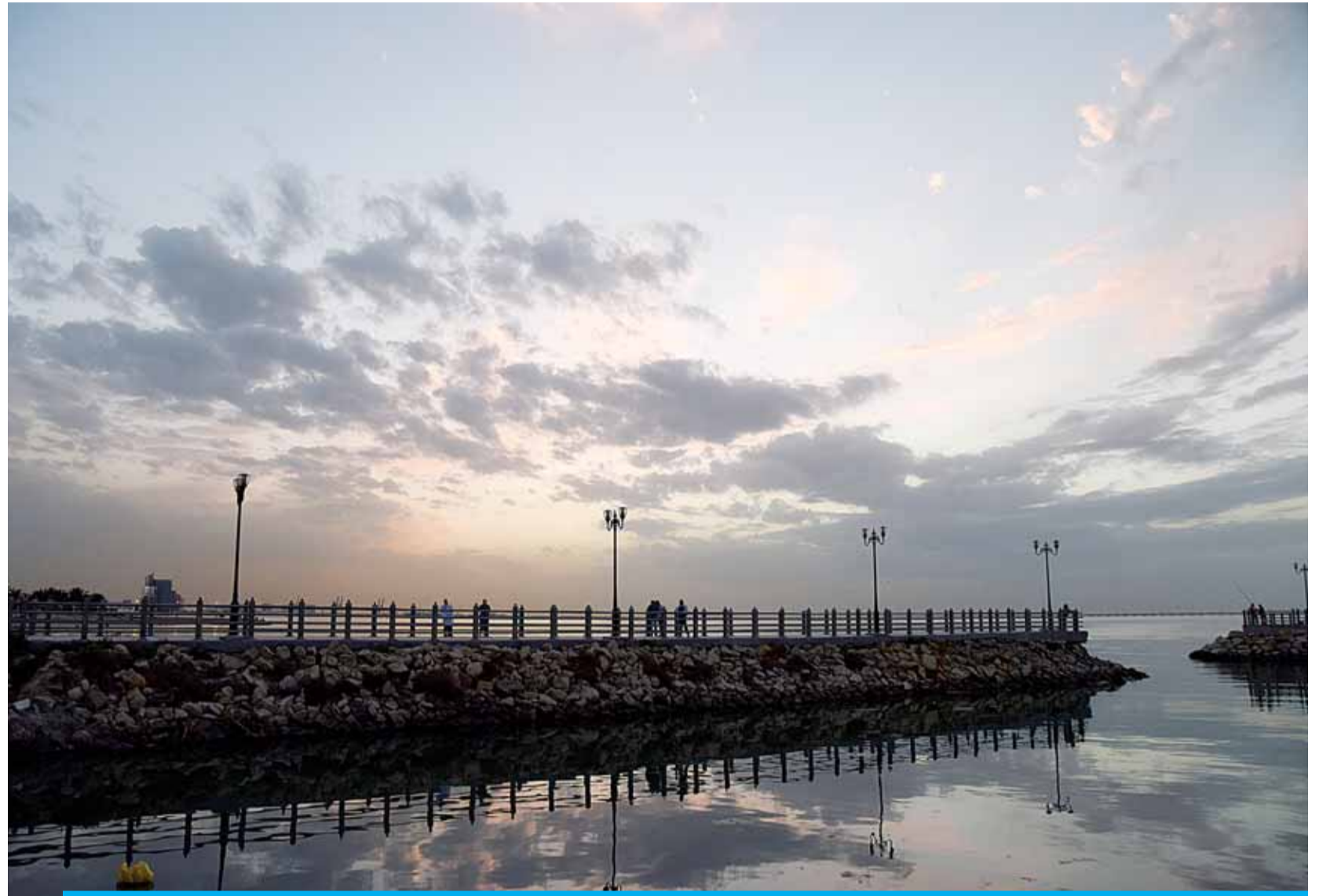
KUWAIT: Gold held its gains for the second week, as its prices reached \$1,766 per ounce during last week's trading, after its decline that reached \$1,675 per ounce. In a report, Kuwait Sabayik Company stated to the press that the yellow metal increased reaching a weekly high level due to many factors that contributed to its rise. The report also added that the Head of the Strategic Planning, Adel Al-Fadhli said the price of gold improved after the American Federal Reserve Board raised its interest rate by 75 basis points, which reflects on the US dollar exchange rate and its decrease to its lowest level in 20 years. Fadhli explained that the increase in gold prices pulled in traders and speculators in global stock exchange, and their decision in investing in safe havens. As for other metals, silver rose to \$20.26 per ounce, platinum at \$895 per ounce and palladium at \$2,122 per ounce. —KUNA

Malaysian official touts Kuwait as important oil partner

KUALA LUMPUR: Secretary-General of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry Amran Mohammad said Friday Kuwait is an important partner in the sector of oil explorations, urging closer investment relations between both countries. The Malaysian official made the remark while welcoming outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Hamad Burahma, pointing out bilateral oil partnership through Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) and Malaysia's electricity-generation and water company working in Kuwait.

He highly commended the great efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti ambassador during his tenure in serving, promoting and strengthening relations between Malaysia and Kuwait at both diplomatic and investment levels. The Malaysian official underlined that his country and Kuwait have been long-standing friends. Arab ambassadors in Malaysia had organized a farewell ceremony for the outgoing Kuwaiti ambassador on the occasion of the end of his tenure in Malaysia. —KUNA

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: This July 27, 2022 photo shows the beach on a cloudy day in Kuwait. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Kuwait's Haitham Al-Ghais starts as new OPEC chief on Monday

Ghais thanks Kuwait's leadership for their trust

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Haitham Al-Ghais will start on Monday his new role as Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), following the late outgoing chief, the Nigerian Mohammad Barkindo. Speaking to the press on Sunday, Ghais thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the trust given as Kuwait's nominee for the position.

Ghais — who was elected by acclamation as OPEC chief for a three-year term, which will start Monday — is considered the first Kuwaiti to hold the position. He pointed out that selecting him unanimously by the 13 member countries of OPEC reflects Kuwait's position among OPEC members, in addition to the continuous efforts made by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Council Affairs Dr Muhammad Al-Fares.

Kuwait's governor

Furthermore, Ghais assumed the position of Governor of Kuwait with OPEC (2017-2021) and chaired the joint technical committee between the organization and countries outside it, which is responsible for monitoring production and studying the conditions of oil markets according to the production reduction agreement signed between the countries contributing to the (OPEC+) agreement. After he stepped down as Kuwait's OPEC governor in June 2021 and was appointed as Deputy Director of International Marketing at the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Moreover, he headed the OPEC Internal Audit

Committee, and he has various contributions within the organization, as well as at the level of the organization's board of governors, various committees, special works and cooperation with countries outside OPEC. Also, prior to his participation and contributions in OPEC, he was included in the global marketing sector of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation in various sales departments and headed the regional offices of the Corporation in Beijing and London, and was the Director of the Research Department of the Petroleum Corporation and Deputy Managing Director of Global Marketing. Additionally, Ghais has extensive experience



OPEC+ to meet Wednesday, discuss production rate

extending over nearly 30 years in the field of global oil markets and the oil industry, and has a wide presence and participation in many international oil conferences and forums.

Production rate

Meanwhile, OPEC+ on Sunday announced its 43rd Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee



Secretary-General of OPEC Haitham Al-Ghais.

(JMMC) and the 31st Ministerial meeting including non-OPEC members will be held on Wednesday to study its production rate.

Oil Production levels were at 648 bp/day for the months of July and August of last year, when the conference took place, where the topic was focused on stabilizing the market for steady production. The concern of the OPEC+'s viable meeting on Aug 3rd is of great significance as to the increase in demands amid drastic reversions due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The meeting will take place on August 3, 2022 at 00:13 (CEST) via video-conference, to be followed on the same day by OPEC+'s meeting at 13:30 (CEST) also via the online video media provided. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Security Directorate in coordination and cooperation with residency affairs detectives, Ministry of Electricity and Water and Kuwait Municipality carried out a campaign on mobile groceries and fast-food trucks, which resulted in arresting 106 violators while citations were issued as legal action is taken.



US Speaker Pelosi confirms Asia-Pacific tour, silent on Taiwan

Senegal elects parliament in test for presidential vote

Page 6

Page 7



KHARKIV: Picture taken and released by Ukrainian Emergency Service on July 31, 2022 shows a firefighter pushing out a fire in a building after shelling in Kharkiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.— AFP

Drone attack hits Crimea navy HQ: Russia

Strikes pound northeastern regions of Kharkiv and Sumy

KYIV, Ukraine: Russia said an attack from a drone Sunday wounded six personnel at the headquarters of its Black Sea fleet in annexed Crimea, as authorities in Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv reported it had suffered its "strongest" shelling of the war. AFP journalists witnessed an intense bombardment of the eastern town of Bakhmut after President Volodymyr Zelensky called in a late night address for civilians to leave the front line Donetsk region bearing the brunt of the Kremlin's offensive. Russian authorities in the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea — seized by Moscow from Ukraine in 2014 — said a small explosive device from a commercial drone likely launched nearby hit the navy command in the city of Sevastopol.

The local mayor blamed "Ukrainian nationalists" for the attack that forced the cancellation in the city of festivities marking Russia's annual holiday celebrating the navy. But a spokesman for Ukraine's Odessa region military administration denied Kyiv — whose nearest positions are some 200 kilometres (125 miles) away — was responsible and called the incident "a sheer provocation". "Our liberation of Crimea from the occupiers will be carried out in another way and much more effectively," spokesman Sergiy Bratchuk wrote on Telegram. Authorities in Ukraine's southern

city of Mykolaiv said Sunday that widespread Russian bombardments overnight had left at least two civilians dead, as Moscow continued to pummel the sprawling front line.

"Mykolaiv was subjected to mass shelling today. Probably the strongest so far," the city's mayor Oleksandr Senkevych wrote on Telegram. "Powerful explosions were heard after one in the morning and around five in the morning." Mykolaiv — which has been attacked frequently — is the closest Ukrainian city to the southern front where Kyiv's forces are looking to launch a major counter-offensive to recapture territory lost after Russia's February invasion.

Zelensky urges Donetsk evacuation

Strikes also pounded the northeastern regions of Kharkiv and Sumy, near the front line with the Russian forces. "Today a whole succession of explosions took place... a few buildings are reportedly damaged," Igor Terekhov the mayor of Ukraine's second city Kharkiv said. Sumy regional chief Dmytro Zhyvitsky said that some 50 strikes on Saturday evening had left one person dead and two wounded. The governor of the Donetsk region, where Moscow is focusing the brunt of its attacks, said three civilians were killed and eight wounded in shelling Saturday.

AFP journalists on Sunday saw one wounded man collected by an ambulance after a ferocious bombardment of the town of Bakhmut. In an overnight address Zelensky warned that thousands of people, including children, were still in the battleground areas of the Donetsk region. "There's already a governmental decision about obligatory evacuation from Donetsk," Zelensky said, underscoring authorities' calls to leave the besieged region in recent weeks. "Leave, we will help," Zelensky said. "At this stage of the war, terror is the main weapon of Russia."

Official Ukrainian estimates put the number of civilians still living in the unoccupied area of Donetsk at between 200,000 and 220,000. A mandatory evacuation notice posted Saturday evening said the coming winter made it a matter of urgency, particularly for the more than 50,000 children still in the region.

"They need to be evacuated, you cannot put them in mortal danger in the winter without heating, light, without the ability to keep them warm," Kyiv's Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories said in a statement. Zelensky, in his address, also once more pressed the international community, especially the United States, to have Russia officially declared a "state sponsor of terrorism".

Deadly jail strike

The call came a day after a jail holding Ukrainian prisoners of war in Kremlin-controlled Olenivka was bombed, leaving scores dead, with Kyiv and Moscow trading blame. Russia's defence ministry said Sunday it had invited the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations to visit the site "in the interests of an objective investigation".

There was no confirmation from the two international bodies. The ICRC said Saturday that a request to send a team to the site had not been granted, and Ukraine said it was encouraging international experts to go to Olenivka.

Russia military accused Kyiv of striking the Olenivka prison with US-supplied long-range missiles in an "egregious provocation" designed to stop soldiers from surrendering. It said Saturday that the dead included Ukrainian forces who had surrendered after weeks of fighting off Russia's brutal bombardment of the sprawling Azovstal steelworks in the port city of Mariupol. The defence ministry said 50 Ukrainian prisoners were killed and 73 were taken to hospital with serious injuries. Ukraine accuses Russia of responsibility, with Zelensky accusing the Moscow of the "deliberate mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war". —AFP

Biden again tests positive for COVID

WASHINGTON, United States: Joe Biden has tested positive for COVID-19 for a second time and is returning to isolation, his White House doctor said Saturday, attributing the result to "rebound" positivity from treatment the US president received.

Biden "tested positive late Saturday morning, by antigen testing," following four consecutive days of negative tests, and "will reinstate strict isolation procedures," presidential physician Kevin O'Connor wrote in a memorandum. "This in fact represents 'rebound' positivity," O'Connor said, referring to a situation in which patients treated with the drug Paxlovid-as Biden was-clear the virus but test positive after completing their course.

"The president has experienced no re-emergence of symptoms and continues to feel quite well. This being the case, there is no reason to reinstate treatment at this time," he added. In a tweet, Biden

seemed to seek to minimize the situation.

"Folks, today I tested positive for COVID again. This happens with a small minority of folks," he wrote. "I've got no symptoms but I am going to isolate for the safety of everyone around me. I'm still at work, and will be back on the road soon." Biden canceled planned trips to Delaware and Michigan, the White House said.

'Specifically conscientious'

The second positive test came just three days after O'Connor said Biden had tested negative and no longer needed to isolate, which he had been doing since receiving a first positive result on July 21. Biden has for the most part been conspicuously careful about observing COVID protocols—in contrast to his predecessor Donald Trump, who sometimes mocked those who wore masks.

"The President continues to be very specifically conscientious to protect any of the Executive Residence, White House, Secret Service and other staff whose duties require any (albeit socially distanced) proximity to him," O'Connor said. As the oldest US president in history—he will turn 80 in November—Biden's health receives constant attention. On Wednesday, he had ended his earlier five-day COVID isolation, appearing energetic as he told cheering aides that his quick recovery should inspire Americans to take advantage of free vaccines and treatments. He contrasted his seemingly quick recovery to Trump's more serious bout with the disease in October 2020, before vaccines were available.

"When my predecessor got COVID, he had to get helicoptered to Walter Reed Medical Center," Biden said. "He was severely ill. Thankfully, he recovered. When I got Covid, I worked from upstairs of the White House." He added that being fully vaccinated, taking preventative tests, then using the Paxlovid therapeutic prevents deaths and is available at no cost. "You don't need to be president to get these tools," he said. O'Connor had warned after clearing Biden from his first round of COVID that the president would wear a mask for 10 days when around others and continue to test regularly in case of a "rebound." O'Connor says Biden is generally in good health. He has been fully vaccinated and received two booster shots against the coronavirus. — AFP



JACKSON, United States: A stranded family is rescued from the flood waters of the North Fork of the Kentucky River in Jackson, Kentucky.— AFP

Kentucky flooding death toll up 25

WASHINGTON: Devastating flooding in Kentucky has killed 25 people and the toll is expected to rise, the southern US state's governor said Saturday, as rescuers and residents continued a harrowing search for survivors. Torrential rain earlier this week caused unprecedented flash flooding in 13 counties in eastern Kentucky. Many roads and bridges in that mountainous region—an area high in poverty due to the declining coal industry—have been damaged or destroyed. With cell phone service seriously disrupted, finding survivors has been difficult.

"I'm worried we are going to be finding bodies for weeks to come. Keep praying," Governor Andy Beshear said in a midday news briefing, shortly after tweeting that the death toll had risen to 25 from 16 a day earlier. The Democratic governor confirmed that "we are still in the search and rescue phase," saying, "We will get through this together." Beshear said an earlier report that six children were among the dead was inaccurate; two of them had turned out to be adults. The four children, US media reported, were lost in a heart-rending drama. Members of a family, clinging to a tree after a fast-rising stream had engulfed their mobile home, saw their children torn from their

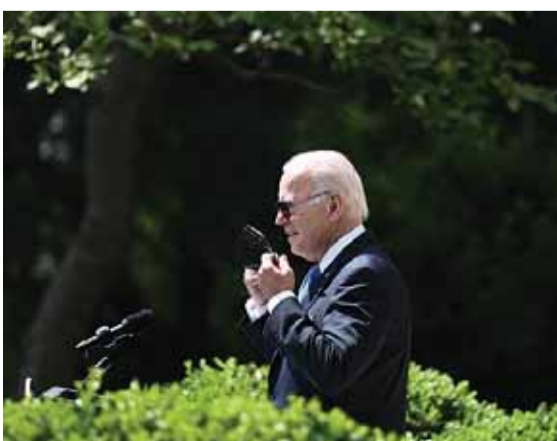
grip, one after another, by powerfully surging waters.

Beshear said national guard units from Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia had made more than 650 air rescues since the flooding began Wednesday evening, while state police and other state personnel had registered some 750 water rescues. He said the search was "tremendously stressful and difficult," with mudslides and flooded roads blocking travel. Seventeen-year-old Chloe Adams was home alone in Whitesburg when she awoke to the sound of water rushing into her grandfather's house, where she lives.

"There was water as far as I could see," she told CNN. "I had a panic attack." Realizing she needed to swim to safety, she put her dog, Sandy, in a plastic tub. They made it only to the roof of a nearby shed, barely above the roaring waters. She and Sandy sat there, shivering, for five hours until a cousin arrived in a kayak to rescue them.

Some areas in eastern Kentucky had reported receiving more than eight inches (20 centimeters) of rain in a 24-hour period. In Whitesburg, the water level of the North Fork of the Kentucky River rose to a staggering 20 feet within hours, well above its previous record of 14.7 feet.

The flooding turned many roads into rivers, and some houses in low-lying areas were almost completely submerged, with just their rooftops visible. Scenes on social media showed houses ripped from their moorings and deposited amid masses of debris along riverbanks or even atop a bridge.—AFP



WASHINGTON: File photo shows US President Joe Biden arrives to deliver remarks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. Biden has tested positive for COVID-19 for a second time and is returning to isolation.— AFP

International

Senegal elects parliament in test for presidential vote

National election commission deploys 22,000 observers nationwide

DAKAR: Senegal on Sunday voted in parliamentary elections the opposition hopes will force a coalition with President Macky Sall and curb any ambitions he may hold for a third term. Sixty-year-old Sall, who was elected in 2012 for seven years then re-elected in 2019 for another five, has been accused of wanting to break the two-term limit and run again in 2024.

He has remained vague on the subject, but any defeat of his supporters in the vote could upset such plans. Polling stations opened at 0800 GMT and close at 1800 GMT. By late morning, turnout appeared relatively low, according to AFP corre-

Lamine Sylva, a 60-year-old artist.

"It's like football—there is a winner and a loser." Yahya Sall, a retired soldier, said he hoped the new parliament "will have a strong opposition presence... to advance democracy". The national election commission has deployed 22,000 observers nationwide.

The single-round ballot will decide the 165 seats of the single-chamber parliament—currently controlled by the president's supporters—for the next five years. Lawmakers are elected according to a system that combines proportional representation, with national lists for 53 lawmakers, and majority voting in the country's departments for 97 others.

The diaspora elects the remaining 15 members of parliament. This year, eight coalitions are in the running, including Yewwi Askan Wi (meaning "Liberate the People" in Wolof), the main opposition coalition.

Its highest-profile member, Ousmane Sonko, came third in the 2019 presidential election. But he and other members of the coalition have been banned from running in Sunday's elections on technical grounds.

The vote is taking place against a backdrop of rising prices, in part because of the war in Ukraine. The opposition has questioned the priorities of the government, which has highlighted its subsidies for oil products and food as well as infrastructure building.

"Is the priority of the Senegalese to build beautiful stadiums, new highways while people are not eating to satiate their hunger?" Sonko said after casting his ballot in Ziguinchor. Raising the alarm over reports of low turnout, he called on voters to vote in numbers "to balance the powers".

Opposition collaboration

Ahead of the poll, Yewwi Askan Wi has joined forces with Wallu Senegal (which means "Save

parliamentary deputies and upper house senators mostly from leftist and ecologist parties. They were joined by some from the rightwing Republicans (LR) and President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party.

They called on the West "to guarantee the protection of Kurdish activists and associations present on European soil". The signatories urged France to refer the matter to the UN Security Council "to declare a no-fly zone in northern Syria and place the Syrian Kurds under international protection".

They also called for the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) to "be granted international recognition". Erdogan is threatening to launch a new military offensive against Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Syria, where he wants to establish a buffer zone 30 kilometres (20 miles) deep.

Turkey has launched a string of offensives in Syria in the past six years, most recently in 2019 when it conducted a broad air and ground assault against Kurdish militias after former US president Donald Trump withdrew American troops. — AFP

faced systematic and blatant political obstruction from day one. Authorities were unable to unload around 3,000 tons of wheat and corn stuck in the silos because doing so might accelerate their collapse, this week's statement said.

The environment and health ministries advised the public to evacuate the port area and use masks in the vicinity of the silos in case they collapsed. — AFP

The client shoved an employee then ransacked the bakery, forcing the army to intervene, it added. "What is happening is an insult... and it is even more difficult than the petrol shortage" that gripped Lebanon last year, Mehdi said.

'Incitement'

Lebanon imports 80 percent of its wheat from war-torn Ukraine, according to industry figures. But the country's capacity to store wheat took a heavy blow when a deadly blast at Beirut port in August 2020 severely damaged the country's main grain silos. The government and bakeries have traded blame for the bread shortage. Bakeries accuse cash-strapped authorities of failing to provide enough subsidized flour.

The economy ministry denies the claim and has accused bakeries of hoarding subsidized flour to use in unsubsidized products such as sweets. Authorities also claim that the presence in Lebanon of more than one million refugees from war-torn Syria is partly to blame for Lebanon's economic collapse.

Some Lebanese have even gone as far as accusing Syrian refugees of buying subsidized bread to sell on the black market, fuelling resentment against the refugees and demands for them to go home.

There have been reports of some bakeries imposing separate queues for Lebanese and Syrians.

This has prompted the UN refugee agency to voice its concern. "Lebanon is witnessing an increase in tensions and incitement between different communities, leading to localized violence in the streets, including against refugees," the UNHCR warned on Friday. — AFP



DAKAR, Senegal: A Senegalese voter casts his ballot in Dakar on July 31, 2022 during the July 2022 legislative elections in Senegal. — AFP

Senegal" in Wolof), led by former president Abdoulaye Wade. The two groups have agreed to work together to obtain a parliamentary majority and "force governmental cohabitation".

They also want to force Sall to give up any hope of running in 2024. In local elections in March, the opposition won in major cities, including the capital Dakar, Ziguinchor in the south and Thies in the west.

Sonko and other members of the Yewwi Askan Wi coalition were forbidden from running in

Sunday's elections, after the authorities in early June tossed out its national list of candidates on technical grounds.

One of the names had been accidentally put down both as a first-choice candidate and as an alternate candidate, thus invalidating the entire list. That sparked violent demonstrations that left at least three people dead. On June 29, the opposition finally agreed to take part in the elections, easing tensions. — AFP

S Africa's ANC to keep anti-graft rule: President

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa: South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday that his African National Congress party remains committed to anti-graft rules under which members charged with corruption or other serious offences must quit. Some within the party that has been plagued by corruption allegations in recent years wanted the so-called "step-aside" rule scrapped, arguing it has been used by party factions to target their political opponents.

"The overwhelming view of the policy conference is for the retention of the step-aside provisions to enhance the integrity of the movement and its leadership," Ramaphosa told delegates, wrapping up three days of talks in Johannesburg to map out the party's direction. The conference noted strong concerns about the perceived lack of consistency in the policy's implementation, he said. These "must receive urgent attention so that the application of the guidelines is impartial, is fair and is consistent", he added.

The talks were a prelude to the ANC national elective conference in December, when the party is



JOHANNESBURG: Disgruntled African National Congress (ANC) members demonstrate together with former ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus (2nd R) on July 31, 2022. — AFP

to hold internal polls to pick a candidate for the next presidential election. Ramaphosa is expected to seek a second five-year term, but could face a challenge from a faction of the party that is loyal to former president Jacob Zuma, who has been accused of corruption.

Ramaphosa himself is also mired in a scandal following a break-in at his game and cattle farm. A state corruption inquiry report published earlier this year implicated more than 200 ANC members, including some senior officials.

Under the step-aside rule, ANC members charged with serious crimes have 30 days to leave their post or face suspension. — AFP

French MPs slam Erdogan's 'policy of war' against Kurds

PARIS: A hundred French parliamentarians, mainly from the political left, on Saturday denounced Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's "policy of war" against Kurds in northern Syria. While the rest of the world is focussed on Ukraine, as Russia's war crimes multiply there, Erdogan is "planning to launch an umpteenth bloody offensive against the Kurds in northern Syria," the parliamentarians said in a statement published by the JDD title.

The Turkish president "is taking advantage" of Turkey's pivotal status, as a NATO member on good terms with both Moscow and Kyiv, "to obtain a blank cheque from the Atlantic Alliance in order to intensify his attacks in northern Syria", according to the statement initiated by Communist senator Laurence Cohen.

"Western countries must no longer look the other way", said the elected representatives,

Beirut's grain silos collapse...

Continued from Page 1

The Lebanese investigation into the blast has

Lebanese face long queues...

Continued from Page 1

"Last week I went without bread for three days because I cannot afford to pay 30,000," said Mansour, 48.

For Mansour and most Lebanese, buying bread means standing for hours in long queues outside bakeries and sometimes, when their turn comes, the bakeries have run out of bread.

"Today I queued for three hours, yesterday two-and-a-half. What next?" Mansour said on Friday outside a Beirut bakery. "I have to feed my family. What else can I do?" asked Mansour, who earns the equivalent of \$50 a month working in a pastry shop.

Most bakeries limit the sale of bread to one or two bags per customer, and each bag contains six flatbreads. Subsidized bread is often bought in large quantities and sold again on the black market by unscrupulous dealers. "The queues have become worse over the past two weeks," said bakery owner Mohammed Mehdi. "We are facing huge shortages."

The 49-year-old said the bakery business had become like the "Wild West". "Some customers come armed with guns and knives," he complained. Lebanese media carry frequent reports of fights breaking out at bakeries, and even shots fired by customers demanding more bread.

In Taalbaya, in eastern Lebanon, a customer stormed a bakery on Tuesday furious he could not buy more bread, one report said.

Sadr followers continue sit-in...

Continued from Page 1

The immediate trigger for the occupation was the decision by a rival Shiite bloc, which is pro-Iran, to pick former cabinet minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani for the prime minister's post. On Sunday morning, the demonstrators marked the Muslim month of Muharram, a traditional celebration, with religious chants and collective meals.

"We were hoping for the best but we got the worst. The politicians currently in parliament have brought us nothing," said one of the protesters, Abdelwahab Al-Jaafari, 45, a day laborer with nine children. Volunteers distributed soup, hard-boiled eggs, bread and water to the protesters.

Former Philippine president Fidel...

Continued from Page 1

Lawmakers, diplomats, ex-politicians and the new administration posted tributes to Ramos on social media. "I extend my deepest condolences to the family of former President Fidel Valdez Ramos who passed away today having lived a full life as a military officer and public servant," said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of the late dictator, who took office last month.

"The legacy of his presidency will always be cherished and will be forever enshrined in the hearts of our grateful nation."

The European Union delegation in the Philippines expressed its condolences, describing Ramos as a "dedicated statesman" and "pillar of democracy". A graduate of the prestigious West Point military academy in the United States, Ramos had a lengthy career

in the armed forces, including combat against communist guerrillas, and was deployed in the Korean War as part of the Philippine contingent.

He was later commander of the paramilitary Philippine Constabulary—the key institution that enforced the brutal repression of dissent after Marcos declared martial law in 1972. Ramos's moment of truth came in February 1986, when popular outrage was hitting its peak over the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino and massive regime cheating in a snap election.

Sensing Marcos's weakness, a group of young military officers and their leader, defense secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, plotted to seize power but were found out. Facing arrest, Enrile and his allies holed up in the military headquarters in Manila and appealed to the public to protect them from an imminent government attack. Ramos joined their rebellion, withdrawing his support from Marcos and inspiring many others to rise up as well.

Soon, millions were massing in the streets for the peaceful "People Power" revolt that sent the dictator into exile and ushered in Corazon Aquino as president. — AFP

International

US Speaker Nancy Pelosi confirms Asia-Pacific tour, silent on Taiwan

Trip will focus on mutual security, economic partnership, democratic governance

WASHINGTON: US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi will lead a congressional delegation to the Asia-Pacific region, her office confirmed on Sunday, with stops in Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan. The statement made no mention of whether the six-member delegation would visit Taiwan, a flashpoint in conversations between China and the United States in the run-up to the trip. "The trip will focus on mutual security, economic partnership and democratic governance in the Indo-Pacific region," Pelosi's office said in a statement.

The all-Democrat delegation includes Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Gregory Meeks and members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Armed Services Committee.

"Our delegation will hold high-level meetings to discuss how we can further advance our shared interests and values, including peace and security, economic growth and trade, the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, human rights and democratic governance," said Pelosi in the statement. Singapore's foreign ministry confirmed Pelosi's delegation would visit the city-state August 1-2, with meetings scheduled with President Halimah Yacob and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.



US maintains a policy of 'strategic ambiguity'

Tensions over Taiwan

For weeks, US-China tensions had heightened over reports that Pelosi may visit the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China sees as part of its territory to be reunited by force if necessary. On Thursday, President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping held a tense phone call.

The two leaders agreed to schedule their first in-person summit but disagreements over Taiwan clouded the conversation, with Xi making an oblique warning to the United States not to "play with fire" over the island.

The United States maintains a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would intervene militarily were China to invade Taiwan, and while it recognises Beijing's claim to the island, it also backs the democratic Taiwanese government.

In the latest warning from Beijing, Chinese air force spokesman Shen Jinke on Sunday said defending China's territory was the military's "sacred mission". "The air force has firm determination, full confidence and sufficient capabilities to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Shen said, according to the state-run People's Daily.

Over the last two years, China has ramped up flights by fighter jets, bombers and other aircraft into Taiwan's air defence identification zone as a way to signal displeasure and keep Taipei's own military



WASHINGTON: File photo shows US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California, holding her weekly press conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. —AFP

stretched. "The air force's multi-type fighter jets fly around the motherland's Taiwan, practicing to enhance

its ability to maintain national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Shen said. —AFP

Sri Lanka president seeks unity govt to save economy

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's new president Ranil Wickremesinghe has formally invited MPs to join an all-party unity government to revive the bankrupt economy by undertaking painful reforms, his office said Sunday. Wickremesinghe took office earlier this month after public anger over the island nation's worst economic crisis forced his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and quit.

In a meeting Saturday with the influential monks of the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, one of Buddhism's most sacred shrines, Wickremesinghe outlined his plans. "As the president, I wish to start a new journey," Wickremesinghe was quoted as telling the monks in his first meeting with the powerful Buddhist clergy since taking office.

"I would like to get all the parties together and go on that journey as well as to form an all-party government." He has written to all lawmakers asking them to join a unity government. A former opposition MP, Wickremesinghe, 73, took up the premiership for the sixth time in May after Rajapaksa's elder brother Mahinda resigned and there were no other takers for the job.

Wickremesinghe went onto become the president after Gotabaya escaped on July 9 when tens of thousands of protesters angry at the economic crisis stormed the presidential palace. He fled to Singapore



COLOMBO: Anti-government demonstrators shout slogans during a protest in front of the Fort Railway Station in Colombo. —AFP

from where he resigned five days later and Wickremesinghe became interim president and later won a vote in parliament confirming his ascension.

Sri Lanka's 22 million people have endured months of lengthy blackouts, record inflation and shortages of food, fuel and medicines. Since late last year, the country has run out of foreign exchange to finance even the most essential imports. In April, Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt and opened bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Wickremesinghe told monks that the economy

would decline further this year with a contraction of 7.0 percent, but expected a recovery next year. "I am working to re-stabilise this economy and build the economy in such a way that the country can be developed by 2023, 2024.

"It is a difficult task. But if you don't do it now, it will be more difficult. We should think about whether we should try to cure the patient by giving medicine or let the patient die without giving medicine," he added. He said inflation currently running at 60.8 percent could go up further. —AFP

Japanese detained in Myanmar

YANGON: A Japanese man has been detained in Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon, an official at Japan's embassy confirmed Sunday, the latest foreigner ensnared in the junta-ruled nation. A military coup last year sparked rolling protests and a deadly response from the junta, with more than 2,000 people killed and at least 14,000 arrested, according to a local monitoring group.

On Saturday, Japanese and local media said filmmaker Toru Kubota, 26, was detained near an anti-government rally along with two Myanmar citizens. "I can confirm a Japanese national was detained yesterday in Yangon," an official at the Japanese embassy told AFP Sunday, requesting anonymity.

The embassy is "in contact with the authorities and taking measures to secure their release". The Japanese official, who did not confirm the identity of the detained individual, said they had no information on whether he was arrested during a protest.

A junta spokesperson was not available for comment. A small crowd rallied outside Japan's foreign ministry in Tokyo on Sunday, holding placards of Kubota. Several foreigners have been arrested in the military's crackdown on dissent since the putsch.

Last year Japanese filmmaker Yuki Kitazumi was detained by Myanmar authorities while covering the coup's aftermath. Under international pressure he was released and returned to Japan in May 2021. Kitazumi



TOKYO: A group of activists hold placards of Japanese citizen Toru Kubota, who is detained in Myanmar, during a rally in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo on July 31, 2022. —AFP

expressed shock over Kubota's detention, and said he hoped he would be released "soon".

"He is a documentary videographer and there is no reason for him to be arrested if he was gathering materials," he said. Myanmar's junta has clamped down on

press freedoms, arresting reporters and photographers, as well as revoking broadcasting licences.

As of March this year, 48 journalists remain in custody across the country, according to monitoring group Reporting ASEAN. —AFP

Congo-Brazzaville picks candidates in second-round polls

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo: Voters in the Republic of Congo were voting Sunday to choose 50 candidates in 25 constituencies in a second round of legislative elections, AFP journalists saw. Opposition groups in the country, which is also known as Congo-Brazzaville, had denounced the results of the first round as fraudulent.

The Congolese Labour Party (PCT) of President

Denis Sassou Nguesso won the first round of voting on July 10, taking 102 of the 151 seats in the national assembly. It still has 14 candidates in a run-off vote.

The PCT is followed by the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UPADS), the main opposition force, which has four deputies and four of its candidates are in the run-off. The Union of Humanist Democrats (UDH-Yuki) of the late opposition leader Guy-Brice Parfait Kolelas was able to get three candidates elected in the first round and seven others are competing this Sunday.

At the Alphonse Massamba-Debat primary school with 18 voting booths, the first voter was registered at 7:31 am (0631 GMT). "It's going well, calmly. I have asked my colleagues that the vote should take place calmly, transparently and with

vigilance," Brunelle Bodo, the head of one polling station, told AFP.

Voting is expected to take place between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm, according to the official programme. There were some signs of logistical challenges. By 7:45 am the three polling stations at the primary school in Moukondo, in the fourth district, had not yet opened.

No list had yet been posted at the polling station, where election officials and police were waiting for the arrival of its supervisor. Henri Bouka, head of the electoral commission, urged the candidates and their supporters to remain calm. "All forms of violence are excluded, verbally or by gesture," he said. The date for the release of the results has not yet been set. —AFP

Morocco's king hints of restoring ties with Algeria

RABAT: Morocco's King Mohammed VI used an address on Saturday to "once again" reiterate his openness to restoring ties with Algeria, which broke off diplomatic relations with Rabat last year. "We aspire to work with the Algerian presidency so that Morocco and Algeria can work hand in hand to establish normal relations between two brotherly peoples," Mohammed said during the traditional speech marking the anniversary of his accession to the throne.

"I stress once again that the borders that separate the Moroccan and Algerian brothers will never be barriers preventing their interaction and understanding." He urged Moroccans to "preserve the spirit of fraternity, solidarity and good neighbourliness towards our Algerian brothers".

Morocco and Algeria have long been at odds over the disputed territory of Western Sahara, where the Algiers-backed Polisario Front is seeking independence from Rabat's rule. Algeria broke off diplomatic relations with Morocco in August 2021, accusing Rabat of "hostile acts".

The decision was "completely unjustified," Rabat said. The disputed status of Western Sahara—a former Spanish colony considered a "non-autonomous territory" by the United Nations—has pitted Morocco against the Polisario Front since the 1970s.

Rabat, which controls nearly 80 percent of the territory, is pushing for autonomy under its sovereignty. The Polisario Front, however, wants a UN-sponsored referendum on self-determination. Morocco's sovereignty over the territory was backed by Washington in a 2020 deal that also saw Rabat normalise ties with Zionist entity.

Algeria, which supports the Palestinian cause in addition to the Front, has taken the opportunity to criticise Morocco's growing military cooperation with Israel, which it refers to as the "Zionist entity".

Referring to "allegations that Moroccans insult Algeria and Algerians", Mohammed said they were the work of "irresponsible individuals who are trying to sow discord". "This gossip about Moroccan-Algerian relations is totally senseless and frankly appalling," he added.

The king also used Saturday's speech to pledge reform of the family code in favour of women's rights, social protections and price controls at a time of rising inflation. He also pledged to redouble vaccination efforts to fight COVID-19. The reformist king, 58, has ruled Morocco since July 1999, when he succeeded his father, Hassan II. —AFP



Morocco's King Mohammed VI

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

Business

Kuwait needs clear strategic plan to limit climate change impacts: Expert

Develop green spaces in Kuwait, boost cultivation in more areas: Expert

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Global economies, particularly GCC economies must draw a strategic plan to weather the possible impacts of climate change on their economies, a Kuwaiti economist said, pointing out that such a clear strategy could help Kuwait economy cushion the current and future effects of climatic turbulences.



Nader Al-Obaid

Talking to Kuwait Times on the implications of climate change on global economies, economist Nader Al-Obaid also discussed in detail the possible impact of rising temperatures on the economic growth in many sectors of Kuwait.

Over the years, economic growth has been negatively impacted across the world by various factors: some of them caused by human actions such as wars, economic crises or political tensions while others triggered by natural causes such as climate change and soaring temperatures.

"In Kuwait, the agriculture sector is one sector which has been impacted by climate change and rising temperatures, especially when we talk about seasonal products," Al-Obaid said. "However, the impact of climate change on Kuwait's farm sector has been largely limited due to weak local agricultural production and a lack of proper government focus," he said.

"Kuwait needs a clear strategic plan to ward off the

impact of climate change and maintain a stable level of economic growth. Qatar has put in place a scientific mechanism that helps the country maintain certain temperature levels in their lands and increase its green spaces while we in Kuwait still suffer from a lack of green spaces that help in reducing the effect of soaring temperature levels," he said.

Al-Obaid said "Kuwait does not have a proactive plan to deal with the circumstance and maintain our economic growth. Therefore, we need a clear strategic plan that limits the impact of climate change on economy. Such a strategic plan will help the country expand its agricultural land, create more job opportunities and diversify its sources of income. Such an initiative will also help the creation of more productive areas in the country to boost livestock and bolster food security in addition to increasing biodiversity in urban areas," he pointed out.

Saudi Arabia is probably the worst affected country in the GCC as climate change has hugely impacted its agricultural output. The country has around 995,000 hectares of agricultural land and the kingdom has invested heavily in this land to develop agriculture products to ensure food security for the country and for exports. "Therefore, if the agriculture sector is affected by climate change, it will undoubtedly affect its economic growth. Remember, Saudi Arabia produces a number of top-end farm products such as prime quality dates," he pointed out.

"If we look at the Gulf countries, we could see that Qatar is the most efficient country in terms of agriculture and self-sufficiency because it has invested in modern technology and hydroponics to boost its agriculture production," he added.

Al-Obaid clarified, "In each country, economic growth depends on what its economy depends on. In Kuwait, climate change is affecting the construction and contracting sectors primarily due to the allocation of specific hours for workers in view of the excruciating heat that exceeds over 60 degree Celsius during summer season."



KUWAIT: A view of the downtown Kuwait from the top of Al-Hamra Towers. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

"High temperatures will also affect the worker productivity. According to several international studies, employee productivity decreases by 4 percent with every rise of temperature by 10 degree Celsius. As a result, handicraft and manufacturing industrial businesses are more affected compared to the electronic business sector. Therefore, online sector is the most thriving business during summer," he said. "The smartest thing

business owners could do is to maintain their employees' productivity during summer as it will increase the profits of the organization and boost the economic growth of the country. Studies indicated that the jobs that do not require the employees to move from one place to another or work from home system will yield more productivity. Unfortunately, this system has not been used effectively in Kuwait except during the pandemic," he said.



Saudi GDP climbs nearly 12% in 2nd quarter on oil gains

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's year-on-year economic growth hit nearly 12 percent for the second quarter, led by a surging oil sector, the government's statistics agency said Sunday.

The Middle East's largest economy has benefited from a spike in oil prices triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and has largely resisted appeals from Western countries to raise output in order to bring prices down. Growth in the second quarter was 11.8 percent compared to the same period last year, according to initial "flash" estimates published by the General Authority for Statistics. "This dynamic growth was mainly due to the increasing in oil activities by 23.1 percent," the agency said. Non-oil economic activities grew by 5.4 percent and government services grew by 2.2 percent compared to the second quarter of 2021, it said.

The Ukraine war and the resulting rise in crude prices has been a boon to oil-producing states like Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter whose gross domestic product is expected to grow by 7.6 percent in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund. As the war got underway, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates stressed their commitment to the OPEC+ oil alliance, which Riyadh and Moscow lead, underscoring Riyadh's and Abu Dhabi's increasing independence from long-standing ally Washington.

US President Joe Biden, who once vowed to make Saudi Arabia a "pariah" over human rights abuses, visited the kingdom earlier in July, drawing criticism from

human rights activists for greeting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with a fist bump.

Oil was on the agenda during Biden's meeting with Saudi leaders and during a subsequent summit of regional leaders, but the visit ended without any agreements to raise production.

The OPEC+ group is to meet on Wednesday. The main US contract, West Texas Intermediate crude, surged by more than five percent on Friday to rise back above \$100 per barrel. The International Monetary Fund, in its latest forecast, estimates that the kingdom's economy will grow 7.6 per cent in 2022 and 3.7 per cent in 2023 after expanding 3.2 per cent last year.

The World Bank estimates that the country's economy will grow 7 per cent this year while Jadwa Investment expects it to expand 7.7 per cent in 2022, driven by the oil price rally.

Brent, the benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, settled 2.10 per cent higher at \$103.97 a barrel at the close of markets on Friday. West Texas Intermediate, the gauge that tracks US crude, settled 2.28 per cent higher at \$98.62 per barrel.

Supply concerns continue to support prices amid expectations that Russian oil supply will edge lower in the months ahead because of its conflict in Ukraine. On the other hand, even with growing concerns about a potential global recession and rising inflation that have derailed the momentum of economic recovery, data points to oil demand holding up in the third quarter of this year at an average of 100.3 million barrels a day, up from 98.7 million bpd in the second quarter, according to MUFG Bank estimates.

The Japanese lender forecasts that Brent will average \$118.88 a barrel in 2022 and \$106.13 next year. It estimates WTI will end this year at an average of \$114.59 a barrel and \$102.25 in 2023. Business conditions in the kingdom's non-oil private sector also continued to improve on the back of higher output and new orders, the latest data showed.—AFP

Kingdom Holding invests \$283m in UK's Phoenix Group

LONDON: Kingdom Holding, the investment company controlled by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, invested 1.06 billion Saudi riyals (\$283 million) in UK-based insurer Phoenix Group, as it continues to boost its investments globally.

The move is part of Kingdom Holding's investment program that was announced on June 23, and the stake in Phoenix Group was recently increased to 3.79 per cent, the Saudi company said in a statement to the Tadawul stock exchange, where its shares are traded.

"This investment is a continuation of KHC's [Kingdom Holding Company] strategy to invest in blue-chip companies that are considered market leaders in their field," it said. Founded in 1782, Phoenix is the largest savings and pension company and one of the largest insurance companies in the UK. It serves more than 13 million customers in the UK and Europe. Kingdom Holding, with assets of more than 50bn riyals, has investments across 18 sectors, including e-commerce, insurance and asset management, as well as commodities. This month, the company said it invested more than 1bn riyals in M&G, one of the largest insurance and asset management companies in Europe.

M&G, established in 1848 in the UK, is one of the largest savings and asset management companies in Europe with more than \$370bn in assets under management. It serves more than five million customers



Kingdom Holding, which is controlled by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, is investing in blue-chip companies around the world. — AFP

across 28 markets. Kingdom Holding also has stakes in companies such as Citigroup, JD.com, Accor, Uber, Careem, Lyft and Twitter.

In Saudi Arabia, the Riyadh-based company owns Kingdom Hospitals and Kingdom Schools, Saudi petrochemicals company Tasnee, budget airline flynas and private aviation company NasJet.

It invested 12.8bn riyals between the second quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of this year in various sectors, the company said last month. This year, Kingdom Holding also completed an 8.29bn riyal deal to sell half of its stake in global hospitality company Four Seasons. The company retained a 23.75 per cent stake in the hotels and resorts operator after the deal. In May, the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund, bought a 16.87 per cent stake in Kingdom Holding for \$1.5 billion.—Agencies

World Bank refuses new funding for bankrupt Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: The World Bank said Friday it would not offer new funding to Sri Lanka unless the bankrupt island nation carried out "deep structural reforms" to stabilize its crashing economy. Sri Lanka has suffered an unprecedented downturn with its 22 million people enduring months of food and fuel shortages, rolling blackouts and rampant inflation.

The South Asian nation defaulted on its \$51-billion foreign debt in April and huge protests earlier this month forced then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign. The World Bank said it was concerned about the impact of the crisis on Sri Lanka's people but was not ready to give funds until the government had bedded down necessary reforms.

"Until an adequate macroeconomic policy framework is in place, the World Bank does not plan to offer new financing to Sri Lanka," the lender said in a statement. "This requires deep structural reforms that focus on economic stabilization, and also on addressing the

root structural causes that created this crisis." The World Bank said it had already diverted \$160 million from existing loans to finance urgently needed medicines, cooking gas and school meals.

Sri Lanka is currently in bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund but officials say the process could take months.

The island nation has run out of foreign exchange to finance even the most essential imports, and chronic shortages have inflamed public anger.

Motorists stay in long queues for days to get rationed petrol and government officials have been told to work from home to reduce commuting and save fuel. Inflation rose to 60.8 percent in July for a tenth consecutive monthly record, according to data from the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CPI) released Friday, while the Sri Lankan rupee has lost more than half its value against the US dollar this year.

The UN World Food Programme estimates five out of every six Sri Lankan families have been forced to buy lower-quality food, eat less or in some cases skip meals altogether. The crisis came to a head on July 9, when tens of thousands of protesters stormed Rajapaksa's residence, forcing the president to flee to Singapore and resign. His successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, has declared a state of emergency and vowed a tough line against "trouble-makers", with several activists who helped lead the mass demonstrations arrested this week. — AFP

Business



TAEZ, Yemen: A Yemeni beekeeper checks his beehives at a farm in Yemen's third city of Taz, on June 28, 2022. Experts consider Yemeni honey as one of the best in the world, including the prized Royal Sidr known for its therapeutic properties. —AFP



TAEZ, Yemen: A Yemeni vendor pours honey into a jar as a customer looks on, at his shop in Yemen's third city of Taz, on June 28, 2022. — AFP

Yemen's ancient honey production a victim of war, climate change

Conflict batters bee ecosystem, inflicts enormous losses on industry

TAEZ, Yemen: For Yemeni beekeeper Mohammed Saif, honey production used to be a lucrative business but years of war and climate change have taken the buzz out of the family hives. The business, handed down from father to son, "is slowly disappearing", Saif told AFP. "The bees are being hit by strange phenomena. Is it due to climate change or the effects of war? We really don't know."

Yemen, one of the world's most impoverished countries, has been gripped by a deadly conflict since 2014, pitting the Iran-backed Huthis against government forces supported by a Saudi-led military coalition.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in fighting or through illness and malnutrition over the past eight years, and the country's infrastructure has been devastated. But a fragile UN-brokered truce has held since April, bringing some respite to the country and its

war-weary population. In the southwestern region of Taz, Saif recently took stock of his hives in a rugged valley surrounded by mountains. Before the war, Saif said, the family managed 300 hives, now only 80 are left.

Experts consider Yemeni honey some of the best in the world, including the prized Royal Sidr known for its therapeutic properties. The United Nations says honey plays a "vital role" in Yemen's economy, with 100,000 households dependent on it for their livelihoods.

Bee ecosystems battered

But "enormous losses have been inflicted on the industry since the outbreak of the conflict", the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a report in June. "Armed conflict and climate change are threatening the continuity of a 3,000-year-old practice," the ICRC said.

"Successive waves of displacement to flee violence, the impact of weapon contamination on production areas, and the growing impact of climate change are pushing thousands of beekeepers into precarity, significantly reducing production," Saif knows it all too well. "Last year in our village a missile struck a beekeeper's hives. He lost everything," he said.

"The war has had a very bad impact on us. The fighters have targeted many zones where bees are found," he added. The ICRC's Bashir Omar said the conflict had limited the ability of beekeepers to freely roam the land whenever flowers were in bloom to collect the honey. Landmines and active front lines are among the challenges they face.

"To make matters worse, Yemen, like many conflict-affected countries, is disproportionately affected by climate change," the ICRC report noted.

"Temperature rises in recent years, combined with severe alterations caused to the environment, are disturbing the bees' ecosystem which is impacting the pollination process," it said. "With water tables falling and increased desertification, areas previously engaged in agricultural activities and beekeeping no longer sustain these livelihoods." The ICRC is providing financial support and training this year to beekeepers, after a similar initiative in 2021 that helped nearly 4,000 of them. Nabil al-Hakim, who sells Yemen's celebrated yellow nectar in Taz shops, also recalled the golden days before the conflict ravaged his country. "Before the war we could make a good living by selling honey... but honey has become rare and customers can no longer afford it," he said. "Before, I used to sell up to 25 five-liter jars a month. Now I can't even sell one." —AFP

China's July factory activity weakens on soft demand

BEIJING: China's manufacturing activity logged a surprise drop in July, official data showed Sunday, on the back of weak demand and as strict zero-COVID restrictions continue to cast a pall on growth. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a key gauge of manufacturing activity in the world's second-biggest economy, came in at 49.0 in July, down from 50.2 in June and below the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction, National Bureau of Statistics data showed.

While sweeping COVID curbs have eased in major cities such as Shanghai and Beijing, sporadic lockdowns around the country have kept businesses and consumers worried. "In July, the manufacturing PMI dropped... due to factors such as the traditional off-season for production, insufficient release of market demand, and decline in prosperity of high-energy-consuming industries," said NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe in a statement.

Zhao added that sharp price fluctuations of raw materials had led some companies to adopt a wait-and-see approach, "weakening purchasing intentions". The proportion of firms saying there was insufficient market demand had also increased for four consecutive months, he said, noting this was the "main difficulty" among manufacturers.

But officials show few signs of relaxing strict pandemic curbs, with policymakers appearing to empha-



BEIJING: China's manufacturing activity logged a surprise drop in July, official data showed Sunday, on the back of weak demand and as strict zero-COVID restrictions continue to cast a pall on growth.

size zero-COVID over growth in a Politburo meeting this week, where they vowed to strive for "the best outcome" rather than to meet economic and social targets.

"In acknowledging the difficulties, the government has finally become flexible towards this year's growth target," ANZ Research analysts said in a note. Chinese leaders had originally set a full-year GDP growth target of around 5.5 percent, but with economic expansion of just 0.4 percent in the second quarter, analysts believe it is unlikely to hit that goal.

China's non-manufacturing PMI dropped to 53.8 points as well in July, down from 54.7 in June, NBS data showed yesterday. This follows policies to boost consumption and with a pick-up in construction activities, the NBS statement said. — AFP

Uber driver ranks—which shrank during the COVID-19 pandemic—have not rebounded as quickly as demand for rides, and soaring fuel costs have made the gigs less attractive. The firm in March announced a surcharge on both rides and Uber Eats meal deliveries that would go directly to drivers to help offset high fuel prices. — AFP

Uber courts drivers by letting them pick rides

WASHINGTON: Uber on Friday said it will let drivers in the United States see trip details before deciding whether to accept them—a new feature long sought by drivers. A common lament by drivers at the app-summoned ride platform has been that they have to accept a request before learning where trips will take them, or how profitable they will be.

"Our new trip request screen makes it easier for drivers to decide if a trip is worth their time and effort by providing all the details—including exactly how much they'll earn and where they're going-upfront," chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi said in a blog post.

Revealing details only once a driver had accepted a trip was seen as a way to ensure riders would get picked up promptly, and not be snubbed because they were headed to locations deemed undesirable by drivers. But Khosrowshahi said drivers have made it clear that they want more flexibility and choice.

Uber said the new feature, called Upfront Fares, was tested in several cities and was a success with drivers while resulting in shorter wait times for passengers. The ride-sharing firm will also shift from sending drivers a single ride request at a time, to letting them pick from a list of detailed passenger requests in an area. Uber is engaged in a long-term effort to prove that its business model is socially and economy viable.

The "gig economy"—which uses temporary independent contractors for short-term tasks—has grown rapidly since Uber's launch in 2009 and is promoted as a flexible way for people to earn money without the constraints of a full-time job. But there has been growing backlash in countries around the world about the conditions and dangers gig workers face.

Taxing windfall profits: Who, how and why?

WASHINGTON: While consumers lumber under hefty gas and electricity bills, energy companies are racking up billions in profits. This has prompted some European countries to impose windfall taxes to help offset the aid that governments are providing consumers to cope with inflation, and calls elsewhere to do the same.

Why such a tax?

Profits of energy companies have rocketed higher on the coattails of soaring energy prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. Shell earned \$18 billion in profits in the second quarter, TotalEnergies 5.7 billion euros and Eni 3.8 billion euros.

Rising energy prices are pushing millions of households into financial precarity, and European governments are on track to spend \$169 billion on exceptional measures to help consumers face up to high fuel prices, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). —AFP

The gas war between Russia and the West

BERLIN: Natural gas has emerged as a weapon of war between Russia and Europe since Moscow's February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Here is how the stand-off developed:

Nord Stream 2 halted

On February 22, 2022, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he is suspending the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project with Russia in response to Moscow's recognition of two breakaway regions in Ukraine.

The project has long been a source of tension with Berlin's allies in the United States and Europe, who worry it would increase Germany's energy dependence on Russia. Ukraine also fears it will lose revenues from gas transit if Nord Stream 2, which would deliver Russian gas to Germany via the Baltic Sea, goes ahead.

Gas prices soar

On February 24, Russia invades Ukraine. Gas and oil prices soar on fears of possible cuts in supplies. On March 2, the European Union cuts seven Russian banks off from the SWIFT banking transfer system. But it spares two major lenders with strong ties to the energy sector, reflecting the dependence of several EU states on Russian gas.

US embargo

On March 8, President Joe Biden bans US imports of Russian gas and oil. The EU says it will cut its imports of Russian gas by two-thirds this year and Britain says it will phase out its Russian energy imports by the end of 2022.

Russia's riposte

On March 23, Russian President Vladimir Putin bans European gas customers from paying their bills in dollars and euros, in response to the freezing of some \$300 billion in currency reserves held by Russia overseas. He announces that Moscow will now only accept payment in rubles from "unfriendly" countries, including EU nations.

The European Commission warns EU members that by paying in rubles they would be violating interna-

tional sanctions against Moscow. Washington agrees to provide Europe with an extra 15 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas this year.

Taps turned off

On April 27, Russian giant Gazprom cuts off gas supplies to Bulgaria and Poland, in a move European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen describes as "blackmail". She says the two EU and NATO members are now receiving gas from their EU neighbors.

On May 21, Russia cuts gas to neighboring Finland, which has refused to pay in rubles and angered Moscow by asking to join NATO. The Netherlands and Denmark are also cut off after refusing to pay in rubles.

No embargo

On May 30, EU leaders agree to stop most Russian oil imports by the end of the year but put off a ban on Russian gas.

Pressure on Europe

In mid-June, Gazprom drastically cuts daily gas supplies to Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline, causing prices to soar. Claiming a technical problem, Gazprom reduces deliveries by several notches, as EU leaders prepare to give Ukraine candidate status.

On June 23, Germany moves closer to rationing gas, raising its supplies alert level to the second of three stages.

EU plan

On July 11, Gazprom begins 10 days of routine maintenance on its Nord Stream 1 pipeline, resulting in gas cuts in Europe. A week later, the EU and Azerbaijan sign an agreement to double gas imports from the energy-rich Caspian nation to Europe.

The 27-nation bloc has also turned to oil-rich countries such as Qatar, Norway and Algeria to make up for its energy shortfall. On July 20, the European Commission urges EU states to reduce demand for natural gas by 15 percent over the coming months to secure winter stocks.

Supplies slashed again

On July 25, Gazprom says it will further cut the supply to about 20 percent of the pipeline's capacity due to the "technical condition" of one of the turbines. The German government says there is "no technical reason" for the move. On July 30, Gazprom suspends gas supplies to EU and NATO member Latvia, citing violations of the conditions of purchase. —AFP



Business

US prices accelerate in June, outpacing gains in income

Data pile pressure on Biden to ease the pain of American families

WASHINGTON: A key US inflation measure accelerated again in June, outpacing gains in income, government data showed Friday, heaping pressure on President Joe Biden and policymakers trying to ease the pain for American families.

The data showing the biggest inflation surge in four decades comes on the heels of dismal economic growth figures and another super-sized interest rate increase by the Federal Reserve. The Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, rose 6.8 percent compared to June 2021, the Commerce Department reported.

And inflation jumped 1.0 percent compared to May, in line with economists' expectations but outpacing personal income, which rose just 0.6 percent, the same increase as the prior month, according to the report.

Consumers buoyed by a stockpile of savings during the pandemic splurged on goods, cars and homes last year, but global supply chain snarls and worker shortages pushed prices higher-factors worsened by Russia's war on Ukraine, which sent food and energy prices soaring worldwide. Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the "core" PCE price index gained a more moderate 4.8 percent in the last 12 months, just a tenth higher than May but continuing a gradual slowing.

The Fed focuses on the PCE price index, as it reflects consumers' actual spending, including shifts to lower cost items, unlike the more well-known consumer price index, which jumped 9.1 percent in June. The PCE also gives less weight to things like rent, vehicles and airline fares, which have contributed to the blistering pace of the CPI rise. The Fed has been aggressively raising borrowing rates this year, with the fourth increase announced Wednesday, as it aims to cool the economy.

Central bankers face the difficult task of easing price pressures that are squeezing US households without causing a severe economic downturn.

One concern is that demands for higher pay amid a worker shortage could cause a wage-price spiral. In a separate data report, the Labor Department said worker compensation, including wages and benefits, rose 1.3 percent in the three-months ended in June and up 5.1 percent in the latest 12 months.

Nancy Vanden Houten of Oxford Economics said the hotter-than-expected gain does not provide the compelling evidence of slowing inflation the central bank is seeking. "The Q2 employment cost data doesn't provide any evidence that wage growth is slowing and leaves the Fed on track to lift the funds rate another 75bps at its September meeting," she said. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden arrives to a meeting on the US Economy with CEOs and members of his Cabinet in the South Court Auditorium of the White House in Washington, DC. —AFP

Price hikes boost P&G profits despite lower China sales

NEW YORK: Higher prices helped Procter & Gamble score increased quarterly profits despite a hit to China sales, and executives on Friday described inflation as having a relatively limited impact thus far on demand.

Chief Executive Jon Moeller alluded to "significant headwinds" faced by the consumer products giant including a strengthening US dollar, higher costs and COVID upheaval, but praised the performance of the firm behind well-known brands like Pampers diapers and Crest toothpaste.

The company "delivered strong top-line growth, earnings growth and significant cash return to shareholders in the face severe cost and operational headwinds," Moeller said in a statement. Profits in the final quarter of the company's fiscal year rose \$3.1 billion, up five percent on revenues of \$19.5 billion, which were three percent higher than the year-ago period.

Sales were boosted by an eight percent increase in pricing. However, P&G executives said sales in China suffered an 11 percent hit due to COVID-19 lockdowns, with the earnings release highlighting the impact in beauty, grooming and health care.

With restrictions in China easing "we are seeing a gradual return to consumer mobility," said Chief Financial Officer Andre Schulten. "And that is certainly helping consumption." Schulten said P&G has seen relatively little incidence of consumers "trading down" to lower-priced products because of inflation.

Huawei releases a multitude of flagship products

KUWAIT: Huawei held a flagship products summer launch event in Dubai that saw the introduction of incredible cutting-edge devices including the ideal flagship foldable phone Huawei Mate Xs 2, a flagship laptop Huawei MateBook X Pro, a flagship tablet Huawei MatePad Pro, Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2 as well as Huawei MateBook 16s and Huawei MateBook D16. Each one of these devices comes loaded with some innovative features that are set to take the user experience to next level. For those who did not get a chance to see the live stream, we've condensed everything Huawei announced:

Huawei Mate Xs 2, Huawei's brand-new flagship foldable smartphone

To achieve an ultra-flat surface which is minimalist and natural, the phone uses the Falcon Wing Design. Through that, the movement of the hinge and screen is precisely synchronized via the fixed-length linkage control. For the phone's screen, the use of Huawei's self-developed innovative industry-first composite screen to absorb all shock and buffer makes the Huawei Mate Xs 2 ultra-reliable.

The True-Chroma Camera System of Huawei Mate Xs 2 includes a 50MP True-Chroma Camera for capturing true-to-life colors. The improved Huawei XD Optics brings brand-new information recovery technology to further elevate image clarity, helping restore image details in a way that breaks the boundaries of physics. To top that all off, the Huawei Mate Xs 2 incorporates innovative interactions with multitasking capabilities and Floating Window Swipe Gestures to provide a seamless control while operating the multi-window.

Huawei MateBook X Pro

Huawei MateBook X Pro is a new-paradigm laptop that transcends the traditional notion of how a laptop should look, and what it is capable of. It comes in a skin-soothing metallic body and elegant colors, Ink Blue and White, standing out from the crowd of drab laptop exteriors, while the classic Space Grey is also available. The use of light and strong magnesium alloys in the full-



MIAMI: In this file photo taken on October 20, 2020, Dawn, a dishwashing liquid produced by the Procter & Gamble company in Miami, Florida. —AFP

tion. "You see consumers may be skimp for a period of time, use up inventory," he told reporters on a briefing. "But it's more benign than we would have expected based on historical data."

Moeller, in an interview with CNBC, did not discount the possibility that the US economy could be heading into a recession, but said consumers were still showing robustness. "We've got a very strong

labor market. Consumer balance sheets are generally strong," Moeller told the network. "So based on that slice that we see, at least some of the US economy, things are very good." P&G's earnings-per-share of \$1.21 missed analyst expectations by two cents, while revenues slightly topped estimates. Shares fell 4.7 percent to \$141.18 just after trading opened. —AFP



NEW YORK: In this file photo taken on November 07, 2013, a banner with the logo of Twitter is set on the front of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. — AFP

Elon Musk fires back at Twitter in court battle

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk on Friday filed claims against Twitter as he fights back against the tech firm's lawsuit demanding he be held to his \$44 billion buyout deal. Musk's counter-suit was submitted along with a legal defense against Twitter's claim that the billionaire is contractually bound to complete the deal he inked in April to buy Twitter, the Chancery Court in the state of Delaware said in a notice. The 164-page filing was submitted as being "confidential," meaning the documents were not accessible by the public, the notice indicated. Rules of the court, however, require Musk to submit a public version of the filing with trade secrets or other sensitive information redacted.

A judge has ordered a five-day trial over Twitter's lawsuit against Musk to begin on October 17. The Tesla boss wooed Twitter's board with a \$54.20 per-share offer, but then in July announced he was "terminating" their agreement on accusations the firm misled him regarding its tally of fake and spam accounts.

Twitter, whose stock price closed at \$41.61 on Friday, has stuck by its estimates regarding accounts run by software "bots" rather than people, and argued that Musk is contriving excuses to back out of the contract. The social media platform has urged shareholders to endorse the deal, setting a vote on the merger for September 13. "We are committed to closing the merger on the price and terms agreed upon with Mr. Musk," Twitter chief executive Parag Agrawal and board chairman Bret Taylor said in a copy of a letter to investors. Billions of dollars are at stake, but so is the future of Twitter, which Musk has said should allow any legal speech-an absolutist position that has sparked fears the network could be used to incite violence. —AFP

Argentina seeks political fix to economic woes

CARACAS: Argentine President Alberto Fernandez is looking for a political solution to the country's economic crisis with his appointment of a long-term politician as a new "super minister," analysts say. The South American country has suffered years of economic crisis, with some 37 percent of its population now living in poverty.

Inflation for the first half of this year alone topped 36 percent, and is predicted to reach 80 percent by the year's end. With that crisis-backdrop, Fernandez on Thursday named Sergio Massa, the current head of Congress' lower house, as a new super minister to oversee the economy, development and agriculture ministries as well as relations with international organizations. —AFP



Huawei Mate Xs 2 - The Ideal Foldable Phone: Ultra-Light, Ultra Flat and Super Durable

CNC unibody design means that the laptop weighs only 1.26 kg making it highly portable and durable. The 14.2-inch Real Colour FullView Display obtained the world's first Eye Comfort 3.0 certification by TÜV Rheinland and universal color consistency technology ensures that the same pristine colours will be displayed.

All Huawei MateBook X Pro laptops were certified by Intel Evo, and come with 12th Gen Core processors. The 30 W performance mode handles intensive tasks with remarkable ease. Thanks to system-level optimization supported by upgraded Super Turbo technology, the laptop works perfectly with Windows system to unleash powerful performance and create a smoother experience in video conferences and heavy-load office work.

Huawei MatePad Pro

This is a tablet designed to cover all aspects of entertainment with immersive visuals and sound. It is Huawei's first tablet to feature a 120Hz high refresh rate screen. The 11-inch OLED Huawei Real Colour FullView Display has an incredible screen-to-body ratio of 92 percent and supports the P3 color gamut for authentically displaying over a billion colors. For the ultimate sound experience, the tablet features Huawei Sound that uses an array of six speakers to bring out high-fidelity sound and ensure a wider playback bandwidth with rich details. Huawei MatePad Pro is easy to use because of its thin and light body, which is only 5.9mm thick and weighs just 449g, also making it the lightest 11-inch tablet available on the market. It is also an ideal multi-tasking device that offers PC-like video conferencing with a



16MP Ultra HD front camera featuring FollowCam. The upgraded App Multiplier allows users to simultaneously open multiple windows of the same app. The support for the new detachable Huawei Smart Magnetic Keyboard and Huawei M-Pencil 2nd generation also makes HUAWEI MatePad Pro a suitable tablet for light office tasks. Huawei MatePad Pro availability and price shall be announced during the Huawei flagship products summer launch event.

Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2

Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2 earbuds incorporate cutting-edge TWS capabilities, taking acoustics to new heights. It's portable listening as you've never heard it before. It comes with the Ultra-hearing dual-driver true sound system and digital cross-over technology, delivering a better surging bass and good sound quality with rich details. It received the HWA and Hi-Res Wireless Dual HD Audio Certification. In addition to sound quality, Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2 continues to set new standards for TWS noise cancellation. The new call noise cancellation feature called Pure Voice improves voice call quality, thanks to the presence of a 4-Mic Call Noise Cancellation system and Huawei-exclusive deep neural network (DNN) noise cancellation algorithm. The Triple Mic ANC System with 3 highly-sensitive microphones boosts the average ANC depth by industry-leading 15 percent when compared to its predecessor, with offers a wider noise cancellation frequency with up to 47 dB of noise cancellation. At the same time, Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2 is co-engineered with Devialet for tuning providing it with the perfect balance of technology and art to deliver a more appealing experience.

Lifestyle | Features



A picture shows the Fee Glacier (German: Feegletscher) above the Swiss alpine resort of Saas-Fee.



Tourists are seen next to the Fee Glacier (German: Feegletscher) above the Swiss alpine resort of Saas-Fee.



Hikers are seen in silhouette walking next to the Fee Glacier (German: Feegletscher) above the Swiss alpine resort of Saas-Fee. — AFP photos

Mountain melt shatters classic Alpine routes

Little snow cover and glaciers melting at an alarming rate amid Europe's sweltering heatwaves have put some of the most classic Alpine hiking routes off-limits. Usually at the height of summer, tourists flock to the Alps and seek out well-trodden paths up to some of Europe's most iconic peaks. But with warmer temperatures speeding up glacier melt and thawing permafrost—which scientists say are driven by climate change—routes that are usually safe this time of year now face hazards like falling rocks released from the ice.

"Currently in the Alps, there are warnings for around a dozen peaks, including emblematic ones like Matterhorn and Mount Blanc," Pierre Mathey, head of the Swiss mountain guide association, told AFP. This is happening far earlier in the season than normal, he said. "Usually we see such closures in August, but now they have started at the end of June and are continuing in July."

'Postpone'

Alpine guides who usually lead thousands of hikers up towards Europe's highest peak announced earlier this week that they would suspend ascents on the most classic routes up Mont Blanc, which straddles France, Italy and Switzerland. The Guide Alpine Italiano said on its Facebook page that the "particularly delicate conditions" caused by the temperature spike made it necessary to "postpone the climbs".

Mountain guides have also refrained—reportedly for the first time in a century—from offering tours up the classic route to the Jungfrau peak in Switzerland. And they have advised against tours along

routes on both the Italian and Swiss sides of the towering pyramid-shaped Matterhorn peak.

Ezio Marlier, president of the Valle D'Aosta guides association, said having to steer clear of routes most coveted by tourists was a blow after the COVID slowdowns. "It is not easy... after two almost empty seasons to decide to halt work," he told AFP. He stressed that the Italian Alpine region had shut only two and that there were many other breathtaking and safe routes to take. But he lamented that many people simply cancelled their trip when they heard their preferred route was off-limits. "There are plenty of other things to do, but usually when people want Mont Blanc, they want Mont Blanc."



Hikers are seen walking next to the Fee Glacier (German: Feegletscher) melting above the Swiss alpine resort of Saas-Fee.

Dangerous glaciers

Climbing on some of the thousands of glaciers dotting Europe's largest mountain range is also proving trickier. "The glaciers are in a state that they are usually in at the end of the summer or even later," said Andreas Linsbauer, a glaciologist at Zurich University. "It is sure that we will break the record for negative melts," he told AFP.

He said a combination of factors were contributing to a "really extreme" summer, starting with exceptionally little snowfall last winter, meaning there was less to protect the glaciers. Sand also blew up from the Sahara early in the year, darkening the snow, which makes it melt faster.

And then the first heatwave hit Europe in May, with subsequent ones following in

June and July, pushing up temperatures even at high altitudes. The rapid melting can make glaciers more dangerous, as seen with the sudden collapse of Italy's until then seemingly harmless Marmolada glacier earlier this month, which saw 11 people killed as ice and rock hurtled down the mountain. While scientists have yet to draw clear conclusions on what caused the disaster, one theory is that meltwater may have reached the point where the glacier was frozen to the rock, loosening its grip.

'Invisible threat'

Mylene Jacquemart, a glacier and mountain hazard researcher at Zurich's ETH university, told AFP there were many unknowns about the catastrophe. "But the

general theme is definitely that more meltwater... makes things complicated and potentially more dangerous."

Mathey, who said warmer temperatures had put mountain guides on high alert, also voiced concern that meltwater filtering under a glacier posed an "additional and invisible threat". But despite the challenges, he voiced confidence that guides would find solutions, seeking out alternative routes to keep showing off Alpine splendors. "Resilience is really in the mountain guides' DNA," as is adaptability, he said. "Humans have to adapt to nature and to the mountains, not the other way around." — AFP



A picture shows crevasses on the Fee Glacier (German: Feegletscher) above the Swiss alpine resort of Saas-Fee.

Will Smith posts emotional new apology for Oscars slap

the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—although the organization did not revoke his best actor award for "King Richard."

In the video posted to social media Friday, Smith said his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, who was seated next to him and grimaced as Rock joked about her, said nothing to prompt his attack. "I made a choice on my own," he said, apologizing also to Pinkett-Smith and the couple's children "for the heat that I brought on all of us."

"There's no part of me that thinks that's the optimal way to handle a feeling of disrespect or insults," says the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air actor, who at one point in the video appears to be fighting tears. Rock addressed the slap earlier this month during a stand-up set in New Jersey, *Us Weekly* has reported. "Anyone who says words hurt has never been punched in the face," he reportedly joked, before adding "I'm not a victim... I don't go to the hospital for a paper cut." — AFP



In this file photo US actor Will Smith (right) slaps US actor Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Actor Will Smith has posted an emotional new apology for slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars earlier this year, revealing in a lengthy video clip that he has reached out to the comedian who was not yet "ready to talk." Smith—who went on to win the best actor award—marched on stage and hit Rock for making a joke about his wife, in an incident that overshadowed the March ceremony, being broadcast live around the world. "Chris, I apologize to you. My behavior was unacceptable. And I'm here, whenever you're ready to talk," Smith reiterated in the nearly six-minute video, in which he also answered fans' questions about the shocking moment that has tarnished his public image.

Smith had made a public apology shortly after the incident, and was banned from attending the Oscars for the next 10 years after the slap. The 53-year-old also resigned his membership with

Lottery hopefuls flock to 'lucky' California store as \$1bn jackpot looms

The odds of claiming this week's bonanza US lottery prize are less than one-in-300-million—but one "lucky" convenience store outside Los Angeles is already counting its winnings. A sign above the counter of the otherwise unassuming shop in California's Chino Hills proclaims itself the "LUCKIEST 7-ELEVEN IN THE WORLD," six years after it sold a winning ticket for the largest jackpot in US lottery history.

With the nationwide Mega Millions prize now exceeding \$1 billion once again, customers from far and wide were lining up Thursday, hoping that lightning will strike twice. "This is the lucky store, so I'm hoping it becomes lucky for me as well," said Vish Josai. The current prize for Friday evening's draw stands at \$1.02 billion.

Back in January 2016, a winning ticket was purchased at the store by a customer who shared the roughly \$1.6 billion with two other lucky people who had also picked the correct six numbers elsewhere

in the country. For store owner Balbir Atwal, who has owned the store for almost three decades, the 2016 win marked a turning point.

Now, "anytime the jackpot goes high, a lot of my neighbors come" to buy tickets, said Atwal. "Even people from other cities come here—people come even from Las Vegas to play here."



This illustration file photo shows a Mega Millions lottery ticket in Washington, DC. — AFP

"A lot of people travel to Disneyland, and they (also) come here just to see this place," he added, referring to the giant amusement park and resort just 20 miles (32 kilometers) away from his store. Customers who have come specifically to buy lottery tickets usually end up buying other goods, too, boosting his profits. Still, despite his shop's track record in doling out mega-prizes, the digital sign displaying the current jackpot does not have enough numbers to cope. It remains "stuck" on \$999 million. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Beyonce sounds urgent call to dance on new album 'Renaissance'

Beyonce, the paradigm-shifting music royal whose art has long established her as one of entertainment's seminal stars, on Friday released her hotly anticipated album "Renaissance," a house-tinged dance record primed for its summer needle drop. Six years after she shook the culture with her powerful visual album "Lemonade," Beyonce's seventh solo studio work is a pulsating, sweaty collection of club tracks aimed at liberating a world consumed by ennui.

Eminently danceable and rife with nods to disco and EDM history—Queen Bey interpolates Donna Summer and Giorgio Moroder along with James Brown and the archetypal synth line from "Show Me Love," the 1990s house smash by Robin S—the 16-song album is poised to reign over the season. Prior to releasing her opus Beyonce had dropped "Break My Soul" to acclaim, setting the tone for her house revival that highlighted the Black, queer and working-class artists and communities who molded the electronic dance genre, which first developed in Chicago in the 1980s.

The megastar has indicated that "Renaissance" is but the first act of three,



In this file photo Beyonce speaks onstage during the 58th Annual Grammy music Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP

in a project she said she recorded over the course of three years during the pandemic. "Creating this album allowed me a place to dream and to find escape during a scary time for the world," Beyonce on her website. "It allowed me to feel free and adventurous in a time when little else

was moving," she continued. "My intention was to create a safe place, a place without judgment. A place to be free of perfectionism and overthinking." "A place to scream, release, feel freedom. It was a beautiful journey of exploration."

'Expansive listening journey'

In the weeks preceding the release of "Renaissance" Beyonce teased the album with the steady stream of glossy, curated portraits of herself that over the past decade have become her signature. But though she's received wide praise for keeping the world of music videos on the cutting edge, Beyonce put out her latest record sans visuals (they're promised at a later date.)

In a statement her label Parkwood Entertainment and Columbia Records lent insight into the decision, saying the artist "decided to lead without visuals giving fans the opportunity to be limitless in their expansive listening journey." Beyonce's soaring vocals have their place on "Renaissance" but it's the rhythmic, urgent call to the dance floor that stands out, with a tapestry of influences paying homage to pioneers of funk, soul, rap, house and disco.

"Unique / That's what you are / Stilettos kicking vintage crystal off the bar," she sings on "Alien Superstar," which samples Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy" in a sonic ode to voguing, the stylized house dance that emerged from the Black LGBTQ ballroom culture of the 1960s.

That song closes by sampling a speech from Barbara Ann Teer, who founded Harlem's National Black Theatre. On "Virgo's Groove" Beyonce gets raunchy with an unabashed sex anthem, adding a titular nod to her star sign—the Virgo turns 41 on September 4. Along with a smattering of deep house cuts as well as tributes to gospel, funk and soul, Beyonce's collaborators on "Renaissance" include Nile Rodgers, Skrillex, Nigerian singer Tems, Grace Jones, Pharrell and, of course, her rap mogul husband Jay-Z.

Album leaks, Beyhive stings

Beyonce has long bucked music's conventional wisdom, and is credited with popularizing the surprise album drop. She later made waves by releasing "Lemonade"—the groundbreaking work that chronicled her own emotional catharsis following infidelity within a generational and racial context—first on cable television,

and limiting its streaming availability.

Since "Lemonade" she's released "Homecoming," a live album and film featuring footage from her mythic 2018 Coachella performance, as well as the critically acclaimed song "Black Parade"—which dropped amid mass protests ignited by the police murder of George Floyd. That song saw the megastar, who first gained fame as a member of Destiny's Child, become the winningest woman ever at the Grammys with 28, and the gala's most decorated singer.

But for all her cultural clout and an indisputable throne in music's pantheon, Beyonce's songs have not seen the same commercial dominance as other contemporary global stars—her last number one solo hit was 2008's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." That's poised to change with "Renaissance."

The album's release saw Queen Bey return to music business as usual, deploying pre-sales, a lead single drop, a tracklist and polished social media fodder. But it wasn't without a hitch—in the days prior to the official release, the album leaked online. —AFP



Steven Spielberg

Spielberg heads starry Toronto festival line-up

Steven Spielberg, Jennifer Lawrence and Harry Styles will bring their world premieres to Toronto, as North America's largest film festival signaled a return to full strength with the unveiling of a star-studded lineup Thursday. The Toronto International Film Festival, which bills itself as "the world's biggest public film festival" and has launched countless Oscar winners, will welcome back A-listers to glamorous red carpets and exclusive after-parties after two heavily scaled-back editions during the pandemic. Spielberg's eagerly awaited and deeply personal "The Fabelmans" will be among the hottest tickets during the festival, which begins September 8. Based on the revered director's childhood in Arizona, exploring the family secrets of a young man with an early passion for filmmaking, the coming-of-age drama stars Michelle Williams, Paul Dano and Seth Rogen.

Director Rian Johnson launches "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," a whodunit sequel from Netflix in which Daniel Craig's gentleman sleuth meets a new star-studded cast including Edward Norton, Ethan Hawke and Jada Pinkett Smith. Peter Farrelly, whose 2018 race drama "Green Book" began its path to Oscars glory at Toronto, will bring "The Greatest Beer Run Ever," another world premiere. Zac Efron plays a merchant seaman who travels to Vietnam in the 1960s to deliver a case of beer to his army buddies, alongside co-stars Bill Murray and Russell Crowe.

TIFF is a key part of the fall festival line-up, along with Venice and Telluride, at which movies hoping to build early Oscars momentum typically hold lavish premieres. Toronto's annual People's Choice Award has become an increasingly accurate Oscars bellwether, predicting eventual best picture winners such as "Nomadland," which took home the Academy Award in 2021, and "Green Book."

Last year, organizers held a reduced in-person event over Covid-19 fears, while a year earlier the festival took place almost entirely online. Stars expected to return to the Toronto red carpets this year include Oscar winners Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne—in "The Good Nurse"—and pop mega-star Harry Styles, who plays a closeted 1950s cop in "My Policeman."

Jennifer Lawrence stars in "Causeway," a drama about a soldier suffering from a traumatic brain injury, while Viola Davis plays "The Woman King," and Nicolas Cage appears in "Butcher's Crossing." Ewan McGregor and Hawke will feature in the world premiere of "Raymond & Ray," produced by Alfonso Cuarón for Apple which—fresh from its historic best picture win with "CODA"—is also bringing a Sidney Poitier documentary produced by Oprah Winfrey.

"Sidney" will feature Halle Berry, Morgan Freeman, Denzel Washington and Quincy Jones. Billy Eichner's "Bros"—billed as the first gay rom-com from a major studio—will have a splashy first showing, as will movie mogul Tyler Perry's "A Jazzman's Blues." Additionally the festival will play host to several major movies expected to premiere weeks earlier at other festivals, including Sam Mendes' "Empire of Light," Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," and "Women Talking" starring Frances McDormand. TIFF runs from September 8-18. —AFP

Hong Kong boy band ends show after falling screen hits dancers

At least two Hong Kong dancers were injured on Thursday night after being hit by a falling screen at a concert of the city's most popular boy band Mirror. Footage of the incident circulated online showed a group of white-clad dancers performing onstage at the Hong Kong Coliseum when a giant overhead video screen fell and crushed a man. The screen then toppled onto at least one other

person before the remaining performers rushed to help.

Mirror's manager Ahfa Wong later took to the stage to apologize and asked the audience to leave, according to video clips circulated online. Two male dancers were taken to hospital while conscious shortly after 10:30 pm local time (1430 GMT), police told AFP. At about midnight, the city's Queen Elizabeth Hospital said one man with a neck injury was in a serious condition, while another was in a stable condition after a head injury, Hong Kong media reported.

The Hong Kong government has halted Mirror concerts until the stage's structure is proven to be safe, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung said in a late-night statement. Hong Kong's leader John Lee said he was shocked by the incident and has ordered a comprehensive investigation to assess the safety require-



This handout photo courtesy of an anonymous shows paramedics (front left and right) treating two dancers on stage after an overhead video screen fell during a concert by boy band Mirror at the Hong Kong Coliseum in Hong Kong. — AFP photos



In this file photo Swedish pianist Esbjorn Svensson performs during a concert at the 27th Vitoria Jazz Festival, in the Spanish northern city of Vitoria. — AFP

Esbjorn Svensson album released 14 years after jazz legend's death

A previously unreleased solo album by Swedish jazz legend Esbjorn Svensson will be released in November, 14 years after the artist's death, his record company said on Thursday. Titled "HOME.S.", a play on the pianist's initials, the album contains the first known solo recordings by Esbjorn Svensson, founder of the Esbjorn Svensson Trio (e.s.t.). "It's really the only time, the first time, that he can be heard solo on a record," Michael Gottfried, a representative of German label ACT, which is producing the album, told AFP.

The album's 40 minutes of original music by Svensson were among recordings found by his widow, Eva, nearly a decade after his death. Recorded in the pianist's home a few weeks before his sudden death from a scuba diving accident in June 2008, the music remained untouched on a hard drive which had been used to back up the musician's computer. "So many years after, it's really exciting," Gottfried said. "I think it's beautiful and it's melodic and intimate and it's very, very touching." —AFP

Johnny Depp sells his artwork for £3 million

Johnny Depp on Thursday sold a collection of prints he created of Hollywood and rock icons for around £3 million via a UK gallery chain. The 59-year-old "Pirates of the Caribbean" star has spent millions on a bitter legal battle with his ex-wife, the 36-year-old actress Amber Heard. Depp wrote on Instagram on Thursday morning that the prints were going on sale online at Castle Fine Art, which runs a network of UK galleries. The art retailer posted a photo of Depp working on a portrait of singer Bob Dylan. It said that the collection of prints called "Friends & Heroes" was "a testament to those he has known well and others who have inspired him as a person."

The gallery quoted Depp as saying: "My paintings surround my life, but I kept them to myself and limited myself. No one should ever limit themselves." The works depict Dylan, the late actress Elizabeth Taylor, actor Al Pacino and Rolling Stone Keith Richards.

The gallery chain later posted a tweet



In this file photo US legend Bob Dylan performs on stage during the 21st edition of the Vieilles Charrues music festival in Carhaix-Plouguer, western France. — AFP

ments of similar shows to "ensure the safety of performers, crew and the public".

Over the past year, Mirror have emerged as the most popular Cantonese pop act and are credited with revitalizing Hong Kong's local music scene. The 12-piece's latest concert series, originally scheduled to run from July 25 to August 6 at the prestigious Coliseum, was eagerly anticipated by fans and tickets were quickly snapped up.

But the shows have been plagued by technical faults since debuting on Monday, leading fans to question whether they are safe. More than 10,000 signed a petition urging organizers to take better care of performers. On Tuesday night one Mirror member, Frankie Chan, fell about a meter off the edge of the stage, though he later said on social media that he only bruised his left arm, according to the South China Morning Post.

Other fan-filmed clips of the concert showed walkways wobbling under the weight of performers and some stars missing their steps in the dimly lit space. Even before Thursday, government officials had already contacted the concert organizers regarding "stage incidents" and demanded improvements, according to a government press release.

Photos of the aftermath of Thursday's incident showed police, paramedics and production crew on stage. Concert organizers Music Nation and MakerVille apologized in a statement and said they will thoroughly investigate the incident. "We are deeply sorry about the accident and are very concerned about the situation of the two people injured," organizers said, adding they will provide all necessary assistance to those hurt. —AFP



Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Vincent Liu (second left), Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung (third left) and Secretary for Labor and Welfare Chris Sun (fourth left) attend a press conference in Hong Kong.



and sexually abuse her multiple times" at the famed Chelsea hotel in Manhattan. The suit also accused Dylan, who turned 81 in May, of physically threatening the girl. At the time a spokesperson for Dylan, who was born Robert Zimmerman, had dubbed the accusation "untrue."

In a letter Dylan's legal team filed with the federal court on Wednesday, they accused the plaintiff of deleting important text messages, and suggested that "monetary sanctions" were necessary. On Thursday Dylan's lawyers said the plaintiff had dropped the case. Lawyers for the plaintiff did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment. "This case is over," said Dylan's lead counsel, Orin Snyder, in a statement given to AFP. "It is outrageous that it was ever brought in the first place. —AFP

Bob Dylan accuser drops sex abuse lawsuit

A woman who sued Bob Dylan for allegedly sexually abusing her when she was 12 has dropped her case, just after the folk-rock artist's legal team accused her of destroying evidence. In August of last year the plaintiff, who remains unnamed and was identified only as J.C., had filed a suit alleging that Dylan abused her over a six-week period between April and May of 1965.

It alleged Dylan "exploited his status as a musician" to provide "alcohol and drugs



Saudi DJ Leen Naif plays at a university event in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah. — AFP photos

SAUDI WOMEN DJs GO FROM HOBBYISTS TO HEADLINERS

Standing behind her control tower with headphones around her neck, Saudi DJ Leen Naif segues smoothly between pop hits and club tracks for a crowd of business school graduates noshing on sushi. The subdued scene is a far cry from the high-profile stages—a Formula 1 Grand Prix in Jeddah, Expo 2020 in Dubai—that have helped the 26-year-old, known as DJ Leen, make a name for herself on the Saudi music circuit.

Yet it captures an important milestone: Women DJs, an unthinkable phenomenon just a few years ago in the traditionally ultraconservative kingdom, are becoming a relatively common sight in its main cities. These days they turn few heads as, gig after gig, they go about making a living from what once was merely a pastime. “A lot of female DJs have been coming up,” Naif told AFP, adding that this has, over time, made audiences “more comfortable” seeing them on stage. “It’s easier now than it has been.”

Naif and her peers embody two major reforms championed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia’s de facto ruler: new opportunities for women and expanding entertainment options—notably music.

The possibility that DJs would be welcomed at public events, let alone that many would be women, is something “we didn’t expect” until recently, said Mohammed Nassar, a Saudi DJ known as Vinyl Mode. “You are seeing now



Saudi DJ Lujain Albishi plays at a beach event in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah.



Friends gather as Saudi DJ Lujain Albishi (left) plays at a beach event in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah.

more female artists coming out,” Nassar said. Before “it was just a hobby to express themselves in their bedrooms”. “Now we have platforms, and you know they could even have careers. So it’s really amazing.”

Winning over sceptics

Naif was first introduced to electronic music as a teenager by one of her uncles, and she almost instantly started wondering whether DJ’ing was a viable job. While her friends dreamed of careers as doctors and teachers, she knew she didn’t have the patience for the schooling those paths required. “I’m a work person, not a studying person,” she said. Unlike other women DJs, she had

the immediate support of her parents and siblings. Other Saudis, however, required some winning over.

Several years ago, a man came up to her mid-performance, declaring she was “not allowed” and demanding “Why are you doing this?” His complaints got Naif’s set shut down, but she doubts the scene would play out the same way today. “Now I bet that same guy, if he sees me, he’s going to stand first in line just to watch.”

Her nomination to play at the Saudi pavilion of Expo Dubai 2020 gave her an international audience for the first time. But it’s the work at home that supports her day-to-day, earning her 1,000 Saudi riyals (around \$260) per hour.

Here to stay

Other women DJs have encountered more resistance. Lujain Albishi, who performs under the name “Biiirdperson”, started experimenting on DJ decks during the pandemic. Her family disapproved when she started talking about DJ’ing professionally, preferring she strive to become a doctor. She stuck with it anyway, developing her skills at private parties. Her big break came last year when she was invited to perform at MDLBeast Soundstorm, a festival in the Saudi capital Riyadh that drew more than 700,000 revelers for performances including a set by superstar French DJ David Guetta.

The experience left her “really proud”.

“My family came to Soundstorm, saw me on stage. They were dancing, they were happy,” she said. Both Naif and Albishi say they believe women DJs will remain fixtures in the kingdom, though their reasoning varies. For Naif, women DJs succeed because they are better than men at “reading people” and playing what they want to hear. Albishi, for her part, thinks there is no difference between men and women once they put their headphones on, and that’s why women DJs belong. “My music is not for females or for males,” she said. “It’s for music-lovers.” — AFP

Bahrain latest to ban blockbuster Thor

Gulf state Bahrain has joined other Middle Eastern countries in imposing a cinema ban on the fourth installment of superhero saga Thor, a Hollywood blockbuster featuring gay characters. “The ministry of information has decided to halt projection of one of the films showing in cinema halls for the sake of preserving and safeguarding society’s moral values,” the ministry said in a brief statement late Thursday. The ministry did not specify the name of the film banned, but screenings of “Thor: Love and Thunder” have halted.

The film sees “Valkyrie”, played by Tessa Thompson, express clear romantic feelings towards another female character. Kuwait has also banned the film, according to local media which cited its information ministry as ascribing the decision to “scenes involving homosexual characters”. In recent months, major film production companies have experienced similar restrictions in the oil-rich but conservative Gulf region. The UAE is the only Gulf nation that is still showing Thor, although in June it had banned the animated Disney-Pixar’s “Lightyear”, a film that features two women kissing. In April, Saudi Arabia requested cuts to “LGBTQ references” in Disney’s “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness”, which was ultimately not screened in the country. — AFP



Musicians from the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra take part in a rehearsal in Warsaw Opera before their international tour. — AFP photos



(From left) Yehven Uliyanov, Dmytro Ilin and Svyatoslav Yanchuk - Ukrainian musicians and members of Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra pose for a picture after a rehearsal.



Soprano singer Liudmyla Monastyrskaya (left) and musicians from the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra are led by conductor Kerii-Lynn Wilson take part in a rehearsal in Warsaw Opera before their international tour.

New orchestra goes on tour on Ukraine’s ‘cultural front’

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the air raid sirens disrupt Svyatoslav Yanchuk’s concerts, forcing musicians and audience members to seek refuge underground. “When the alarm stops, we can return to the stage. When it lasts more than an hour, the concert is called off,” said Yanchuk, a percussionist with the Odessa Philharmonic. “It happens almost every concert,” he said. But in August, Yanchuk will finally be able to play without interruptions on an international trip with the newly created Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra.

Along with dozens of other musicians, Yanchuk will be on a tour of Europe and the United States, which started in Warsaw this week and will include the Proms in London on Sunday. The orchestra, assembled from musical ensembles in Ukraine and Europe, is the brainchild of Canadian conductor Kerii-Lynn Wilson, whose grandparents were from Ukraine.

Wilson was in Warsaw when the war broke out. “As I witnessed the refugees streaming into Poland, I had a dream of uniting Ukrainian musicians in an artistic force to help them fight for their freedom,” she said. The project quickly took shape with the support of the Polish National Opera in Warsaw and Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Russian music ‘on hold’

Despite never having played together before, the orchestra came up with a concert program in just 10 days. The concert starts with Ukrainian composer Valentyn Sylvestrov’s Symphony No. 7 — a homage to the victims of the war. There is “no Russian music”, according to orchestra members, whose lives and careers have been turned upside down by the war.

“Russia has geniuses but whatever comes from Russian culture is on hold for the moment,” said bassoon player Mark

Kreshchenskiy. Kreshchenskiy and his brother Dmytro, a violist, played for the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Russia for eight years and were there when the invasion began.

“We left Russia in the first days of the invasion. It was hard but there was no other decision to take,” Kreshchenskiy told AFP. The two brothers fled to neighboring Estonia, carrying their instruments. Ukraine has stopped all fighting-age men from leaving the country under martial law in case they have to be drafted, but some orchestra members have temporary permission to do so.

“I was able to see my 10-year-old daughter again after five months of separation because she is a pupil at the Gdansk Opera” in northern Poland, said Dmytro Ilin, from the Kyiv Philharmonic. Once the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra tour is over, Ilin will return to Kyiv—along with percussionist Yevgen Ulyanov, whose son was born

when the war broke out. “My son is waiting for me,” he said.

‘Cultural front’

Like many of their colleagues, Ilin and Ulyanov want to continue practicing their craft in their native country. “I have the feeling that we are soldiers of music because we are doing our best at the cultural front,” said Nazar Stets, a double bass player and Kyiv resident.

Stets is particularly keen on the Ukrainian repertoire, saying: “It’s now the time to play even more Ukrainian music.” “If we don’t play our Ukrainian music, nobody will,” he said. Asked if music could really be a weapon, Ilin said: “Since childhood, music has been what we do. We have to act in one way or another”. — AFP

Sports

Australian swim star McKeon, N Zealand cyclists dazzle at Commonwealths

'It's a privilege, I feel fulfilled anyway and everything here is just a bonus'

BIRMINGHAM: Emma McKeon needs just one more title to break the record for most Australian Commonwealth Games golds after yet another win in the pool on Saturday as New Zealand dominated on the cycling track. McKeon, 28, swam the anchor leg as Australia won the women's 4x100 metres relay to put her alongside Ian Thorpe, Susie O'Neill and Leisel Jones on 10 gold medals.

"It's nice to do that 10th one in a relay," she told Australia's Channel 7. "It's kind of all a bit of a blur, I guess. It's been over a long time. I mean my first one was 2014 and I was so young." Scotland's Duncan Scott avenged his Olympic defeat at the hands of his friend Tom Dean. Scott beat England's Dean in a thrilling men's 200m freestyle duel, pulling away from the Olympic champion in the final 50m to win in a time of 1min 45.02sec.

The 25-year-old returned to the pool to take bronze in the 400m individual medley behind New Zealand gold medallist Lewis Clareburt, who won in a time of 4:08.70. South Africa's Lara van Niekerk won the women's 50m freestyle while compatriot Pieter Coetzee triumphed in the men's 100m backstroke.

New Zealand dominated the track cycling events at the Lee Valley VeloPark in London, winning three of the four titles on offer. Aaron Gate won the men's 4,000-metre pursuit, with compatriot Tom Sexton taking silver.

Bryony Botha won the women's 3,000m individual pursuit and Ellesse Andrews took gold in the women's sprint, beating Canada's Olympic champion Kelsey Mitchell. For both Gate and Andrews it was their second gold of the Games.

"My grandma and my grandad love coming to watch racing," said Andrews. "This is my first elite result in front of them because they weren't able

to come to Tokyo (Olympics). "To be able to go and give them a big cuddle afterwards, I can't even explain how special that is."

Gate and Andrews had waited just 24 hours to add to their gold collection — a blink of an eye compared to the 56 years it has taken a Trinidad and Tobago athlete to stand on top of the track cycling podium.

Nicholas Paul, 23, was the man to end the long wait since Roger Gibbon won two gold medals in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1966, storming home to win the keirin. "To be able to race in London again, go to my second Commonwealth Games and to earn a gold medal is unbelievable," he said.

'Taken aback'

The track athletics does not get under way until Tuesday but the marathons served as an appetiser. Victor Kiplangat marked himself down as a talent for the future on a bigger stage in delivering Uganda's first-ever Commonwealth Games marathon gold.

The 22-year-old even overcame a moment of confusion in going the wrong way inside the final mile and still had over a minute to spare over his nearest rival Alphonse Tibu of Tanzania. "The people riding the motorcycles were confusing me," he said. "They told me to turn back."

"I believe Uganda is proud of me today. We have been waiting for this." Jessica Stenson has been waiting eight years to be crowned Commonwealth marathon champion and the plucky Australian finally experienced it after two successive bronzes.

The 34-year-old showed few signs of a recent bout of COVID-19 as she came home on her own and said having had a child had changed her per-



BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom: Australia's Emma McKeon reacts after the women's 100m backstroke swimming semi-final at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre, on day two of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, central England. —AFP

spective on life. "I am doing this because I can," she said.

"It's a privilege. I feel fulfilled anyway and everything here is just a bonus." Hosts England, lifted by vociferous home support, won the women's team gymnastics title to go with their triumph in the men's event.

But the support was not just for English ath-

letes as Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu found to her surprise as she won the 49kg category for her second successive title. "Every athlete wants the crowd to back them and roar for them and I was taken aback that there was such a huge Indian presence in Birmingham," she said. "They were roaring their lungs out for me, and it pepped me on." —AFP

News in brief

Porto win Portuguese Super Cup for 23rd time

AVEIRO: League champions Porto won the Portuguese Super Cup for the 23rd time on Saturday with a 3-0 victory over second division Tondela. Iranian international striker Medhi Taremi scored twice with Brazilian Evanilson adding the third. The Super Cup was a repeat of the Portuguese Cup final played at the end of last season which Porto won 3-1 against a Tondela team who were relegated from the top flight. —AFP

Leverkusen tripped up by third division side in German Cup

MUNICH: Bundesliga heavyweights Bayer Leverkusen were bundled out of the German Cup in Saturday's first round by third division SV Elversberg. Leverkusen qualified for the Champions League on the back of finishing third to Bayern Munich last season but their bid for only a second Cup title in their long history fell apart at the first hurdle. They went behind in the second minute, and Patrik Schick's goal in the penultimate minute came too late to save them from a 4-3 defeat. Another Bundesliga side Cologne suffered the same fate as Leverkusen, losing 4-3 on penalties at second division Regensburg after the two sides were locked together at 2-2 after extra-time. The stars of Saturday's Cup action were the Stuttgarter Kickers after the fifth-tier minnows progressed to the second round following a 2-0 defeat of Greuther Fuerth, demoted from the Bundesliga last season. —AFP

Yankees' Judge becomes second fastest to 200 career home runs

NEW YORK: New York Yankees star Aaron Judge became the second-fastest player in Major League Baseball history to reach 200 career home runs when he belted his 42nd of the season in an 8-2 win over the Kansas City Royals on Saturday. Judge's 364-foot, two-run blast off Royals pitcher Jonathan Heasley in the second inning made him the first Yankee to hit 42 home runs before August 1 — breaking a tie with legendary Babe Ruth who hit 41 through July 31 in 1928. Judge's 200th career homer came in his 671st major league game. Only Ryan Howard reached the milestone quicker, in 658 games. "Excited to get that one out of the way," Judge said. "I feel like the big numbers, it's always tough to get past those. To get that out of the way, plus a win, is pretty sweet." Judge has six homers in his last six games — nine in 10 games since the All-Star break. With 91 runs-batted-in this season, he has driven in 21 of the Yankees' last 45 runs. DJ LeMahieu and Matt Carpenter also hit homers for the Yankees, who notched a third straight win after dropping two games to the New York Mets. —AFP

Ex-F1 race director Masi reveals death threats, 'vile' abuse

SYDNEY: Axed Formula One race director Michael Masi Sunday revealed he was bombarded with "vile" abuse and death threats after his stunning call that cost Lewis Hamilton an eighth world title. The 44-year-old was removed from the high-profile job over his management of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last year and quit the sport's governing body FIA this month to return home to Australia.

He told Sydney's Daily Telegraph he feared for his life after the sequence of events that led to Red

43 female athletes included in partial professionalism system

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Member of Kuwait Olympic Committee Board of Directors Fatima Hayat said "43 female athletes will be included in the "partial professionalism" system for 2022-2023, representing nine federations for the first time in the history of Kuwait's sport, and this is with the second phase of partial professionalism that was declared by Acting Public Authority for Sport Director Dr Saqer Al-Mulla last week.

Hayat, also the Chairwoman of the women committee at KOC said partial professionalism for next season will include five athletics players, four in table tennis, two weight lifters, and the same in swimming, boxing, fencing, squash and four in

Finau, Pendrith share PGA Tour lead in Detroit

LOS ANGELES: Taylor Pendrith birdied four of the last five holes in a six-under par 66 on Saturday to head into the final round of the PGA Tour Rocket Mortgage Classic tied for the lead alongside Tony Finau.

Canada's Pendrith, chasing a first US PGA Tour title, started the day with a one-shot lead. He had eight birdies to overcome a pair of bogeys in a six-under par 66 that pulled him level with Finau on 21-under par 195 at Detroit Golf Club. The leading duo were four shots clear of their nearest rival, Cameron Young, who followed up his course record-equaling 63 of Friday with a seven-under par 65 for 199.

"Obviously he made a ton of birdies and I finished the round with a lot of birdies, so it was fun," Pendrith said of his pairing with Finau. "We were going back and forth. Tony bombs it off the tee and I hit it far as well, so it was fun, kind of similar games I guess, and we attacked it very well."

Finau, seeking his second title in as many weeks after his victory in the 3M Open last Sunday, had seven birdies, the first a 20-footer at the second hole. Birdies at the third seventh and eighth saw him make the turn at 18-under, and he added three more coming in at the 10th, 14th and 17th.

Finau had a chance to maintain a one-shot lead at the last hole, but couldn't get his six-foot birdie putt to drop. Pendrith, meanwhile, drained a nine-footer to cap a late surge that started with a 15-foot birdie at the 14th.

He followed with birdies at the 15th and 16th. Pendrith had gotten off to a quick start with a six-foot birdie at the first and rolled in a 16-footer at

Bull's Max Verstappen passing Hamilton to deprive the Mercedes star of another crown. "There were some dark days," Masi said in his first substantive interview since.

"And absolutely, I felt like I was the most hated man in the world. I got death threats. People saying, they were going to come after me and my family. "I still remember walking down the street in London a day or two later. I thought I was OK until I started looking over my shoulder," he added.

"I was looking at people wondering if they were going to get me," Masi called in the safety car for the final lap in Abu Dhabi, then controversially allowed the backmarkers between race leader Hamilton and Verstappen to unlap themselves.

That led to a one-lap shoot-out between the Briton and the Dutchman, who with fresh tyres on his Red Bull car had a huge advantage which he exploited to pick

Karate, that in addition to approved numbers at the shooting sport club and the disabled, and 20 players from Kuwait National Futsal team.

Hayat said "we congratulate the players for getting their rights after a long wait and may seasons of serious efforts and continued achievements."

She said we hope partial professionalism will next include the largest possible number of club players of team games in addition to other sport.

Fatima Hayat said the inclusion of 43 female athletes from nine federations in partial professionalism comes as an implementation of KOC strategy, and fulfilment of one of the most important goal which is to develop women's sport in cooperation with Public Authority for Sport, adding a new achievement to women's sport. This will support her distinguished role locally and positive presence in the coming continental and international events.

She thanked KOC and its President Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, PAS acting director Dr Saqer Al-Mulla for their support of all games. She also thanked members of the women sports committee at KOC.



Fatima Hayat



DETROIT: Taylor Pendrith of Canada plays his shot from the 16th tee during the third round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club in Detroit, Michigan. —AFP

the fourth. But his birdies at six and eight were followed by bogeys at nine and 13 that opened the door for Finau.

"It was nice," Finau said of his round. "No bogeys up to this point on the scorecard in the tournament, which is nice. "I think it's a golf course that yields some birdies. You'll have some looks, but to not make any mistakes to this point is nice and I think that's the main reason I've kind of found myself on top of the leaderboard."

Finau said the back and forth with playing partner Pendrith was energizing. "It was nice to have

that type of energy and looks like we'll run it back tomorrow," he said.

"I can't say (we) pulled away from the guys — this is the type of golf course where someone can shoot eight-, nine-, 10-under — but if we put together a good round tomorrow, might be a two-man race and I'm looking forward to the challenge again." Young certainly thought they would be hard to catch.

"I would love to be closer," he said. "Those guys are playing some great golf... we'll be chasing all day tomorrow." —AFP

the same type of abuse."

The Australian said he tried to ignore them, but they impacted his mental health. "I didn't go and talk to a professional. With the benefit of hindsight, I probably should have," he said, adding that the FIA was aware of the abuse, "but I think I downplayed it all to everyone including them".

Masi decided to leave the FIA a fortnight ago after three years as Formula 1 race director and safety delegate following his appointment after the sudden passing of Charlie Whiting in 2019. "It took me a while to process it all," he said of the Abu Dhabi fallout.

"But at the end of the day I thought it was best for me to come back home and be close to my support network." Since the Abu Dhabi race, the FIA announced measures to ease the pressure on the race director and also altered the mode of communicating with him. —AFP

'Shocking'

Masi can't talk about the decision due to non-disclosure agreements with the FIA, the newspaper reported, but he said the following months were hellish. "I was confronted with hundreds of messages," he said.

"And they were shocking. Racist, abusive, vile, they called me every name under the sun. And there were death threats. "And they kept on coming. Not just on my Facebook but also on my LinkedIn, which is supposed to be a professional platform for business. It was

Sports

Mane opens Bayern account in German Super Cup triumph

Bundesliga champs cruise to 10th Super Cup title

BERLIN: Sadio Mane opened his competitive goal-scoring account for Bayern Munich as the Bundesliga champions defeated Leipzig 5-3 to capture the German Super Cup for a 10th time on Saturday. The African Player of the Year, who ended a six-year stint at Liverpool to move to Bavaria in the summer, also had two goals ruled out for offside in the game played at Leipzig's Red Bull Arena.

"I'm really happy to win my first game and first trophy. You can't complain. I'm really happy to be part of this great club," said Mane. Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann insisted his team deserved the victory. "We did very well in the first half but from the 60th minute you could see that we were running out of steam," he said. "We've only been in training for 19 days, you shouldn't forget that. We deserved to win, there's no question about that."

Senegalese star Mane was on target on the half-hour mark for his team's second goal in the German season curtain-raiser. Jamal Musiala played a perfect pass to unlock the Leipzig offside trap and release Serge Gnabry whose pass across the front of goal was tapped home by Mane.

Bayern, beginning a new era after the departure of star striker Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona, had

taken the lead after 14 minutes thanks to Musiala getting the better of Leipzig's Hungarian goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

The impressive Musiala was at the heart of Bayern's third goal on the stroke of half-time when the teenager's astute pass was drilled home by French international Benjamin Pavard. Marcel Halstenberg headed in on the hour as Leipzig cut the deficit but it only took Bayern five minutes to restore their three-goal advantage.

Thomas Mueller had a shot only half saved by Gulacsi and Gnabry was quickest to react to the loose ball to make the score 4-1. Another new signing Ryan Gravenberch, who arrived from Ajax, came on to replace Mueller for Bayern before Mane had a goal ruled out by VAR for offside.

In an end-to-end second half, Leipzig grabbed their second goal of the evening courtesy of a Christopher Nkunku penalty after Dani Olmo had been brought down in the area. As the clock ticked down, Bayern brought on another new signing in Dutch center-back Matthijs de Ligt who joined from Juventus for 67 million euros (\$68.2 million).

With six minutes left, Mane had a second goal ruled



LEIPZIG: Bayern Munich's Senegalese forward Sadio Mane lifts the trophy after the German Supercup football match between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich in Leipzig, on July 30, 2022. —AFP

out, again for offside, before Spanish international Olmo pulled another goal back for Leipzig in the 89th minute after a quick breakaway. Bayern then had to survive a few nervy moments as Leipzig pushed for a

fourth but Leroy Sane wrapped up the game with his team's fifth goal in the eighth minute of stoppage time. Bayern Munich begin the defense of their Bundesliga title away to Eintracht Frankfurt next Friday. —AFP



Bayern begin Bundesliga title defense Friday

PSV down Ajax to lift Dutch Super Cup

AMSTERDAM: PSV Eindhoven defeated Ajax 5-3 to lift the Dutch Super Cup at the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam on Saturday with both giants of the Dutch Eredivisie under new management. Ruud van Nistelrooy took over PSV in May, while Dutch champions Ajax are now coached by Alfred Schreuder, who succeeded Erik ten Hag, the new manager of van Nistelrooy's former club Manchester United.

A hat-trick from Guus Til with contributions from Cody Gakpo and the new teenaged recruit from Paris Saint-Germain Xavi Simons secured PSV their 13th Super Cup. Ajax's Steven Bergwijn, signed from Tottenham Hotspur for a Dutch record 31 million euros this summer, opened the scoring after quarter of an hour, with Til handing PSV a 2-1 lead at half-time.

Ajax were back level on 54 minutes courtesy of their Brazilian winger Antony before being caught out by goals from Gakpo and Til's third after the hour mark. This meeting of the Dutch league's great-



AMSTERDAM: PSV Eindhoven team players lift the trophy after beating Ajax 5-3 to win the 26th Johan Cruyff Shield match, between PSV Eindhoven and Ajax Amsterdam, during the Dutch Super Cup at the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam, on July 30, 2022. —AFP

est rivals lived up to all its hype as Ajax set up a tense ending thanks to a sublime half-volley by Mohammed Kudus.

But Ajax, reduced to 10-men after the sending off of Calvin Ughelumba with 11 minutes left on the clock,

were unable to pull off their fight back as Simons completed PSV's victory with their fifth goal seconds from the end. Van Nistelrooy's first match in charge augured well for next week's Champions League third qualifying round tie at Monaco. —AFP

Norwich beaten on Championship return

LONDON: Norwich made a losing start on their return to English football's Championship on Saturday as they were beaten 1-0 away to Cardiff in a match where both sides had a player sent off. The Canaries were relegated from the Premier League last season after finishing bottom of the table, but with many pundits predicting they will bounce straight back up.

They fell behind in the Welsh capital early in the second half when Romaine Sawyers scored from 25 yards on his Cardiff debut. The Bluebirds, however, were reduced to 10 men when Perry Ng was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Norwich could not capitalize on an advantage that, in any case, lasted a mere 12 minutes before captain Grant Hanley was dismissed for a second yellow card. "We lacked quality in the final third that cost us the game," said Norwich manager

Dean Smith. "There were some pleasing things in the game, but it's not a good start to not get any points."

Millwall made a strong start to the new season as teenage center-half Charlie Cresswell marked his debut by scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Stoke. Hull came from behind to defeat Bristol City 2-1 thanks to Ozan Tufan's second-half penalty and Jean Michael Seri's deflected stoppage-time strike after Andreas Weimann had put the Robins in front.

Lewis Travis secured a 1-0 win for Blackburn over QPR 1-0, with Blackpool defeating Reading by the same score thanks to Callum Connolly's ninth-minute goal. Swansea came from behind to draw 1-1 away to promoted Rotherham. Chiedozie Ogbene gave Rotherham, second in League One last season, the lead 16 minutes in before Harry Darling equalized before half-time.

Middlesbrough and West Brom also shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw at the Riverside. Isaiah Jones gave Boro a 10th-minute lead but West Brom boss Steve Bruce saw one of his new signings, John Swift, equalise five minutes after the

break, after being played in a cross from another in Jed Wallace. "The addition of Swift and Wallace in particular helped us," Bruce said. "We were bottom six last season for goals scored. We needed to address that."

Wigan, the League One champions last season, gained a point with a goalless draw against Preston, who had Ched Evans sent off late on, while the match between Luton and Birmingham also ended 0-0. Friday's opening match of the new season saw Vincent Kompany's first competitive game as Burnley manager end in a 1-0 win away to Huddersfield.

The former Manchester City captain was appointed as the permanent successor to the long-serving Sean Dyche last month following Burnley's relegation from the Premier League. On-loan Chelsea winger Ian Maatsen marked his debut with the only goal of the game. "A lot is being made of the style we will be playing this season," said former Anderlecht boss Kompany. "But we are still Burnley and Burnley will always be about hard work and I saw that in this game." —AFP

De Minaur rallies to book Atlanta final against Brooksby

WASHINGTON: Third-seeded Alex de Minaur fought back from a set down for a second straight match on Saturday, downing Ilya Ivashka 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the final of the ATP Atlanta Open. De Minaur lined up a title clash with sixth-seeded Jensen Brooksby, who beat fourth-seeded fellow American Frances Tiafoe 6-1, 6-4.

De Minaur, whose five ATP titles include a victory in Atlanta in 2019, is in his first final of 2022. After battling back from a set down to beat Adrian Mannarino in the quarter-finals, the Australian again surrendered the first set after a lengthy rain delay at 5-5.

"I just found a way to get through," said de Minaur, who saved two break points to open both the second and third sets before going on to take control. "It wasn't an ideal start but these things happen," he said. "You adapt, you move on and try to do the best that you can."

Brooksby took control early against Tiafoe, surging to a 3-0 lead on the way to pocketing the first set. Brooksby grabbed another early break in the second set and didn't face a break point until he was serving for the match.

That decisive game went to deuce five times, but Brooksby put it away on his sixth match point to reach his third career ATP final and second of 2022 after his runner-up performance in Dallas. "I came out really fired up," Brooksby said. "I think I kept it up in the second, then he started competing, started playing better... I was a little nervous there (at the end of) the second set."

Marie Bouzkova claimed the first WTA title of her career at home in Prague on Sunday, sweeping past Russia's Anastasia Potapova in straight sets. The eighth-seed won through 6-0, 6-3 against her opponent, seeded seventh, to lift the trophy in her fourth final after runner-up finishes at Guadalajara, Mexico this season, Melbourne last year and Monterrey in 2020. The player from Prague becomes the fifth Czech to win the hard-court tournament which debuted at tour-level in 2015, joining Karolina Pliskova, Lucie Safarova. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Khalidiya	24848075
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Kaifan	24849807
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Shamiya	24848913
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Shuwaikh	24814507
Chest Hospital	24849400	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Nuzha	22526804
Adan Hospital	23940620	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Qadsiya	22515088
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Dasmah	22532265
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
		Shaab	22518752
		Qibla	22459381
		Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
		Mirqab	22456536
		Sharq	22465401
		Salmiya	25746401

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

Automated enquiry about the CivilID card is 1889988

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAHUL MOHAMED JABAR SHADIQ, holder of Passport No. L3464129, do hereby change my name to MOHAMED HANIF (as given name) JABAR SHADIQ (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name MOHAMED HANIF JABAR SHADIQ and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C# 2026)

EMERGENCY

112



EMBASSY OF INDIA KUWAIT

invites Applications for post of Messenger

Post	Qualification	Age Limit
MESSENGER	12 th or above	Not more than 35 Years old as on 01.08.2022

Candidates applying should have valid Kuwaiti residency (transferable) and valid passport. Knowledge of English and Hindi is essential. Knowledge of other Indian languages and Arabic is preferable.

Interested candidates may submit their CV along with their passport/Civil ID and Educational Certificates by email on eoikwaitrecruitment@gmail.com latest by 07th August, 2022.

Vacancies in a Luxury Wellness Resort in Kuwait

Scheduled to open in 2022, the resort will be an ultra-luxury urban retreat targeting high profile individuals. It will offer unique and state of the art facilities and services to its members like ample spa facilities, private beach, indoor and outdoor pools, selected restaurant concepts, racket sports academy, comprehensive fitness facilities and unique fashion and sports retail. Currently, we are hiring exceptional talents in Kuwait in the following positions with minimum 3 years of experience in a 5-star luxury Hospitality:

- Food and Beverage
- Culinary
- Housekeeping

We Offer A Competitive Compensation Package

If you want to be a part of our pre-opening team creating memorable guest experience, send your CV to: resortkwt@gmail.com



LEICESTER: Liverpool's team players celebrate with the trophy after winning the English FA Community Shield football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at the King Power Stadium in Leicester on July 30, 2022. —AFP

Nunez outshines Haaland as Liverpool beat Man City to Community Shield

LEICESTER: Liverpool struck first blood against Manchester City ahead of the new Premier League season as Darwin Nunez made an instant impact for Jurgen Klopp's men to win the Community Shield 3-1 on Saturday. In a tale of two big summer signings, Nunez came off the bench to win a penalty and score his first goal since a 75-million euro (\$77 million) move from Benfica, while Erling Haaland had a City debut to forget.

"He's good," said Klopp on Nunez, who has been criticized for his pre-season performances. "Today we played the smart passes. We saw Darwin in dangerous situations. He used the spaces and finished well too. All the subs made a real difference. It was the most important thing I learned today, that the boys are ready."

Trent Alexander-Arnold's blistering strike gave Liverpool a deserved half-time lead in Leicester. But it was City's other new forward who hauled Pep Guardiola's men back into the game after the break as Julian Alvarez equalized.

Tying down Mohamed Salah to a new three-year deal was Liverpool's other major piece of summer business and the Egyptian was deadlocked from the penalty spot after Nunez's header was handled by Ruben Dias.

The Uruguayan then got his own glory moment by

stooping to head home in stoppage time before tearing off his shirt in celebration. Victory saw Liverpool win the traditional season curtain-raiser for the first time since 2006 and lay down an early marker in what is expected to be another battle between the sides for the Premier League title.

City held off the Reds to win the Premier League for a fourth time in five years by a point in a thrilling finale to last season. Guardiola's men had to come from 2-0 down on the final day of the campaign to beat Aston Villa and were again guilty of a slow start.

Salah was the provider for the opening goal as he laid Thiago Alcantara's crossfield pass back to the edge of the box and Alexander-Arnold smashed in off the post with the aid of a slight deflection off Dias. City had played just two pre-season friendlies to Liverpool's four and took half an hour to find their feet.

Haaland howler

Haaland was denied by Liverpool stand-in goalkeeper Adrian with his first sight of goal. However, the Norwegian should have opened his City account moments later as he failed to properly connect with Joao Cancelo's inviting cross. "It's good for him to see the reality of the new country, new league," said Guardiola on Haaland's first taste of English football.

"He was there. Today he didn't score - another day he will score."

Nunez was given his chance to shine on the hour mark, but fluffed his first big chance when Ederson prevailed in a one-on-one. At the other end, City's new South American striker also got his career in England off to a flying start.

Alvarez's arrival at the Etihad has gone under the radar in the hype surrounding Haaland. But the Argentine, who scored six goals in one Copa Libertadores match in May, is also regarded as one of the world's most exciting young forwards.

Alvarez was quickest to react to the rebound after Adrian saved Phil Foden's initial effort and the goal stood after a VAR review for offside. It needed another the intervention of VAR for Liverpool to restore their lead seven minutes from time.

Referee Craig Pawson pointed to the spot after seeing a replay of Nunez's header coming back off the arm of Dias. Salah was deadly as ever from 12 yards as he drilled into the bottom corner despite Ederson going the right way.

Nunez then ended any doubt over the result when he pounced on Andy Robertson's header across goal. But City's miserable day did not end there as Haaland hit the bar with the goal gaping deep in stoppage time. —AFP



PASADENA: Glieson Bremer #3 of Juventus controls the ball against Karim Benzema #9 of Real Madrid during the first half of their friendly soccer match at the Rose Bowl on July 30, 2022 in Pasadena, California. —AFP

Benzema, Asensio on target as Real Madrid down Juve in friendly

LOS ANGELES: Karim Benzema converted an early penalty and Marco Asensio added a second-half insurance goal as Real Madrid beat Juventus 2-0 in a pre-season friendly at California's Rose Bowl on Saturday.

With his eye on Real Madrid's European Super Cup clash with Eintracht Frankfurt in 10 days, coach Carlo Ancelotti started the same lineup that beat Liverpool in the Champions League final in May. They produced the first victory of Real Madrid's United States tour, after a 1-0 loss to La Liga rivals Barcelona in Las Vegas and a 2-2 draw against Mexico's Club America in San Francisco.

Spectators were still trickling into the stands when French star Benzema had a goal disallowed just eight seconds into the contest. Uruguay's Federico Valverde's through ball catching him offside. Juventus had their best chance of the match in the 13th minute, but Leonardo Bonucci's direct free kick hit the crossbar.

Benzema opened the scoring with a penalty in the 19th, crisply firing into the bottom left corner after Juventus' Danilo brought down fellow Brazilian Vinicius Junior with a sloppy move in the penalty area. Pressing hard to put the match to bed after the interval, Real Madrid were thwarted by Juventus goalkeeper Mattia Perin, who denied a sharply angled shot by Daniel Carvajal before soaring to stop a long-range left-footed blast from Benzema in the 62nd minute.

Two minutes later, Benzema was among the departing players as Ancelotti made nine substitutions. He received an ecstatic cheer from the largely pro-Real crowd of 93,702 at the Rose Bowl, the picturesque stadium tucked into the foothills northeast of Los Angeles that was the venue for the 1994 World Cup final.

Asensio was among the substitutes, and quickly made an impression, sweeping a cross from the left by Jesus Vallejo into the net with his left foot. It was enough to seal the win in a match in which Juventus barely tested Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. —AFP

Barcelona beat NY Red Bulls to cap unbeaten US tour

HARRISON: Ousmane Dembele and Memphis Depay lifted Barcelona to a 2-0 victory over the New York Red Bulls on Saturday as the Spanish giants finished their four-match friendly tour of the United States unbeaten. French winger Dembele fired Barcelona ahead after 40 minutes before a sellout crowd of 25,252 at Red Bull Arena.

Depay made it 2-0 in the 87th minute — five minutes after the Red Bulls were reduced to 10 men when Daniel Edelman was sent off for a wild sliding tackle on Pablo Torre. While newly signed striker Robert Lewandowski remains in search of his first goal for Barcelona, the club heads back to Spain having racked up three wins and a draw in four friendlies. Saturday's victory following a 6-0 win over Inter Miami, a 1-0 triumph over La Liga rivals Real Madrid and a 2-2 draw with Juventus.

French winger Dembele opened the scoring with his third goal in two matches. From a pass by Raphinha he unleashed a right-footed blast into the bottom right corner of Carlos Coronel's net. Depay struck in the 87th, capitalizing on a Red Bulls defensive mixup to slot the ball into an empty net. Lewandowski, signed from Bayern Munich for around 50 million euros was formally introduced as a Barca player at the start of the tour in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Polish striker was clearly pushing to open his Barcelona account in the first half, but failed to connect on a spate of attempts.

That included a header over the bar in the 17th minute and a 20th-minute attempt in which he escaped a trio of defenders to unleash a shot that was also over the bar. In



HARRISON: Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski kicks the ball past NY Red Bulls defender Aaron Long during the international friendly football match between the New York Red Bulls and FC Barcelona at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, New Jersey, on July 30, 2022. —AFP

the 25th minute, Dembele broke free down the right side to set up Lewandowski, but Coronel easily gathered in his shot. Coronel had to work harder in the 30th to deflect another attempt from Lewandowski.

A lively Red Bulls side had a smattering of chances, notably two headers from Sean Nealis that both went wide. But the hosts, in the midst of an MLS Cup playoff push,

changed their entire 11 for the second half.

A handful of halftime changes for Barcelona didn't include Lewandowski, but he didn't have any more luck in the second half as substitute keeper Ryan Meara denied him twice before he departed in the 73rd minute. Barcelona will conclude their pre-season with a match against Mexico's Pumas UNAM at Camp Nou next Sunday. —AFP