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# Kuwait and Arab League denounce blitz on Gaza

## Zionists, militants trade fire in major Gaza escalation



GAZA: Palestinian mourners carry the body of Islamic Jihad commander Taysir Al-Jabari, killed earlier in an Zionist air strike, during his funeral in Gaza City. (Right) Palestinians inspect the ruins of a collapsed building destroyed by a Zionist air strike in Gaza City, on August 6, 2022. — AFP

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced in the strongest terms the deadly air attacks launched by the Zionist occupation forces yesterday against Gaza Strip in Palestine. "The brutal attacks that left scores of casualties were a continuation of a chain of crimes being perpetrated by the occupation forces in a blatant violation of the rules of international laws and international legitimacy," the Ministry stressed in a statement on Saturday. It urged the international community to shoulder

their responsibilities, respond urgently to the Zionist aggressions, and ensure respect by the occupation authorities for the rules of the UN Charter, the international law and legitimacy. The Ministry reiterated the call for provision of international protection for the Palestinian people, expressing sincere condolences to the families of the Palestinian martyrs and wishing the wounded a quick recovery.

Meanwhile, Arab League strongly condemns Zionists "vicious" aggression in Gaza, which repre-

sent a continuous of war by the occupation against Palestinians. In a press statement, the League's General Secretariat held the occupation authorities fully responsible for this aggression and its repercussions and for the heinous bloody crimes that the occupation army continues to commit.

The League noted that these crimes require accountability before the international justice bodies, calling on the international community, especially the Security Council and human rights organizations, to

take immediate and effective action to stop this aggression and provide an international protection system for the Palestinian people by implementing the relevant UN resolutions.

Zionists hit Gaza with deadly air strikes on Saturday and a Palestinian militant group retaliated with a barrage of rocket fire, in the territory's worst escalation of violence since a war last year. Zionist entity has said it was forced to launch a

**Continued on Page 6**

## Mansouriya and Salam polluted

**KUWAIT:** The air quality monitoring system revealed a high rate of pollution in the Salam and Mansouriya areas on Saturday. According to the latest update, the monitoring system at the General Authority for the Environment showed an increase in pollution. The Authority warned patients with respiratory diseases living in those areas not to stay outside for a long period of time. The monitoring system also recorded a limited increase in pollution in neighboring areas, while it was on the average in both Shuwaikh and Rumaithiya areas.

## Russia, Ukraine trade blame over nuclear plant

**KYIV:** Kyiv and Moscow accused each other of striking Europe's largest nuclear site, causing a reactor stoppage as three grain ships departed Ukraine under a deal to avert food shortages. Russian troops have occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine since the early days of their invasion and Kyiv has accused them of storing heavy weapons there. Moscow, in turn, has accused

Ukrainian forces of targeting the plant.

"Three strikes were recorded on the site of the plant, near one of the power blocks where the nuclear reactor is located," Ukraine's state-run nuclear power plant operator Energoatom said in a statement. "There are risks of hydrogen leakage and radioactive spraying. The fire danger is high," Energoatom said. It did not report any casualties.

It said staff of Russian nuclear operator Rosatom had hastily left the plant before the attacks, which damaged a power cable and forced one of the reactors to stop working. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in his daily video address said Russia

**Continued on Page 6**



KHARKIV: An official examines the ruins of a furniture factory following a missile strike on the second largest Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on August 6, 2022, as the Russia-Ukraine war enters its 163rd day. — AFP

## Canada police attack Senegal diplomat

**DAKAR:** Senegal's foreign ministry has summoned the Canadian embassy's charge d'affaires after it said one of its diplomats in Ottawa was hospitalized following "rare police violence". The diplomat was taken to hospital by ambulance after being handcuffed and "savagely beaten" in her home in a "racist" incident, the ministry said in a statement issued Thursday. It said it summoned the charge d'affaires to "vigorously denounce and strongly condemn the racist and barbaric act".

According to the ministry, the Canadian police on Tuesday "raided" the diplomat's home in Ottawa and exercised "humiliating physical and moral violence, in front of witnesses and in the presence of her minor children." The identity of the diplomat was not disclosed. "Despite the reminder of the victim's status as a diplomat and the inviolability of her home, the Canadian police handcuffed and

**Continued on Page 6**

## Biden: Superhero, lame duck or both?

**WASHINGTON:** So what do Americans see in Joe Biden - a doddering has-been whom even his own party doesn't want around, or an improbable superhero? After an extraordinary week in Washington politics, the answer is a bit of both. The 79-year-old's political obituary has been issued more times than can be counted since he took office in 2021 amid the political wreckage of Donald Trump's presidency, a pandemic and fear of economic disaster. Now he's fighting back. Or at least his alter-ego, a comically sinister cartoon character dubbed "Dark Brandon" is.

In political nerd circles, the meme has been doing the rounds - and it started going viral on Twitter this week as Biden notched win after against-the-odds win. The "Dark Brandon" character was originally invented on Twitter by depressed leftists, angry that their centrist president was failing to get things done. They called him Brandon in a nod to a separate, vulgar Republican meme using the same name - and added death ray eyes.

But all of a sudden, mainstream Democrats are

embracing "Dark Brandon" as their own, rebranding him from ineffectual grandfather figure to a kind of political terminator. "Dark Brandon cannot be stopped," reads one caption over a portrait of Biden with deeply tanned skin and fiery yellow eyes. Another version depicts a photoshopped Biden capturing lightning in his hands, white light shooting from his eyes.

Check the headlines: - Friday, Biden gets a blockbuster jobs report showing US unemployment back to a half-century low. - Late Thursday, the final holdout Democratic senator, Kyrsten Sinema, blesses a vast spending package for historic investment in fighting climate change, as well as lowering costs in the ruinously expensive health system.

Monday, Biden announces the United States has killed Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the last big name of the 9/11-era Al-Qaeda leadership. A few days before that, Congress passes a \$52 billion investment package boosting semiconductor manufacturing. Oh, there's also this week's bill passed to compensate military veterans exposed to toxins, a cause dear to Biden's heart.

And all that with a tiny Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and only one extra vote in the Senate. Biden isn't the reincarnation - as he reportedly would like to be - of his hero Franklin D. Roosevelt, who rebuilt the United States in the Great Depression, tweeted Slate political writer



US President Joe Biden

Jordan Weissmann. "But as of now it looks like Biden's first term could be on par w/ Obama's when it comes to significant achievements, and with a much smaller majority."

Not so fast say Republicans, some of whom literally portray Biden as a mentally incompetent puppet of far-leftist handlers. Ronny Jackson - a former White House physician who famously praised Trump's "good genes" and suggested the obese Republican had the capacity to live to 200 - has caused a stir by going on Fox News and other right-wing outlets to diagnose Biden with "cognitive failures." — AFP



# Kuwait women's cooperative part enriches feat record

## Kuwait boasts pioneering cooperative movement - union chief

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti cooperative movement marked Saturday 60 years since the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah issued Law on Cooperatives in 1962. The anniversary falls at a time when Kuwaiti women celebrate their strong achievements and clear impact they have left on this field. Over the last 60 years, Kuwaiti women have gained public confidence to enter the domain of cooperative work, based on remarkable social awareness.

Nouria Al-Sadani, a renowned feminist, was the first Kuwaiti woman to become a member of the board of directors of a cooperative society in Al-Roudha district, south of Kuwait City, in 1969. In this context, Haia Al-Maqrour, who has been recently elected member of the board of directors of Al-Shaab Cooperative Society, said her membership win was an achievement to be added to the record of Kuwaiti women's social empowerment since the country's independence. Maqrour said she had taken senior women who had long experience in the area of cooperative work in general as an example to follow.

She elaborated that her practical experience in the voluntary domain involving cooperative work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, had spurred her to run for the recent election. She added that she seeks to deepen the principle of partnership among civil society organizations in a bid to serve the interests of the whole society in general and her neighborhood's residents in particular, citing training courses for shareholders just as a relevant paradigm. Urging other women to join the future elections of cooperative societies, Maqrour regretted that women have no representation in 68 boards of directors of cooperation societies nationwide.

Meanwhile, former assistant under-secretary of the ministry of social

affairs Awatef Al-Qattan underlined that it is initially essential to stimulate social activities just as one of the goals of the cooperative movement, thus serving families and the entire society. Qattan, who was a member of the board of directors of Al-Qusor and Al-Qurain Cooperative Society between 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, boasted that she was the first woman to have been tasked with establishing and equipping a wedding hall in her neighborhood.

However, she believed that Kuwaiti women's reluctance to join the electoral race of cooperative societies is due to lack of effective efforts to develop and upgrade the field of social, voluntary and steering services. The Kuwaiti cooperative movement is a pioneering experiment at both Gulf and Arab levels, with



### Kuwaiti cooperative movement marks 60th anniversary

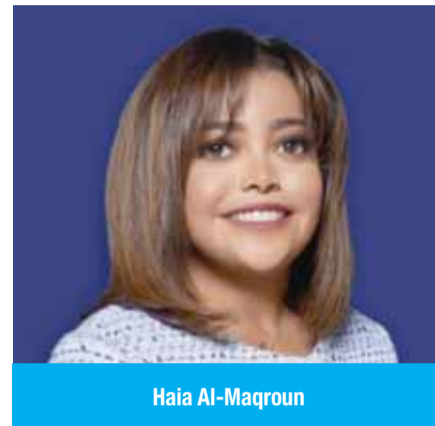
cooperatives offering consumer and social services to their customers in general and shareholders in particular.

#### Pioneering movement

Kuwaiti cooperative societies have managed to maintain the stable prices of basic commodities and services nationwide for many years, setting a pioneering example in both Gulf and Arab regions, said the chief of the Union of Cooperative Societies. "The Kuwaiti cooperative movement is so pioneering that it was generated out of the womb of the Kuwaiti society and reflected the cooperative spirit of



Nouria Al-Sadani



Haia Al-Maqrour



Awatef Al-Qattan

Kuwaiti forefathers," Abdulaziz Assad said in an interview marking 60 years since the Union was founded. The cooperative movement, in its current format, began in Kuwait as per Law 20/1962 that set out rules and regulations for establishing cooperatives, membership, management, oversight and whatnots, he recalled.

The Union was created in 1971 just to be the beginning of collective work in the consumer cooperative sector, defending the interests of member cooperatives and representing them at relevant Arab and international events, the union's chief elaborated. Assad spoke highly of the State's backing to the cooperative movement, drawing cooperatives' effective involvement in the national economy by means of creating a congenial legislative and regulatory work environment. Only out of its belief in the cooperative movement and its success in making commodities and services available, the State has tasked cooperatives with the distribution of subsidized commodities among citizens since 1975, he pointed out. The Union joined the International Cooperative Alliance, which is a non-governmental co-operative Union representing co-operatives and the cooperative movement world-



KUWAIT: An archive photo showing a section inside a co-op society in Kuwait. — KUNA photos

wide, in March 1981, Assad boasted. Furthermore, the Kuwaiti Union of Cooperative Societies contributed to founding the Arab Cooperative Union in August of the same year, and has promoted its relations with different world cooperative organizations through the exchange of personnel visits, Assad remarked.

In 1981, the Union consented to the collective purchasing and importing policy for specific staples in a bid to provide alternatives to highly expensive commodities at the domestic market,

thus reining in looming price hikes, he noted. The Union's chief underlined that the cooperative movement has various economic dimensions, based on developing and strengthening national industries, promoting internal and external trade and seeking to solve economic problems. The Kuwaiti cooperative movement is a pioneering experiment at both Gulf and Arab levels, with cooperatives offering consumer and social services to their customers in general and shareholders in particular. — KUNA

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KUWAIT: The students in a group photo during the visit.

## Zain introduced students to its leading telecom experience in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, hosted engineering and telecom students from Kuwait University's College of Petroleum and Engineering (CEP) at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh. During the visit, Zain introduced the students to its leading experience in the Kuwaiti telecommunications sector.

This initiative came as part of Zain's belief in the private sector's key role in supporting the nation's education sector and embracing the talents of local youth. The company is committed to playing an active role in the investment in Kuwait's human capital. By adopting such initiatives, Zain seeks to support students and allow them to apply their skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.

The visit came in collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Kuwait Branch (IEEE Kuwait), where Zain introduced the visiting students to some of the most essential business and

technical aspects of its operations, including networks and telecommunications, corporate affairs, and customer care.

Zain discussed the impact of new technologies, such as 5G and artificial intelligence (AI), on the advancement of the local telecom sector. The visit also included tours to Zain's datacenter, considered one of Kuwait's leading datacenters, as well as to the Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) and the company's call center (107), where they learned how Zain maintains the best customer service practices to serve Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers.

On another front, Zain introduced the students to the various roles of its Corporate Communications and Relations Division, its strategies, and role in enriching the Zain brand. Topics included external and internal relations, media relations and social media, corporate sustainability and social responsibility, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship.

Zain is committed to exerting more efforts into offering similar programs that enrich the development of Kuwaiti talents and education in all areas. The company spares no efforts in making its capabilities and resources available as well as reinforce its collaboration with entities and organizations that provide such initiatives and actively develop students.

## Kuwait keen on joint Arab works: Ambassador

**AMMAN:** Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan and Palestine Aziz Al-Daihani affirmed Friday Kuwait's eagerness to help drive efforts to strengthen Arab cooperation. Ambassador Daihani made his statement on the sidelines of the 2nd Arab Camp for guidance and Women's Forums organized by the Girls Guide Association in Jordan, with the participation of 10 Arab states. Kuwait's Girls Guide Association (KGGGA) as representatives in this event reflected the country's keenness to unify and help drive more joint efforts in the Arab World, said Daihani. Head of the Kuwaiti Association Hind Al-Houli said that the Forum witnessed joint efforts in the form of cooperation of a unified youthful body from many Arab countries, as the hosts put their full confidence in the process. The event, held at Jabal Dibein, is a great opportunity to further development, benefit from experiences, as well as perceive-



AMMAN: Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani with delegates from Kuwait's Girls Guide Association. — KUNA

live info through a forum network. Recreational and educational training programs as well as field visits occurred within the event with around 150 participants, three forerunners leading three forums from Kuwait. She was also very thankful for the Jordanian Educational Ministry for their efforts to host this event under an immense organized structure for our upcoming generations. — KUNA



## Local

# Kuwaiti writer teaches children about Palestine through storybook series

## Noorah Al-Ibraheem uses poetic stories to spread knowledge of Arab, Islamic causes

By Majd Othman

**KUWAIT:** Writing poetic stories requires a talent that differs from traditional writing, especially if it is directed to children. Since children have a stronger sense and intelligence that is different from adults, they are faster in absorbing and accepting those ideas. Therefore, Kuwaiti young writer Noorah Jamal Al-Ibraheem decided to use her talent in writing poetic stories to convey humanitarian issues and present them to children in an interesting way that motivates them to think and see new aspects of the world.

'If Stars could Talk' is a story series recently launched by Ibraheem, who is 27 years old and a mother. The main idea revolves around one point, that if the stars could talk, they would be witnesses to what is happening in the world. The first story in the series was about the issue of Palestine, while the writer named the main character of the story 'Aqsa', which symbolizes Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Palestine. Kuwait Times met Ibraheem and talked more about the kids' story series.

**Kuwait Times:** Where did you get your inspiration to write the first story of the series from?

**Noorah Al-Ibraheem:** I got my inspiration after I met my friend 'Aqsa'. In that time, I felt that this name commensurate with the goal of the story, especially that I wanted to be away from using usual names in the story. This name is a message that we do not recognize the existence of the Zionist entity, in addition to the fact that the name is consistent with the intent of the story.

Through the story, I tried to focus on the symbols that indicate the solidity and stability of the Palestinian cause. I liked to plant the Palestinian flag in the minds of children, so I used the colors of the Palestinian flag in describing the nature and plants, such as describing the color of roses as red, white and green, and birds as black.

**KT:** Which age group does the story series target?

**Ibraheem:** This series is directed to ages starting from 4 years and above. The poetic formula in writing the story because the use of a certain wording for children contributes to capturing and memorizing the topic more. Meanwhile, I focused on making the story not too long and not too short to better communicate the idea.

**KT:** How did you see the reactions to the idea of a story?

**Ibraheem:** People's reactions made me very proud of myself and very happy, because it was more than I expected. Even though the issue of Palestine was raised since childhood and we grew up with it, there are no stories and references for children that explain it in a simple way, especially since it is a complex issue and contains many details developed over the years. So, I made sure in the story to simplify the issue in a way that suits children. I was happy with one feedback I got from a reader: a 9-year-old girl who commented when she



Kuwaiti writer Noorah Al-Ibraheem

finished reading the story saying that she does not want the story to end. I saw a great interest from the Kuwaiti and Arab people, and even some people from countries abroad who received the story series, because they are always looking for stories that discuss important issues that are not often found in libraries.

**KT:** What is your goal in focusing on the colors of the Palestinian flag while describing the nature in the story?

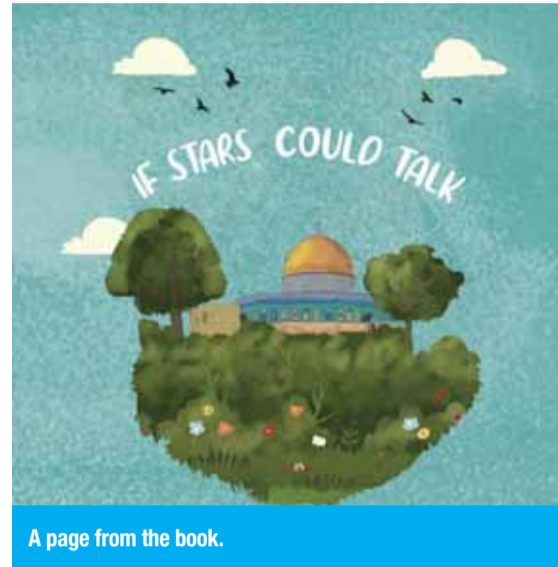
**Ibraheem:** I aim to imprint a mental image in the minds of our children about Palestinian symbols and the importance of persistence in defending the Palestinian cause. That's the reason I started this series of stories taking about the Palestine issue and the importance of defending Al-Aqsa Mosque. As a Kuwaiti, it is also a part of the consistent humanitarian position of my state, Kuwait, towards the Palestinian cause. Kuwait is always on the side of truth, which I am very proud of, and Kuwait has provided me with the strength to contribute and support the cause of Al-Aqsa.

**KT:** Will the story series only talk about the Palestinian issue, or are there other issues that you will talk about in your next publications?

**Ibraheem:** I seek to increase the issues further. The goal of the series is to instill Islamic values and principles in our children's souls and minds, and I am keen to talk about the Arab common issues and topics that are important to us as Arabs and Muslims. The issue of Jerusalem is one of the most important issues that I have started with.



The book's back cover.



A page from the book.

**KT:** Is there a common theme between stories?

**Ibraheem:** The main theme of the series is that there is a star that revolves around the earth and sees the events that happen in all countries of the world, and conveys to children Islamic and Arab issues in a poetic way, and the beginning was from the land of Palestine.

**KT:** Is the series published in English only?

**Ibraheem:** It is currently published in English in a poetic style that reaches children in a simple way, and I also want it to be a global message because today, we notice the influence of the West on our children. As a mother, I do not want those ideas to control our children, and this book is a symbol of confronting those ideas and influences. Therefore, I am working on preparing a copy in Arabic, especially since Arabic stories are in great demand because they have become few in the market and are repetitive in their ideas such as teaching letters, numbers, animals and others. As for the older ages, I did not find a story that balances between all ages, and this is what I tried to implement in this series.

**KT:** When did you start to love writing poetic stories?

**Ibraheem:** Since I was young, I started writing poetry stories, and with the encouragement of my mother, I was going to publish my first poetic story when I was in middle school, but unfortunately it was stolen from me in school. As a result of that, the passion inside of me stopped for a while and made me frustrated to return to writing. But when I grew up and had the opportunity to write articles in Al-Moasher Economic newspaper, this was for me a revival of my hope to write again, especially since my first article was about liberating Al-Aqsa.

**KT:** What made you transfer from writing in economics to children's stories?

**Ibraheem:** I became a mother. I am keen to push mothers in Kuwait to encourage their children to



ISTANBUL: Kuwaiti Health Minister Khaled Al-Saeed meets with Turkish Deputy Minister of Health Sabahattin Aydin. — KUNA

use of Turkey's medical advancement. He added that during the meeting he was also briefed on the privileges of Turkey's health system, national health insurance covering all segments of society, and the private sector's role in backing the governmental health system. — KUNA



## Kuwaiti Minister urges tapping Turkish medical expertise

**ISTANBUL:** Visiting Kuwaiti Health Minister Khaled Al-Saeed said Saturday it is necessary to draw upon Turkey's medical expertise, particularly hospital operation and administration, and staff training. The minister made the remark following his meeting with Turkish Deputy Minister of Health Sabahattin Aydin at Basaksehir Cam and Sakura City Hospital in Basaksehir district of Istanbul, where he got familiar with the hospital's experience in various medical domains. The minister said he had discussed with the Turkish deputy health minister ways of promoting cooperation between Kuwait and Turkey in the health field, and how to make best

## Fire squads control fire in Ardhiya Industrial

**KUWAIT:** Fire squads successfully controlled a fire that started in a building in Ardhiya Industrial Friday morning, announced the public relations department of the Kuwaiti Fire Force. The fire started on the second floor of a building in an office used by a fragrance shop. The central operations management sent three fire squads from Ardhiya, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Al-Bedaa to handle the situation. An investigation is underway to reveal the cause of the fire.



## Annual leave, front liner rewards postponed

**KUWAIT:** The recent law approved by the National Assembly and the Government on converting public sector employee annual leaves into cash, as well as unreleased rewards for COVID front liners will not be finished according to plans, and it will be postponed till next year, government sources revealed to Kuwait Times.

"The postponement of the annual budget until after the upcoming election of the National Assembly also delayed the government's plans to release annual leave compensation and COVID front liners rewards due to the incompleteness of revenue confirmation at the end of the fiscal year in April," sources also added. This has made these sides wait until the new budget is approved to continue its release, the sources said, clarifying that annual leave compensations did not even exist in previous budget allocations.

Government departments have been pre-occupied with receiving employee requests who want to keep their annual leaves and affirming their validity, as most departments have not even finished the process, which delayed the compensation to next year since the budget will not be allocated by the National Assembly until after November of this year.

This is mainly because if elections aren't held until late September, this means that initial sessions which are meant to elect the speaker, secretaries, supervisors and parliamentary committees of the parliament will not be held before mid-October. Furthermore, this means that sessions meant to allocate the budget will not be before November, the sources said. "Despite that the lists with the names of COVID front liners have been completed, many groups will not receive their rewards until the coming year," sources added.

### local spotlight

## Corporate trustee and trust agreements in Kuwait



By Atyab Al-Shatti

Many international business entrepreneurs are looking to run their businesses in Kuwait through trust agreements due to the advantages of the trust structure, which they have recognized through practicing trusts in their jurisdiction mainly in relation to the protection and separation of assets from personal creditors and avoidance of probate and tax advantages. Moreover, entrepreneurs are looking at it from another angle, which is the advantages of limited liability, which is possible if a corporate trustee is appointed. The structure of the trust provides more privacy than a company, as well as more flexibility in distributions among beneficiaries.

Yet, the laws of the state of Kuwait do not recognize trusts as a permissible transaction, and prohibit establishing any form of agreement in which the trustor can legally transfer the ownership of specific assets to another person or entity (trustee) to be held for the trustor's beneficiaries in a form of a joint ownership, whereas the concept of a joint ownership goes against the Anglo-Saxon system which the civil laws of Kuwait are based on. The ownership by the Kuwaiti law is recognized to be sole ownership, while the trust grants the trustee the owner's rights which are duly owned by the trustor before the establishment of the trust agreement.

Such statutory nature is only permitted by the laws of Kuwait in a very exceptional practice where inheritors can jointly own assets of an inherited property, which is also a temporary condition subject to the distribution of the inheritance and reforming sole ownership of each inheritor according to Islamic sharia provisions.

The other challenge that faces trust agreements is the fact that the commercial law differentiates between business entities which are owned by nationals in Kuwait and foreign companies, considering the fact that foreign companies' ownership of a local company's assets should not exceed 49 percent. This is another barrier that any international business shall encounter once they decide they want to establish their business in Kuwait.

One of the main solutions to overcome this challenge is to convert the trust agreement into a joint venture agreement in which the distribution of benefits/profits shall be linked to the greater portion of contribution in the business by the foreign company, either through asset management or services, while providing clauses incorporated within the basic joint venture.

Linking an operating company to a holding company can be another solution with regards to securing the assets. The assets are placed in the holding company with a proper legal establishment for the company where the holding company is operated by operating companies e.g. A B C. The beauty of the holding company is that its ability to control money infuse therein through the operating companies where the holding company is indemnified against any damage that the operating company does, and vice versa! So essentially stopping the liquids' infusion in the holding company shall be a solution.



## Local

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## News in brief

## Humid weather continues Monday

**KUWAIT:** Humidity is expected to continue increasing, reach over 90 percent on Saturday according to Kuwait Meteorologist Center. The humidity is predicted to continue through Monday and begins to drop Tuesday when the weather turns extremely hot with temperatures exceeding 50 C degrees, meteorologist Dherar Al-Ali said. The high temperature is expected to continue Wednesday as Kuwait will be affected by northwesterly winds, he added.

## Kuwait decries Kabul bombing

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned on Saturday the recent huge bombing that hit Kabul city, capital of Afghanistan, and resulted in many casualties. A statement by the ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's principled stance against violence and terrorism, expressed sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished the wounded a quick recovery.

## Kuwait oil dips to \$101.22 pb: KPC

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti crude oil plummeted \$2.31 during Friday's trading sessions to reach \$101.22 per barrel (pb), compared with \$103.53 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday. Brent futures went up by 80 cents to reach \$94.92 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTA) rose by 47 cents to \$89.01 pb.

## Russian official commends ties with Kuwait

**MOSCOW:** Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister and presidential envoy to the Middle East and North Africa Mikhail Bogdanov praised the development of bilateral relations with Kuwait. Kuwait was the first country in the Arabian Gulf region to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow in the early 1960s, he recalled in remarks to the press. The two countries' relations are developing steadily in various fields as they currently hold discussions on matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation based on mutual benefit on a permanent basis, added the official.

Emphasizing further, he said this includes means to develop issues of bilateral friendly relations, a political dialogue, an exchange of views on Middle East developments and issues of common interest. Russia is interested in "developing trade, investment and humanitarian ties with the State of Kuwait," he also said. On the other hand, Moscow has always shown an "interest in listening to the Kuwaiti side's assessments on the current developments in the Middle East and Arabian Gulf region," he added. He pointed out that there are several issues in the Middle East whereby both can exchange views, including the developments in Iraq and Syria, including the normalization of the socio-economic situation there, alongside terrorism.

He also indicated Moscow's interest in the current developments in Libya and Yemen, noting that Russia sees eye-to-eye with Kuwait on the need to settle the situation in Yemen. Bogdanov also said his country is keen to play a mediating role between Arab countries and Iran, if called on to do so. He expressed Moscow's view that "the normalization of relations between Arab countries and Iran would contribute to settling many issues in the region in general." — KUNA

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** An archive photo showing a boat approaching the beach near Sharq in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Kuwait opens school for refugees in Yemen



**ADEN:** Kuwait's Al-Rahma International Society recently inaugurated the opening of a model school for refugees in the Yemeni Maarib Governorate. Also inaugurated the start of work on two other schools in the governorates of Hadhramaut and Lahij, benefiting 1,500 students as part of the campaign called 'Kuwait by your side' that has been going on for the past eight years. Raed Ibrahim, head of the Communication Foundation for Human

Development, implementing the project, said in a statement to the press on the occasion of opening the edris-1 school, which consists of 15 classrooms, in addition to administrative and technical services areas, in Al-Kharashi camp for the displaced in the Al-Wadi Directorate in Maarib. Ibrahim added that they have also recently witnessed the building of two other schools with the same name in the governorates of Hadhramout and Lahj, which will provide

a suitable learning environment for more than 1,500 students in the three schools, with an average of 500 students in each. Ibrahim pointed out that the project targets displaced children from the first to the ninth grade in the refugee camps in the three governorates, and to provide them with school bags, school supplies, and uniforms, which contributes to providing an appropriate educational environment for their education. — KUNA

## KFH participates in field visit to aid Rohingya refugees

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated, in coordination with the Kuwait Red Crescent, in a field visit to the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh to stand on the last updates on the humanitarian aid projects carried out by the UNHCR.

This activity comes within the frame of the memorandum of understanding and cooperation which KFH signed with the UNHCR in Kuwait earlier. This memorandum of understanding is the first of its kind at all banks level in Kuwait and the region. KFH has provided a financial aid amounting US\$ 540 Thousand to fulfill the urgent needs of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

During the field visit, and heading KFH Delegation, the KFH Senior Manager, Social Media & Public Relations Services, Abdullah Al-Saif, indicated that KFH delegation has organized several visits to various sites of the Rohingya Refugee Camps. He expressed his happiness and appreciation for the



efforts extended to alleviate the suffering of refugees and improve the hard conditions which they are experiencing.

Saif has valued the role which the UNHCR plays in executing various initiatives to educate and qualify the Rohingya refugees. He emphasized that education is the best service that can be presented to the refugees along the basic needs of living to enable them and grant them the required drives that would ease their suffering and build a better future for them.

Saif noted that KFH delegation has felt during the field visit the existence of various talents of the chil-

dren who have a promising future if they are given proper education and the appropriate opportunities to live a normal life, thus reiterating KFH distinguished social role in this respect.

He indicated that KFH enjoys a long record of the joint strategic and social initiatives inside and outside Kuwait in cooperation with the concerned official authorities regarding aid efforts. He highlighted that these social initiatives reflect KFH leadership in social responsibility and copes with Kuwait's reputation and leading global position in charity deeds and strengthening of human values.





UK boy dies after hospital withdraws life support

## Blinken meets Marcos Jr, hails 'strong' US-Philippine alliance

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GAZA CITY: A fireball erupts as a result of a Zionist entity's air strike on a building in Gaza City on August 6, 2022. —AFP

# Exhausted Gazans again under fire

## 'We were living in peace and suddenly the bombardment began'

GAZA: With empty streets and drawn curtains, Gaza feels like a ghost town. Its residents—tested by repeated wars—feel like they are living the same scenes again and again. Before Zionist entity launched its "pre-emptive" strikes on militants in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian territory was enjoying a summer unlike any other in recent years. Gaza's beaches, long deemed too polluted with waste water for swimmers, had been declared mostly usable again, allowing Palestinians swimmers and surfers to rediscover the joys of the sea. All that came to an abrupt halt on Friday when Zionist entity again bombarded the territory, citing threats from Islamic Jihad militants.

"We were living in peace and suddenly the bombardment began," said 40-year-old Mohammed Hamami. "Enough! Enough!" he exclaimed. "Each month or each year there is a war."

There have been four conflicts since 2007 between Zionist entity and armed groups from Gaza. The beach promenade, one of the impoverished and overcrowded

territory's rare leisure spots, crowded less than 24 hours earlier, was desolate on Saturday.



Each month or each year there is a war

Street vendors stayed home and cafes were closed. Fifteen months after the last conflict between Zionist entity and armed groups in the territory brought devastation to countless Gazans, Hamami said he was "surprised" that Zionist entity had attacked again. Twice in July Zionist entity's jets had struck Gaza

the situation for attention, insist they did everything to protect her. The local prosecutor's office also rejected suggestions it could have done more. "As soon as we received the police report (identifying one of the suspects), we sent it over to the relevant authorities in Germany," spokesman Christoph Weber said.

On Friday, prosecutors in the neighboring German state of Bavaria said a 59-year-old suspect was being investigated by a specialist hate speech unit. At the beginning of the week, Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen visited the small town of Seewalchen where Kellermayr lived to lay flowers in her memory. After news of her death broke, he had appealed to Austrians to "put an end to intimidation and fear".

### 'They're gagging us'

But on some Telegram groups, the hateful messages continue. "Some people are celebrating her death; others believe the vaccine killed her," said Ingrid Brodnig, a journalist and author who investigates online disinformation. "Strict laws exist" already against online hate, but not enough is done to implement them, Brodnig said.

One government minister has floated the idea of a separate prosecutor's office to target such cases. Doctors and researchers have also been targeted elsewhere. French infectious disease specialist, Karine Lacombe, described how she had been vilified for her work as part of a collective of doctors combatting coronavirus-related disinformation. —AFP



VIENNA: This file photo taken on August 1, 2022 shows people attending a candle light memorial at Stephansplatz for Lisa-Maria Kellermayr, the deceased Austrian doctor who closed her practice after she reported receiving death threats from opponents of COVID-19 restrictions and vaccines in Vienna. — AFP

### Fanning the aggression

On Saturday, the head of Austria's doctors' association, Johannes Steinhart, said that while aggressive behaviour towards medical staff was not new, it had been "fired up and noticeably aggravated" by the debate over COVID-19 and vaccines. The police, who had previously suggested Kellermayr was exploiting

after what the military said was rocket and rifle fire from the territory. But this time the military said it was preparing for a week-long operation. The Jewish state has blockaded Gaza since 2007, the year Hamas Islamists took power in the territory.

### 'Fear, anxiety'

Zionist entity's army said its latest campaign was targeting militant sites and fighters, estimating that 15 combatants had been killed. Palestinian militants retaliated with rocket fire.

The Hamas-run health ministry has reported 13 deaths from Zionist entity's fire including a five-year-old girl, Alaa Kaddum. Her father carried her at her funeral, with a wound on her forehead and a pink bow in her hair. More than 110 other people have been wounded, the ministry said.

For Gazans, the long night and second day of Zionist entity's strikes stirred familiar and unwelcome emotions. "This latest escalation brings back images of fear, anxiety,

and the feeling that we are all alone," said Dounia Ismail, a Gaza City resident. The incessant explosions and air strikes had kept her up all night, she said.

"It has become a habit for Palestinians in Gaza to prepare a survival bag, which contains a few important things, like photos, documents and some money and medicine," in case they have to flee their homes, said Ismail. "I hope this escalation won't turn into a bigger conflict and I hope the Egyptian mediation will restore calm."

In Jabalia, in Gaza's north, Fouad Farajallah inspected what remained of his home, hit by a Zionist strike on Friday. The living room had turned into a mass of sheet metal and rubble, the fan dangling from the ceiling. "I was sitting here on the sofa, with my wife and children, and suddenly it all fell on us," he said.

"My wife broke her hand and my son was wounded by shrapnel." Even when silence appears to return between bombardments, something else fills the air: the buzzing of Zionist entity's drones. — AFP

she said. "We just don't know if this is just a temporary thing."

### 'Provocative' military exercises

The White House on Friday rejected Beijing's call for Washington to defuse the situation, having already labeled China's actions as "manufactured." "The Chinese can go a long way to taking the tensions down simply by stopping these provocative military exercises and ending the rhetoric," said spokesman John Kirby.

On Thursday he said that China was seeking to alter the decades-old situation in which Taiwan was permitted to grow into a prosperous, self-ruled island supported by the United States even as Beijing adamantly claimed it as a part of China. "We oppose any unilateral changes to the status quo from either side," Kirby said. John Culver, a former CIA Asia analyst, said in a discussion Thursday hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, that China's main purpose with its military exercises was to change that status quo. "I think that this is the new normal," Culver said. "The Chinese want to show... that a line has been crossed by the speaker's visit." Beijing's next steps are unknown, but if it persists with or widens military exercises, or starts flying aircraft over Taiwan, "then that raises this definition of a new normal." China has at its disposal a "spectrum of diplomatic, economic, information and cyber (fields) in which to alter the status quo," he said, adding that the changes could be significant "for the longer-term trajectory" of cross-strait and US relations. —AFP

which is in Eastern California's Mojave Desert.

The floodwaters tore up sections of paved roads and pushed dumpster containers into parked cars, causing the vehicles to collide. The rain also flooded offices and hotels, the park said.

The park service added that all roads serving the park will remain off-limits until officials can determine the extent of the damage. A total of 1.46 inches (3.7 centimeters) of rain fell in the park's Furnace Creek area, almost tying the previous daily record of 1.47 inches. The average annual rainfall is less than two inches a year. Higher temperatures caused by climate change mean the atmosphere holds more moisture, unleashing more rain.

According to UN climate experts, even if the world manages to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, some regions will experience an increase in frequency, intensity and quantity of heavy rainfall. The risk of heavy precipitation episodes increases with temperature rise. —AFP

## US-China relations risk long and deep freeze over Taiwan

WASHINGTON: The scale of China's military and political response to a visit to Taiwan by the top US lawmaker suggests the latest downturn in relations between the two superpowers could be deep and long-lasting, analysts say. Despite the White House's best efforts to downplay the visit by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Beijing ordered large scale naval and air force exercises around the island, fired 11 ballistic missiles in nearby waters, and suspended cooperation with Washington on military relations, climate change and law enforcement.

President Joe Biden's administration denied there was any crisis, but experts say the tensions over Taiwan have risen to their highest level in nearly 30 years with an elevated risk of military conflict. "The relationship is in a very bad place right now" said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the German Marshall Fund. Glaser called Pelosi's trip ill-timed and said the consequences are still not fully known. But the suspension Friday of bilateral military and maritime dialogue while China continues its military exercises was "particularly worrisome," she said. "We don't know what else they will do,"

## Rare flooding traps 1,000 in US Death Valley

LOS ANGELES: Major flooding in California's Death Valley on Friday stranded approximately 1,000 people, buried cars and shut down all roads into and out of the famously parched national park.

No injuries were reported, according to the National Park Service, but around 60 cars were bogged down under several feet of debris. "Unprecedented amounts of rainfall caused substantial flooding," the National Park Service said in a statement, adding that "there are approximately 500 visitors and 500 staff currently unable to exit the park,"



## International

# In New York, a native tribe fights to save land from climate change

## The Shinnecock now shrinking due to rising sea levels and coastal erosion

**SOUTHAMPTON, US:** In the Hamptons, New York's playground for the rich and famous, a Native American tribe is battling with the latest threat to what's left of its traditional land: climate change. The Shinnecock, whose name means "people of the stony shore," have lived on Long Island for 13,000 years.

Their villages stretched along the island's eastern end before land grabs by European settlers and later US authorities reduced their territory to an 800-acre (1.25 square-mile) peninsula. That low-lying

ing away at the reservation's coastline.

Ed Terry, who makes traditional Shinnecock jewelry out of shells found on the beach, remembers the sand going out much further when he was a boy. "You can see the erosion. Where the land was is now water. It's like the sea is coming to us," the 78-year-old told AFP, as he sculpted a mussel shell to be worn as earrings. Some parts of the shoreline have already receded 150 feet (45 meters), according to studies cited by Shavonne Smith, the nation's environment director.

She says 57 homes may have to be relocated soon and bodies possibly disinterred from the tribe's coastal cemetery and moved elsewhere. "If you're talking about taking a people that are so dependent on the water-for spiritual health, recreational and sustenance-and now moving them further inland, you're talking about a very huge, stressful, emotional, dynamic shift in who we are," Smith told AFP.

The nation estimates its sea levels will rise by up to 4.4 feet (1.3 meters) by the end of the century. Coupled with more intense storms, this would mean frequent devastating floods.

Hurricane Sandy gave a foretaste in 2012, washing away bluffs on the shore, ripping off roofs and flooding basements and the burial grounds. "There are studies that show by the year 2040 there's a 100 percent chance the entire Shinnecock Nation region will get inundated by a storm," said Scott Mandia, a climate change professor at Suffolk County Community College.

### 'We will survive'

In an attempt to preserve their homeland and way of life, which includes fishing and farming, the nation is taking a nature-based approach towards tackling global warming. It has built an oyster shell reef and placed boulders to try to hold back waves, as well as planted sea and beach grass in a bid to



SHINNECOCK NATION, United States: Waban Tarrant (right) and Donna Collins-Smith (left), members of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, harvest sugar kelp at the Shinnecock Kelp Farmer which will be used as a natural fertilizer for sea and beach grass planted to prevent beach erosion in the Hampton Bays on July 26, 2022. — AFP

stop sand from shifting. Tribe members are doing their bit too.

Troge, 35, is director of Shinnecock Kelp Farmers—a group of six Indigenous women who harvest sugar kelp and sell it as a non-chemical fertilizer. The seaweed helps clean up water pollution, fueled by neighboring development, by absorbing carbon and nitrates that cause toxic algae blooms, which damage marine life. Wading into the bay waist-high, farmer Donna Collins-Smith says she is inspired by previous Shinnecock generations "and what they have preserved for us."

"We are maintaining that and bringing it back

from a state of near dead," the 65-year-old told AFP. Mandia, co-author of a book about rising sea levels, laments that marginalized communities "who are least responsible for" climate change are those "who are going to feel the pain the most."

He applauds the tribe's efforts but says they are "just buying time" before their land becomes uninhabitable. Terry, the septuagenarian jeweler, wonders where future Shinnecock will go, since tribal boundaries are fixed.

"We have no higher ground," he says. Nevertheless, Terry adds, "We are a strong people. We will survive." —AFP

discontinued, but the family fought through the courts to overturn that. Arguing that Archie could benefit from treatment in Italy or Japan, they took their case all the way to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, which this week declined to intervene. The parents also lost a last-ditch legal bid to have Archie transferred to a hospice for his final hours.

"All legal routes have been exhausted," a spokesman for the campaign group Christian Concern, which has been supporting the family, said late Friday. "The family are devastated and are spending precious time with Archie."

### 'Charlie's Law'

The case is the latest in a series that have pitted parents against Britain's legal and healthcare systems.

The involvement of groups such as Christian Concern in support of desperate parents has drawn criticism for prolonging the pain of all concerned. Such groups are often working to their own agendas, according to Dominic Wilkinson, professor of medical ethics at the University of Oxford.

"They may have different political or other views, (and) have reason to wish to tell the parents things that may not be accurate," he said on Sky. After a highly charged battle between the hospital and his parents, 23-month-old Alfie Evans died in April 2018 when doctors in Liverpool, in northwestern England, withdrew life support. His parents had the support of Pope Francis to take him to a clinic in



A High Court judge has ruled Archie's treatment should be stopped and his life support turned off.

Rome, but lost a final court appeal days before he died.

Charlie Gard, born in August 2016 with a rare form of mitochondrial disease that causes progressive muscle weakness, died one week short of his first birthday after doctors withdrew life support.

His parents had fought a five-month legal battle for Charlie to be taken to the United States for experimental treatment, eliciting support from then US president Donald Trump and evangelical groups.

The parents have been pushing the UK government to adopt "Charlie's Law", proposed legislation that would strengthen parents' rights when disputes arise over the treatment of their children. — AFP



### Nature-based strategy to curb global warming

land is now shrinking due to rising sea levels and coastal erosion, and making it increasingly vulnerable to more powerful storms.

"You're looking at a situation where an entire nation of people who have been here for essentially forever are faced with a devastating reality that we may have to relocate," Tela Troge, a Shinnecock attorney, told AFP. The Shinnecock Indian Nation is a self-governing, federally recognized tribe of approximately 1,600 members. Roughly half live on its reservation, which juts out into Shinnecock Bay beside Southampton, where multi-million-dollar mansions sit behind electric gates.

Also next door is the hamlet of Shinnecock Hills and its famous eponymous golf club, land the tribe says was stolen from them in 1859. Warming temperatures are causing seas to expand and rise, eat-

## Lanka asks China to delay ship after Indian pressure

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka has asked China to indefinitely delay a visit by a ship reported by Indian media to be a spy vessel, following intense pressure by the island's northern neighbor, official sources said Saturday. The Yuan Wang 5 is en route from the Chinese port of Jiangyin and due in the Chinese-run Sri Lankan port of Hambantota on Thursday, according to analytics website MarineTraffic.

It is described as a research and survey vessel, but according to Indian broadcaster CNN-News18 is a dual-use spy ship, employed for space and satellite tracking and with specific usage in intercontinental ballistic missile launches. Indian media reports said that New Delhi was worried the vessel would be used to spy on its activities and that it had lodged a complaint with Colombo.

India remains suspicious of China's growing influence in its southern neighbor Sri Lanka.

New Delhi's foreign ministry last week said that it will closely monitor "any bearing on India's security and economic interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them". In a written request, the Sri Lanka foreign ministry told the Chinese embassy in Colombo not to go ahead with the visit, an official involved in the process told AFP on Saturday. — AFP

## UK boy dies after life support stopped at end of legal battle

**LONDON:** A London hospital on Saturday withdrew life support for 12-year-old British boy Archie Battersbee after his parents lost a long, emotive and divisive legal battle. Archie's mother, Hollie Dance, said her son passed away just over two hours after the artificial ventilation was stopped.

"Such a beautiful little boy. He fought right until the very end," she told reporters, sobbing, outside the Royal London Hospital. "I'm the proudest mum in the world," Dance said, after spending the night at his bedside with other relatives. Dance found Archie unconscious at home in April with signs he had placed a cord around his neck, possibly after taking part in an online asphyxiation challenge.

At the entrance to the hospital in east London, well-wishers left flowers and cards, and lit candles in the shape of the letter "A". "My boy is 12, the same age as Archie, and this just puts things in perspective," Shelley Elias, 43, said after leaving her own offerings at the site earlier Saturday.

"I did not know what to write because there are no words that will take the pain away," she said.

A judge in June agreed with doctors that Archie was "brain-stem dead", allowing life support to be

on Tuesday citing security concerns.

"Zionist entity isn't interested in a wider conflict in Gaza, but will not shy away from one either," Prime Minister Yair Lapid said in a nationally televised address on Friday. Air raid sirens sounded across the south on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. Officials in border areas urged people to stay close to shelters, which have also been opened in the coastal city of Tel Aviv.

Hamas has fought four wars with Zionists since seizing control of Gaza in 2007, including the conflict last May. Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are considered terrorist organizations by much of the West. A flare up with Islamic Jihad came in 2019, following the killing of Baha Abu al-Ata, Jabari's predecessor. Hamas did not join the fray in that episode. Hamas's moves now could prove crucial, with the group facing pressure from some to restore calm in order to improve economic conditions in Gaza.

### Five-year-old girl

Mohammed Abu Salameh, the director of Shifa, Gaza City's main hospital, said medics are facing "acute shortages of medical supplies". On Friday, the health ministry reported "a five-year-old girl, targeted by the occupation" was among those killed. The girl, Alaa Kaddum, had a pink bow in her hair and a wound on her forehead, as her body was carried by her father at her funeral. Zionist military spokesman Richard Hecht said Friday "we are assuming about 15 killed in action" in Gaza, referring to Palestinian combatants. Zionist tanks were lined up along the border, after the military said Thursday it was reinforcing its troops.

The measures followed the arrest in the occupied West Bank of two senior members of Islamic Jihad, including Bassem Al-Saadi, who Zionists accuse of orchestrating recent attacks. Zionists on Saturday broadened its operation against Islamic Jihad, announcing the arrest of 19 people it said were members of the group in the occupied West Bank. Zionist entity has conducted a near relentless wave of often deadly raids inside the West Bank since mid-March in response to lethal attacks. — Agencies

## Russia, Ukraine trade blame over...

Continued from Page 1

should "take responsibility for the very fact of creating a threat to a nuclear plant".

"Today, the occupiers have created another extremely risky situation for all of Europe: they struck the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant twice. Any bombing of this site is a shameless crime, an act of terror," he said. The Ukrainian foreign ministry earlier said the "possible consequences of hitting a working reactor are equivalent to using an atomic bomb".

The defense ministry in Moscow denied the reports. "Ukrainian armed units carried out three artillery strikes on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and the city of Enerгодар," it said. The new spike in tensions came as Russian President Vladimir Putin was meeting his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Putin thanked Erdogan for helping orchestrate the resumption of Ukrainian grain shipments, the first of which is due to arrive in Lebanon on Sunday according to Ukraine's embassy in Beirut. The Sierra Leone-flagged bulk carrier Razoni set sail from the Ukrainian port of Odessa on Monday carrying 26,000 tonnes of corn - the first departure under a UN-backed deal, brokered with Turkish help, to ease the global food crisis.

## Canada police attack Senegal...

Continued from Page 1

savagely beat her, to the point that she had difficulty breathing, which led to her being evacuated

Kyiv said another three ships loaded with grain set sail from Ukraine on Friday, heading for Turkey and markets in Ireland and Britain. A further 13 are waiting to depart. "Deliveries have already begun. I want to thank you, both for this and for the fact that at the same time an accompanying decision was made on uninterrupted supplies of Russian food and fertilizers to world markets," Putin told Erdogan in Sochi. Asli Aydintasbas, a fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in a report last week that the war in Ukraine had "restored Turkey's self-image as a key geopolitical player" and given Erdogan a higher profile than at any time in recent years. The Turkish leader wants to translate the success into truce talks in Istanbul between Putin and Zelensky.

Moscow meanwhile announced on Friday that it was imposing entry bans on 62 Canadian citizens including government officials. The Russian foreign ministry said the list included figures known for "their malicious activity in the fight against the 'Russian world' and our traditional values". In Ukraine, a controversy has flared over accusations that it is violating international law and endangering civilians in its fight against the Russian invasion.

Amnesty International released a report on Thursday listing incidents in 19 cities and towns where Ukrainian forces appeared to have put civilians in harm's way by establishing bases in residential areas. President Zelensky equated the accusations to victim-blaming. In his evening address on Thursday, he said the rights group had sought to offer "amnesty (to) the terrorist state and shift the responsibility from the aggressor to the victim". — AFP

by ambulance to hospital," the statement said.

The ministry says it has served a "note of protest" to the Canadian authorities through their embassy in Dakar and that of Senegal in Ottawa. It demands an investigation and proceedings brought against "the perpetrators of this inadmissible aggression". "The government of the Republic of Senegal reserves the right to take any other appropriate action and urges the Canadian authorities to ensure that such cases do not recur," the statement said. — AFP

## Kuwait and Arab League denounce...

Continued from Page 1

"pre-emptive" operation against Islamic Jihad, insisting the group was planning an imminent attack following days of tensions along the Gaza border. Health authorities in Gaza, a Palestinian enclave controlled by the Islamist group Hamas, said a five-year-old girl was among 12 people killed by the bombardment. More than 80 others have been wounded.

The Zionist military warned Saturday it was "preparing for the operation to last a week," while the sole power station in Gaza ground to a halt due to a lack of fuel after Zionists closed border crossings. Zionists and Islamic Jihad have both confirmed the killing of Taysir Al-Jabari, a key leader of Islamic Jihad, in a Friday strike on a building in the west of Gaza city. Islamic Jihad is aligned with Hamas, but often acts independently. It said the initial bombardment amounted to a "declaration of war" and unleashed a barrage of rockets towards Zionist entity.

Sources within the militant group ruled out a ceasefire soon, with one saying: "for the movement the focus is on the battlefield," while a military spokesman told AFP that the army is "not currently holding ceasefire negotiations". The rocket fire and airstrikes were continuing on Saturday, risking a repeat of an 11-day conflict in May 2021 that devastated Gaza and forced countless Zionists to rush to bomb shelters. Daily life in the Palestinian enclave has come to a standstill, with streets largely deserted and most shops closed.

### 'Will not shy away'

The closure of a key goods crossing four days ago resulted in Gaza's power plant shutting down on Saturday, due to a "fuel shortage," a spokesman for the enclave's electricity distributor said. Diesel for the plant is usually trucked in from Egypt or Zionist entity, which closed its two border crossings with Gaza



## International

# Blinken meets Marcos Jr, hails 'strong' US-Philippine alliance

## Meeting comes after China launched military exercises around Taiwan

MANILA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr Saturday in a bid to bolster the countries' "strong" alliance, as China conducts military drills around Taiwan. Blinken is the most senior US official to visit the Philippines—a treaty-bound ally of the United States—since Marcos took office.

"The alliance is strong and I believe can grow even stronger," Blinken told Marcos at the presidential palace. Marcos hailed the "special relationship" between the two countries. The United States has a security pact with the Philippines, and has backed the Southeast Asian nation in increasingly heated disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea.

Blinken's meeting with Marcos came after China launched a series of military exercises around Taiwan that the United States has condemned. On Saturday, the third day of the war games, Taiwan accused the Chinese military of simulating an attack on its main island as they deployed fighter jets and warships just 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of the Philippines.

The drills came in response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which prompted fury in China. Marcos said Pelosi's visit demonstrated the existing "intensity" of the conflict, rather than adding to tensions.

In virtual talks with his Philippine counterpart Enrique Manalo, Blinken said the United States was "determined to act responsibly" to avoid a crisis. "Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan

Strait is vital not only for Taiwan but for the Philippines and many other countries," Blinken told reporters after the meeting.

Manalo told Blinken the Philippines could not afford a "further escalation of tensions in the region" as it battles "significant challenges", such as reviving its pandemic-hit economy. "The Philippines continues to look at big powers to help calm the waters and keep the peace," he said.

### 'Significant escalation'

Blinken arrived in the capital Manila on Friday after attending an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Cambodia. There, he condemned China's drills as "a significant escalation".

Like other ASEAN members, the Philippines does not formally recognize Taiwan and has shown no appetite for backing Taipei against Beijing—its biggest trade partner. The United States has a complex relationship with the Philippines—and the Marcos family. After Ferdinand Marcos Senior ruled the former US colony for two decades with the support of Washington, which saw him as a Cold War ally, he went into exile in Hawaii in 1986 in the face of mass protests and the nudging of the United States.

As regional tensions rise, Washington is keen to preserve its security alliance with Manila, which includes a mutual defense treaty and permission for the US military to store defense equipment and supplies on several Philippine bases.

It also allows US troops to access certain mili-



MANILA: (From top left) US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez and Philippine Department of Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella applaud as US Trade and Development Agency Director Enoh Ebong and Aboitiz Power Vice President of Renewables David Aboitiz participate in a USTDA Offshore Wind Grant signing at Ayala Triangle Gardens in Manila on August 6, 2022. —AFP

tary bases in the country. Blinken said Saturday the US commitment to the mutual defense pact was "ironclad".

"We always stand by our partners," he told reporters. "It's important to underscore that because of what's happening north of here in the Taiwan Strait," Marcos has indicated he will strike

a balance between China and the United States, which are vying to have the closest ties with his administration.

Washington-Manila relations rebounded towards the end of the tenure of Marcos' predecessor Rodrigo Duterte, who had threatened to axe a key military agreement with the United States. — AFP



### Manila seeks to avert escalation in the region

## Nuclear weapons a 'loaded gun', UN chief warns

HIROSHIMA: "Humanity is playing with a loaded gun" as crises with the potential for nuclear disaster proliferate worldwide, UN head Antonio Guterres said in Hiroshima on Saturday, the 77th anniversary of the first atomic bomb attack. At an annual memorial, Guterres warned of the risk posed by crises in Ukraine, the Middle East and the Korean peninsula as he described the horrors endured by the Japanese city.

"Tens of thousands of people were killed in this city in the blink of an eye. Women, children and men were incinerated in a hellish fire," he said. Survivors were "cursed with a radioactive legacy" of cancer and other health problems. "We must ask: What have we learned from the mushroom cloud that swelled above this city?"

Around 140,000 people died when Hiroshima was bombed by the United States on August 6, 1945, a toll that includes those who perished after the blast from radiation exposure.

Today, "crises with grave nuclear undertones are spreading fast," Guterres said, repeating warnings he made this week at a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conference in New York.

"Humanity is playing with a loaded gun." Before dawn, survivors and their relatives began to gather at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park to pay tribute to the victims. A silent prayer was held at 8.15 am,



HIROSHIMA: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (center) greets a group of atomic bombing survivors during a dialogue at a hotel in Hiroshima on August 6, 2022, after a ceremony to mark 77 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack. —AFP

the moment the bomb was dropped. The Russian ambassador was not invited to the ceremony but visited Hiroshima on Thursday to lay flowers at the memorial site.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, President Vladimir Putin has made thinly veiled threats hinting at a willingness to deploy tactical nuclear weapons. In a speech on Saturday, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui cited Leo Tolstoy, the Russian author of "War and Peace", saying: "Never build your happiness on the misfortune of others, for only in their happiness can you find your own."

Three days after the Hiroshima bombing,

Washington dropped a second atomic bomb on the Japanese port city of Nagasaki, killing about 74,000 people and leading to the end of World War II. There are now fewer than 119,000 officially recognized survivors of the two nuclear attacks, according to government statistics from March. The United States remains the only country ever to have used nuclear weapons in conflict.

But around 13,000 are now held in state arsenals worldwide, Guterres said. Saturday was the first time Guterres attended the Hiroshima memorial in person as UN chief, with a visit last year cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. —AFP

## N Korea slams Pelosi over visit to DMZ

SEOUL: North Korea on Saturday slammed US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi over her recent visit to the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone, calling her the "worst destroyer of international peace". Pelosi, who visited Seoul earlier this week following a trip to Taiwan, became the highest-ranking US official to visit the Joint Security Area (JSA) between the two Koreas since then-president Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un there in 2019.

Prior to the JSA visit, Pelosi discussed the "grave situation" and growing threat posed by the North's nuclear weapons program with her South Korean counterpart, National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo. The pair called for "strong and extended deterrence against North Korea", and vowed to support efforts by Washington and Seoul to achieve Pyongyang's denuclearization. The North on Saturday denounced Pelosi for both her discussions with Kim and her visit to the JSA.

On top of the deterrence talks, Pelosi "made her appearance even in the joint security area of Panmunjom, utterly betraying the vision of the hostile policy of the current U.S. administration towards the DPRK," said Jo Yong Sam, an official at North Korea's foreign ministry, using the North's official name. "The US is just adding fuel to the fire," Jo added in a statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. The JSA is the only spot along the tense, 250-kilometer (155-mile) frontier where soldiers from North Korea and the US-led United Nations Command stand face to face. —AFP

## Not even Superman can fix Myanmar crisis, says envoy

PHNOM PENH: A regional envoy tasked with brokering peace in Myanmar admitted Saturday that "even Superman cannot solve" the crisis, capping a week of foreign ministerial meetings that ultimately yielded little progress.

Myanmar crisis has spiraled into civil war since a putsch in February last year, with the death toll from the military's brutal crackdown on dissent passing 2,100, according to a local monitoring group.

The 10-country Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has spearheaded so far fruitless efforts to resolve the turmoil, and acknowledged in a joint statement on Friday the lack of progress around a five-point crisis resolution plan. ASEAN special envoy Prak Sokhonn, who has made two trips to Myanmar since the coup, dampened expectations for major progress in the short term.

"I am just a special envoy, I am not a superman," he told reporters in Phnom Penh Saturday.

"I think that even Superman cannot solve the Myanmar problem." Anger is growing within ASEAN over Myanmar generals' stonewalling of the peace plan, particularly after the execution last month of four prisoners—including two prominent pro-democracy figures.

The plan, agreed in April last year, calls for an immediate end to violence and dialogue between the military and the anti-coup movement. "Issues cannot be solved by one meeting, by two meetings, by many years of meeting," said Prak Sokhonn, who is also Cambodia's foreign minister.

"Negotiation takes years, like the issue in Myanmar. After two visits of the special envoy, two visits only, some people start to lose patience and ask for results," he added.

The minister flagged a possible third trip to



PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn speaks during a press conference at the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Phnom Penh on August 6, 2022. —AFP

Myanmar in early September—contingent upon progress on the five-point plan. "Especially if—and I say it clearly, publicly—if more executions are conducted, then things would have to be reconsidered," he said.

His remarks built on Friday's joint statement, which emphasized the need for some concrete action from the junta ahead of the ASEAN leaders' summit in November. Prak Sokhonn must be allowed to meet with "all relevant stakeholders", the statement added, alluding to the junta's decision to block access to deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Earlier in the week, Malaysia—which has led calls for tougher action—indicated that Myanmar could face suspension from the bloc should members not see progress ahead of the leaders' summit. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Thai nightclub fire toll 15

BANGKOK: The death toll from a massive fire that ripped through a Thai nightclub rose to 15 on Saturday, a rescue service said. The fire broke out around 1 am (1800 GMT Thursday) at the Mountain B nightspot in Chonburi province's Sattahip district, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of Bangkok. The Sawang Rojanathammasathan Rescue Foundation said Saturday that another man had died, taking the death toll to 15. Most of the others who died—four women and 10 men—were found crowded by the entrance and in the bathroom, their bodies severely burned, the service said. —AFP

#### 12 Polish pilgrims die in bus crash

ZAGREB: Twelve Polish pilgrims died on Saturday and 30 others were injured when a bus veered off a highway and crashed into a ditch in northern Croatia, authorities said. "They were pilgrims heading for Medjugorje," a Catholic sanctuary in neighboring Bosnia that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki tweeted. Eighteen of the 30 hurt, who were all taken to hospitals in the area, were in a serious condition, said Maja Grba Bujevic, head of Croatia's emergency services. — AFP

#### Head of Amnesty Ukraine quits

KYIV: The head of Amnesty International's Ukraine office has resigned, accusing the rights organization of parroting Kremlin propaganda in a controversial report that criticized the war-torn country's military response to Russia's invasion. Amnesty sparked outrage in Ukraine with the publication of a report on Thursday that accused the military of endangering civilians by establishing bases in schools and hospitals, and launching counterattacks from heavily populated areas. —AFP

#### Indonesian ex-minister arrested

JAKARTA: Indonesian police have arrested a former minister on charges of hate speech and blasphemy after he posted pictures of President Joko Widodo's face digitally superimposed on a Buddhist statue. Former sport and youth minister Roy Suryo's arrest, which included the seizure of his Twitter account and mobile phone, was aimed at preventing him from removing any evidence, said police spokesperson Endra Zulpan. —AFP

#### Lightning kills 3 near White House

WASHINGTON: Three people, including an elderly couple celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary, were pronounced dead Friday after being struck by lightning in a park near the White House. The lightning hit Lafayette Square, a small park across the street from the White House, shortly before 7:00 pm (2300 GMT) Thursday, leaving two men and two women with "critical life-threatening injuries," according to a statement from Washington's fire and emergency department. All the victims were taken to local hospitals, but on Friday morning the Metropolitan Police confirmed that two of them — 75-year-old Donna Mueller and 76-year-old James Mueller, from Janesville in Wisconsin—had been pronounced dead. —AFP



SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

# Business

## US adds 528,000 jobs in July amid mounting concerns over inflation

### Employment returns to pre-pandemic levels

WASHINGTON: The US jobs market grew much faster than expected in July, lifting employment back to pre-pandemic levels, in news welcomed by President Joe Biden as he faces tough midterm elections-but which also fuels concerns over sky-high inflation.

Even the White House had predicted job gains would slow last month, which Biden had said was part of the natural downshift after the rapid rebound of the world's largest economy from the pandemic downturn. Instead, US job growth jumped in July, as the economy added a surprising 528,000 positions, more than double what economists were expecting, according to official data released Friday. That took the jobless rate back to the pre-pandemic level of February 2020.

"Today, the unemployment rate matches the lowest it's been in more than 50 years: 3.5 percent," Biden said in a statement. "More people are working than at any point in American history... there's more work to do, but today's jobs report shows we are making significant progress for working families." On top of the hiring surge last month, the Labor Department report said the outsized job gain in June was revised higher, as was May, adding a total 28,000 positions to the initial data.

Other recent US economic data has stoked recession fears, but White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called Friday's employment report "one of the many economic indicators (that) shows us that we are not in a recession, that we are in a transition."

Meanwhile, the closely watched report showed wages jumped in July-with average hourly earnings up

15 cents from June-stoking concerns about a possible wage-price spiral. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 5.2 percent.

That's good for families struggling to make ends meet as they face soaring prices for groceries and gas, but could drive firms to raise prices further. With inflation topping nine percent, the highest in more than 40 years, the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates aggressively to cool the economy, and economists now say a third consecutive three-quarter-point hike is likely in September.

Biden, in remarks at the White House, acknowledged "how hard it is to feel good about job creation when you already have a job and you're dealing with rising prices, food, gas and so much more."

The US president called for passage of his health and climate investment bill that has picked up momentum on Capitol Hill in recent days, calling it "a game changer for working families and our economy."

#### 'Wow'

After recent data showed GDP contracted for the second consecutive quarter-causing many to say the economy is in recession-US stocks had been gaining ground due to investor optimism that the Fed would be able to dial back its inflation-fighting efforts. But Wall Street opened lower following the jobs report and struggled throughout the session to shake early losses amid concerns about coming rate hikes.

With the latest increase, total non-farm employment



TORRANCE, US: In this file photo taken on June 23, 2021, an employer holds flyers for hospitality employment during a Zislis Group job fair at The Brew Hall in Torrance, California. — AFP

recovered to its pre-pandemic level, the data showed, and hiring topped 430,000 in the past three months.

KPMG economist Diane Swonk's initial reaction: "Wow." "This report pushes the Fed towards a 75 basis point move AGAIN in September," she said on Twitter. From zero at the start of the year, the Fed has raised the benchmark borrowing rate four times, and pledged to continue its war on inflation.

### Lenders could delay Sri Lanka bailout: President

COLOMBO: A potential International Monetary Fund bailout for Sri Lanka could be delayed if its creditors-the largest being China-do not agree on concessions, the island's president warned Friday.

A crucial debt restructuring-with the countries to which it owes billions agreeing to write off some of their dues-is a pre-condition before the IMF will approve a bailout for the country, where inflation is rampant and shortages of essentials widespread. "Until you come to an agreement among the official creditors, it is not possible to go to the London Club," Ranil Wickremesinghe told a forum, referring to subsequent debt talks with commercial lenders.

Wickremesinghe did not name a single country, but analysts said he was referring to China, the largest single bilateral creditor, which is owed over 10 percent of Sri Lanka's foreign debt.

Officials say that clinching an agreement with Beijing is crucial, but China has not publicly shifted from its offer of more loans rather than taking a haircut on existing credit. The IMF is likely to insist on painful reforms as part of any bailout, and Wickremesinghe warned: "It may be bitter, but any medicine for recovery is bitter. You have to take injections."

And central bankers this week have made it clear that investor optimism about a possible downshift was misplaced. "Recession is now less of a worry. Inflation is more of a worry," Harvard economist Jason Furman tweeted. "The Fed will likely need to do more."

The central bank will get another employment report and multiple inflation reports before its next policy meeting in mid-September. While employers for months have been struggling to find workers-with nearly two open positions for every unemployed person in the work force-job gains have continued.

Hiring was robust in leisure and hospitality and health care, which each adding 96,000 or more in July, while manufacturing and construction gained at least 32,000. Builders in particular have been under pressure as the struggle to meet high demand for construction, especially homes, but employment in the sector is now back to its pre-pandemic level, the report said. But there were signs of strains as well. The number of people working part time for economic reasons, which dropped sharply in June, rebounded in July. And a growing number of workers are taking on second jobs, including 403,000 with two full-time positions. The share of people in the labor force has been stuck at around 62 percent, and some economists are pointing to the impact of long-COVID, which is keeping potential workers on the sidelines. Kathryn Bach of the Brookings Institution said she believes there could be as many as four million people prevented from working due to the effects of COVID-19. — AFP



### Record Bangladesh fuel hike triggers huge queues

DHAKA: Thousands of Bangladeshis besieged fuel stations across the country after the government raised prices by as much as 52 percent, the largest jump on record, on the back of higher oil prices.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has seen global energy prices soar, though oil has fallen back in recent weeks as recession fears mount. Dhaka announced Friday that the price of petrol was going up by 51.7 percent and diesel by 42.5 percent from midnight.

Motorcycle riders raced to fuel stations nationwide to try and fill up before the price rise went into effect. Some stations paused sales, and sporadic protests broke out. Demonstrators said the increases will disproportionately hit the country's tens of millions of poor people, who use diesel to power transport and farming irrigation pumps.

In Sylhet, retailers tried to impose the higher prices immediately after the hike was announced. Police Commissioner Md. Nisharul Arif told AFP. "People gathered and protested in front of all the fuel pumps in Sylhet city." There were similar protests in other cities.

Energy minister Nasru Hamid told reporters the decision was driven by global markets.

"Some adjustments have to be made in view of the global situation. If the situation normalizes, the fuel prices will be revised accordingly," he said. Bangladesh has been hit by higher energy prices in the wake of the war in Ukraine, spurring a struggle to source fuel for power stations. Diesel power plants accounting for 1,500 megawatts of generation capacity — 10 percent of the total-have been taken offline, as have some gas-fired plants.

In recent weeks, electricity blackouts of up to 13 hours a day have resulted. Dhaka has asked the International Monetary Fund for \$4.5 billion, the Daily Star newspaper reported, after a visit by representatives of the Washington-based lender. The Bangladeshi taka has declined by around 20 percent against the dollar in the past three months, further weakening the nation's finances-with the current account deficit hitting \$17 billion. — AFP

discuss key strategic issues facing the industry and present contemporary research findings.

Organized by Emirates Aviation University, this year's conference has a topical theme - "The Future of Aviation: COVID-19 Pandemic and Challenges".

The organizers are calling aviation professionals, academic leaders, research scholars and students to register and submit their research papers and thought leadership pieces before 31st August. Topics include air transport policy and regulation, airline operation and management, aviation safety and security, aviation finance and economics, airport planning and management, aviation management and strategy, technological advances and impact, women in aviation, aviation law, and aviation sustainability. — Agencies

### Amazon to buy iRobot in \$1.7bn deal

SAN FRANCISCO: Amazon on Friday announced a \$1.7 billion deal to buy the maker of robotic vacuum Roomba in a merger that would play into the tech giant's artificial intelligence and smart home ambitions. US-based iRobot is a global company that builds robots and "intelligent home" innovations, having



COLOMBO: Demonstrators prepare to leave the anti-government protest camp near the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, on August 5, 2022. — AFP

introduced Roomba self-operating vacuums a decade ago, Amazon said in a release.

"Over many years, the iRobot team has proven its ability to reinvent how people clean with products that are incredibly practical and inventive," said Amazon senior vice president of devices Dave Limp.

Amazon's deal to buy iRobot for \$61 per share along with acquiring the company's debt is subject to approval of shareholders and regulators.

Colin Angle is to remain chief executive of iRobot after the purchase. The acquisition "reinforces Amazon's interest and market position in robotics and home automation, and underscores the strategic value of AI," Baird analyst Colin Sebastian said in a note to investors.

The Massachusetts-based company has a 30-year track record in robotics, and underlying software such as mapping and navigation. Sebastian said. Amazon has been investing in smart home and automation technologies with acquisitions such as Ring doorbells, Kiva warehouse robots and self-driving startup Zoox. "With Alexa and Amazon.com at the core, Amazon continues to prioritize opportunities to develop the smart home," Sebastian said. "MGM even fits as it powers more Prime Video on home entertainment devices."

Amazon earlier this year closed an \$8.45 billion deal to buy the storied MGM studios, boosting its streaming ambitions with a catalog including the James Bond and Rocky film franchises. — AFP





## Business

# 'India's Warren Buffett' set for take-off with new airline

## Jhunjhunwala invests \$35 million for 40% stake in new airline

**MUMBAI:** The world is gripped by recession fears, jet fuel prices are sky-high, and aviation is a notoriously fickle industry. But the billionaire dubbed "India's Warren Buffett" is launching an airline on Sunday. Co-founding Akasa Air was a rare departure into entrepreneurship for Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who made his fortune on the stock exchange as a value share investor and is often compared to the Berkshire Hathaway chairman and CEO.



Rakesh Jhunjhunwala

The 62-year-old's entry into the capital-intensive sector has raised eyebrows, with many pointing to the chequered history of billionaire-backed airlines in India as well as the daunting global economic outlook. "A lot of people question why I've started an airline. Rather than answer them, I say I'm prepared for failure," the billionaire said at an industry event in February.

"It's better to have tried and failed than not tried at all." Several such ventures have failed in recent years. Fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya is fighting extradition from Britain on charges of financial fraud after his pet project Kingfisher Airlines went bankrupt in 2012, losing Indian banks more than \$1 billion.

## India's RBI hikes interest rates to pre-pandemic level

**MUMBAI:** India's central bank on Friday hiked interest rates for the third time in four months, as Asia's third-largest economy contends with a widening trade deficit and weakening currency.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its key lending rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 percent—a level last seen in August 2019 — three months after kicking off a monetary tightening cycle in May.

"Successive shocks to the global economy are taking their toll," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in a televised address, pointing to surging inflation and lower global growth. "Disquietingly, globalization of inflation is coinciding with de-globalization of trade. The pandemic and the war have ignited tendencies towards greater fragmentation." India bounced back strongly from the coronavirus pandemic with one of the world's fastest growth rates but is now grappling with rising costs as commodity prices remain elevated. The International Monetary Fund last week slashed India's growth outlook for the ongoing financial year ending March 2023 to 7.4 percent from the 8.2 percent forecast in April. A broad dollar rally in recent months

Disgraced entrepreneur Subrata Roy counted Air Sahara as a part of his empire for more than a decade, until consecutive losses forced a sale to fellow self-made billionaire Naresh Goyal's Jet Airways in 2007. Jet collapsed in 2019, with many blaming the Air Sahara deal for its downfall.

"People say that in order to become a millionaire, you first become a billionaire and start an aviation company," quips Anas Rahman Junaid, founder and managing director of rich list Hurun India.

But as one of the world's fastest-growing air travel markets, the country of 1.4 billion people has also proved a wealth creator for some airline entrepreneurs. "The richest aviation billionaires in the world are from India: the founders of IndiGo," Junaid says, referring to Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia—whose 2006-launched airline is India's top domestic carrier.

Barring British entrepreneur Richard Branson, whose \$6 billion net worth is derived from diversified Virgin Group companies, Junaid says Gangwal and Bhatia—each worth over \$4 billion—have created the most wealth from a "pureplay aviation business". And for Jhunjhunwala the challenge is personal: "I hope to prove people wrong," he said. "Now it's become a matter of ego."

### Bullish on aviation

Nicknamed the "Oracle of Dalal Street"—a play on Buffett's moniker and the location of the Bombay Stock Exchange—Jhunjhunwala has invested \$35 million for an estimated 40 percent stake in the new airline. He is India's 52nd richest person, with a net worth of \$3.5 billion and significant holdings in more than 30 Indian stocks, but rarely starts his own companies. "He's a street-smart investor and a very savvy trader," market analyst Arun Kejriwal told AFP.

"But running an airline is not the same as stock trading." Analysts expect Jhunjhunwala will leave day-to-

has contributed to the Indian rupee depreciating sharply to below 80, its lowest level against the greenback on record.

Das said the rupee has fared "much better" than other emerging market currencies and "moved in a relatively orderly fashion, depreciating 4.7 percent against the US dollar" since April 1.

He added that the Indian economy was "holding steady and progressing in an ocean of turbulence and uncertainty". India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record \$31 billion in July, compared to \$10.6 billion in the same month last year, provisional data released Tuesday showed.

Imports were more than twice as high as exports, led by petroleum products and coal. India imports more than 80 percent of its crude oil needs and the country's 1.4 billion people have been hit with rising petrol costs. Consumer inflation has consistently overshoot the central bank's two-to-six percent target range in the first six months of the year, hitting an eight-year high of 7.79 percent in April, before cooling to 7.01 percent in June.

The RBI retained its growth forecast at 7.2 percent for the 2022-23 financial year and retained its inflation forecast at 6.7 percent. Aggressive rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve have further exacerbated outflows, with foreign investors withdrawing a net \$30 billion from debt and equity in the first half of 2022. India's benchmark Sensex index erased early losses to trade 0.56 percent higher on Friday following the interest rate decision. —AFP



Jhunjhunwala has invested \$35 million for an estimated 40 percent stake in Akasa airline

day operations to a management team of industry veterans, who are modelling Akasa on the likes of Ryanair and Southwest Airlines. But sharp rises in jet fuel prices and a weakening Indian rupee cloud the outlook for an industry still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. "India does not produce even a nut or even a screw in India. Everything has to be imported from the US or Europe," said aviation analyst Mark Martin. The pandemic saw India's air travel industry lose an estimated \$8 billion over two years, according to research by aviation market research firm CAPA. Government estimates peg losses at \$2.5 billion.

Nonetheless, several airlines are vying to serve a growing middle class, and Narendra Modi's government has pledged to build 80 airports by 2025, making it a key market for manufacturers Boeing and Airbus.

### 'World's greenest airline'

Akasa-sky in Sanskrit—is pitching itself as an ultra-low-cost carrier with tickets 10 percent cheaper than competitors. It will operate two single-aisle Boeing 737 MAX aircraft between four Indian cities starting Sunday, and hopes to have a fleet of 18 by the end of next year.

It also claims to be the world's "greenest" airline, with staff uniforms including sneakers with recycled rubber soles and fabric made of marine waste. But analysts point out the Boeing 737 MAX remains restricted in some countries after two crashes that killed 346 people in total. "An airline business can make you a tremendous amount of money," said Martin. "But it also can make you extremely open and susceptible to risk." —AFP

## Vatican balances budget by selling off assets

**THE VATICAN CITY:** The Vatican published its annual results Friday, reporting a near-balanced budget but admitting that every year it was selling off assets to cover expenses. Juan Antonio Guerrero, the Vatican's de facto economy minister, said the Holy See recorded a deficit in 2021 of 3.3 million euros (\$3.4 million), much less than the 33 million projected.

"A deficit of three million euros in a budget of 1.1 billion is not a lot," he said in an interview with Vatican

News. But he warned of a more structural problem: "The fact is that the Holy See sells assets every year to cover curial services." These sales were reducing the patrimony of the Holy See by 20 to 25 million euros every year, he said.

"Each year's donations, and what the Holy See can generate, cannot fund all the expenses of the entities that have no revenues," Guerrero said. He warned that 2022 will be a "particularly difficult year, and so will 2023". He added: "We are not looking for surpluses but for sustainability of the Holy See's service."

Pope Francis has pressed for more transparency in the running of the Catholic Church, which in recent years has seen a series of corruption scandals. With this in mind, this year's accounts include a wider range of assets than previously, although it does not include the Vatican state or what is known commonly as the Vatican Bank. —AFP

## What's in Biden's big climate and health bill?

**WASHINGTON:** Hundreds of billions of dollars for clean energy projects, cheaper prescription drugs and new corporate taxes are a few of the key items in US President Joe Biden's massive investment plan, which the Senate will begin debating on Saturday. Here's a closer look at the signature elements of the plan, which could offer the Democratic leader a big political win heading into November's crucial midterm elections.

### \$370 billion for clean energy, climate

If the legislation is passed, it will mark the biggest investment in US history in the fight against climate change. Rather than attempting to punish the biggest polluters in corporate America, the bill put forward by Biden's party instead proposes a series of financial incentives aimed at steering the world's biggest economy away from fossil fuels. Tax credits would be given to producers and consumers of wind, solar and nuclear power. If passed, the legislation would allot up to \$7,500 in tax credits to every American who buys an electric vehicle. Anyone installing solar panels on their roof would see 30 percent of the cost subsidized.

Around \$60 billion would be allocated for clean energy manufacturing, from wind turbines to the processing of minerals needed for electric car batteries. The same amount would go towards programs to help drive investment in underprivileged communities, notably through grants for home renovation to improve energy efficiency and access to less polluting modes of transportation.

Huge investments would go into making forests less susceptible to wildfires and protect coastal areas from erosion caused by devastating hurricanes. The bill aims to help the United States reduce its carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030, as compared with 2005 levels.

The second major aspect of the legislation is to help reduce the huge disparities in access to health care across the United States, notably by reining in skyrocketing prescription drug prices. If the draft eventually becomes law, Medicare—the nation's health insurance plan for those aged 65 and older, or with modest incomes—could be permitted to negotiate prices of certain medications directly with Big Pharma for the first time, likely yielding far better deals.

The plan would require pharmaceutical companies to offer rebates on certain drugs if the prices rise faster than soaring US inflation. It also would extend benefits under Barack Obama's signature Affordable Care Act—known colloquially as Obamacare—until 2025.

Alongside these huge investments, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act would seek to pare down the federal deficit through the adoption of a minimum corporate tax of 15 percent for all companies with profits exceeding one billion dollars. —AFP

## California regulator accuses Tesla of false advertising

**WASHINGTON:** A California regulator has accused Tesla of misleading consumers about its driver assistance systems, and has filed complaints that could potentially prevent the automaker from selling its cars in the state, US media reported Friday. In its filing, the Department of Motor Vehicles said Tesla advertised its Autopilot and Self-Driving technologies as more capable than they actually are, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The company "made or disseminated statements that are untrue or misleading, and not based on facts," the DMV reportedly said in its complaints, filed with the quasi-judicial tribunal the Office of Administrative Hearings on July 28.

Tesla cars could never "and cannot now, operate as autonomous vehicles," the DMV said, according to the California newspaper. The DMV did not immediately return AFP's request for comment.

Tesla's website describes its Autopilot as having "full self-driving capability."

"All you will need to do is get in and tell your car where to go," it says. "If you don't say anything, your car will look at your calendar and take you there as the assumed destination."

A ruling in favor of the California regulator could have severe consequences for the electric carmaker, including the possible revocation of the licenses authorizing Tesla to manufacture or sell its cars in the state, according to the Times. But a DMV spokesperson told the newspaper that actual remedies the agency would seek included having Tesla better educate drivers about its autonomous vehicles and feature a warning on the limitations of its technology.

Tesla vehicles equipped with autonomous driving software have been involved in 273 accidents in the United States, according to a report released in June by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is investigating the automaker. In June, Tesla boss Elon Musk stressed the importance of fully autonomous driving, claiming that without it the value of his company would be "close to zero". Tesla shares plunged at the close of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday, giving up 6.63 percent to \$864.51. —AFP



MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das arrives for a press conference at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai on August 5, 2022. —AFP

## Indonesia growth boosted by exports, easing COVID curbs

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's economic growth accelerated in the second quarter of 2022 despite global uncertainty, official data showed Friday, thanks to soaring commodity prices and easing Covid-19 restrictions. Southeast Asia's largest economy expanded 5.44 percent on-year in April-June, slightly up from 5.01 percent in the previous three months, the Central Statistics Agency said.

Exports, which account for a quarter of the country's gross domestic product, grew 19.74 percent as prices for commodities were boosted after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The disruption of the global supply chain has led to the increase in prices of Indonesia's key commodities, resulting in a windfall to export performance,"

statistics agency head Margo Yuwono said. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions across Indonesia and increased spending during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday were also a boon for domestic consumption, Yuwono added.

The 5.51 percent jump in domestic consumption, which accounts for more than half of the economy, was helped by the government's social aid for lower-income households. But Gareth Leather, senior Asia economist at Capital Economics, said growth was expected to cool in the second half of the year as commodity prices retreated and a tourism surge that came after Indonesia reopened its borders eased. "While an increase in tourism arrivals should provide a further boost to GDP in the third quarter and beyond, the boost from domestic reopening is largely over," Leather said in a note.

"In addition, the recent decline in commodity prices, along with slower global growth, will hold back exports."

Indonesia dropped quarantine requirements for all travellers with a negative PCR test in March, leading to a spike in tourist arrivals. The country welcomed more than 740,000 visitors in the first half of the year, an increase of more than 900 percent on-year. —AFP



## Business

# Brussels accuses Russia of inventing excuses to cut gas

## Turkey to pay for some Russian gas in rubles: Erdogan

**BRUSSELS:** EU sanctions against Russia do nothing to prevent the delivery of pipeline turbine, an EU spokesman said Friday, accusing Moscow of fabricating an excuse to cut off gas supplies.

Russian energy giant Gazprom said on Wednesday that the delivery of a turbine needed to keep gas flowing to Europe via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline was "impossible" due to international sanctions. But Eric Mamer, spokesman for the European Commission, dismissed this and accused Moscow of using energy supplies as a lever to blackmail Europe over its opposition to the invasion of Ukraine.

"There is nothing in the sanctions that prohibits the turbine, the Siemens turbine that is currently meant to go to Russia, to go there," Mamer told reporters. "Anything else that is being said on the issue is purely and simply wrong ... and anything that the Russians are saying on this is basically an excuse not to not to provide gas to the European Union."

Earlier this week, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz accused Russia of blocking the delivery of the key turbine to throttle gas supplies to Europe. But Gazprom said the delivery was impossible, because of "sanctions regimes in Canada, in the European Union and in Britain".

Gazprom has already blamed an ini-

tial reduction in gas deliveries via the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline in June, on a delayed return of the turbine from Canada, where the unit was being serviced. It is now in Germany, but the firm is still insisting it needs a sanctions waiver to accept its return.

Mamer, citing previous comments by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, said "of course there is blackmail on the side of Russia when it comes to the supply of energy to the European Union." The European economy, and in particular Germany's energy and chemicals industries, is highly dependent on deliveries of natural gas from Russian fields.

Many other Russian exports and imports have fallen foul of EU sanctions since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine in February. But Berlin and Brussels are keen to keep Russian gas flowing, even if EU capitals have spent hundreds of millions of euros per week on Russian energy since the start of fighting. Gazprom, however, has slashed supplies of gas, arguing that its Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany cannot run at full capacity until the refurbished turbine is returned.

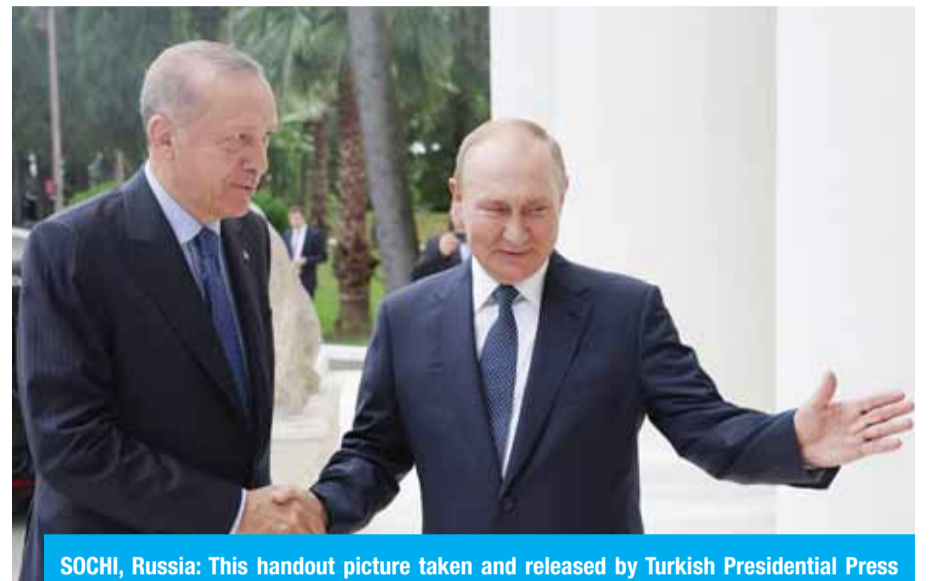
Meanwhile, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has confirmed that Turkey will

start paying for some of its Russian natural gas imports in rubles. The announcement was initially made by Moscow late Friday after more than four hours of talks between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

The United States is leading international efforts to impose economic sanctions on Russia in response to its February invasion of Ukraine. But NATO member Turkey has tried to remain neutral in the conflict because of its heavy dependence on Russian energy.

Russia accounted for about a quarter of Turkey's oil imports and 45 percent of its natural gas purchases last year. "As Turkey, our door is open to everyone," Erdogan was quoted Saturday as telling Turkish reporters on his flight home from Sochi. "One good thing about this Sochi visit is that we agreed on the ruble with Mr. Putin," Erdogan said. "Since we will conduct this trade in rubles, it will of course bring money to Turkey and Russia."

Neither Erdogan nor Russian officials have said what portion of the gas will be covered by ruble payments. Avoiding paying for the gas in dollars helps Turkey protect its dwindling hard currency reserves. The Turkish government is reported to have spent tens of billions of dollars in the past year trying to prop up



**SOCHI, Russia:** This handout picture taken and released by Turkish Presidential Press Service on August 5, 2022 shows Russia's President Vladimir Putin (right) shaking hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) in Sochi. — AFP

the lira against steep declines during its latest economic crisis.

The lira has still lost 55 percent of its value against the dollar and consumer prices have soared by 80 percent in the past 12 months. The crisis has complicated Erdogan's path to a third decade in power in elections due by next July. The

United States and European Union are trying to pressure Russia's energy clients from switching to ruble payments to limit Moscow's ability to wage its war against Ukraine. Ruble payments help Russia avoid restrictions on dollar transactions with Moscow that the United States is trying to impose on global banks. — AFP



**BIRMINGHAM:** Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks at the Commonwealth Business Forum at the ICC in Birmingham in this July 28, 2022 file photo. —AFP

## UK's PM on leave as economic crisis deepens

**LONDON:** A British cabinet member admitted Friday "I don't know where Boris is" as the prime minister checked out on holiday, in a week that saw the Bank of England warn a year-long recession is coming. Boris Johnson has since Wednesday been on a belated honeymoon with wife Carrie, according to Downing Street.

Aides said he still remained at the helm, rather than handing over temporarily to Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, but refused to confirm the honeymoon destination. The UK embassy in Ljubljana confirmed that Johnson was on a private visit to Slovenia. Johnson will have a lot more time on his hands after September 6, when he is due to hand over to either Liz Truss or Rishi Sunak as Conservative leader, but decided to take a break sooner.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nadhim Zahawi is also on holiday this week, and the opposition Labour party accused the government's two senior-most members of being "missing in action".

"I don't know where Boris is, but I'm in constant contact with him," Business Secretary and Truss supporter Kwasi Kwarteng told Times Radio. He said he exchanges WhatsApp messages with both Johnson and Zahawi "all the time", and insisted that criticism the government was doing nothing about the economic crisis was "false". Zahawi said he had remained in touch with Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey on Thursday after the central bank hiked interest rates from 1.25 to 1.75 percent, the biggest rise in 27 years. The bank is trying to rein in surging inflation, which it warned could peak at 13.3 percent, as it forecast the UK economy would enter a recession in the fourth quarter that will last until late 2023.

"For me, like I'm sure lots of others, there is no such thing as a holiday and not working. I never had that in the private sector, not in government," Zahawi said in a statement.

### 'Magical solutions'

Foreign Secretary Truss and Sunak, Zahawi's predecessor as chancellor, clashed anew over how to address the crisis in a televised debate late Thursday. "The reality is we're facing a recession if we carry on with our business-as-usual policies," Truss, who is leading in surveys of Tory members, told reporters on Friday. She plans an emergency budget to lower taxes immediately to combat the cost-of-living crisis, and to review the independent Bank of England's inflation-fighting mandate.

But Sunak said tax cuts financed with more borrowing would force the bank to increase interest rates even more, insisting on the need to maintain fiscal rigor and tame the price pressures first.

Former cabinet minister Liam Fox, who supports Sunak, warned against "magical solutions" via debt-financed tax cuts as proposed by Truss. The two candidates were due later Friday to host another hustings event in front of Tory members, who have until September 2 to vote. —AFP

## Nigerians buy small as hardships bite

**LAGOS:** From five grams of toothpaste to 10 milliliters of cooking oil, many Nigerians struggling with soaring prices now buy their basic necessities in small quantities packed in tiny plastic bags to be consumed on the same day. Consumer brands behind this "sachetisation of the economy" see it as a creative innovation, allowing consumption for all Nigerians, the majority of whom live on less than \$2 a day. But critics see the development as an economic and ecological aberration, even as Africa's largest economy struggles with the inflationary fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine.

In the streets of Lagos, the vibrant economic capital of Africa's most populous country, small sachets are now part of the decor: they color its streets, packing the wood and tin shops found on the corner of most streets. Sitting on a stool, Ibrahim Atahire has been running his small grocery store for 30 years in a busy area of Obalende, a popular district of the megalopolis.

"At my place, you can buy everything in small quantities," said the 55-year-old trader with a streaked grey beard. On its stand, everything is sold in sachets: coffee or powdered milk for just one cup, a few grams of cereal, toothpaste for one brushing, razors packaged and sold individually, washing powder and fabric softener for a single wash. Even mosquito cream to relieve bites is sold in a package smaller than the palm of a hand.

For lunch, cooking oil is purchased in sachets, as are spices, tomato sauce, crushed garlic and ginger powder. One sachet, for each ingredient and for each meal. "I have been selling sachets for several years, but recently people can no longer afford to buy in normal quantities, so that is all I am selling now," Atahire said. In a parallel street, Sanni Aicha was searching the stalls for the cheapest packet of cooking oil. The mother of two confides that she is "no longer getting by".

"Before I used to get oil in cans, but for two



**LAGOS:** From 5g of toothpaste to 10ml of cooking oil, many Nigerians struggling with soaring prices now buy their basic necessities in small quantities packed in tiny plastic bags to be consumed on the same day.

years everything has been so expensive."

### 95 million poor

Nigeria has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, which pushed up consumer prices in 2021 by 17 percent and forced an additional six million Nigerians into poverty.

It is now suffering the fallout from the war in Ukraine. In 2022, the World Bank predicts inflation of 15.5 percent and one million more poor people, with the national poverty line calculated at \$1.93 at 2011 levels per person per day. June inflation was 18 percent. In all, the number of poor people in Nigeria is expected to reach 95.1 million—nearly half of the population—by the end of this year, the institution said.

"A lot of people that used to be in the middle class are now falling into poverty... People that used to consume those products at a bigger size, but they can't afford those sizes any longer," said

Tunde Leye, an economist at SBM Intelligence risk analysts. "Big brands were losing market because people are unable to buy in big quantity, so they started to sachetise so they could reach that part of the market."

Sachets really hit the Nigerian market in the early 2010s, with brands offering consumers products in reduced quantities to entice them to try new products, says a former marketing manager for a major European brand in Nigeria. But in 2016, when the country fell into recession after the fall in oil prices, "everybody was buying sachet. So we started to sell every product in sachet," the manager said.

Since then, the economic situation has not improved much, so demand for small packaging has exploded, said one director of a plastics factory in the country. "Inflation is so high. Sanitary pads are now sold as single units," said the entrepreneur, who spoke on condition of anonymity. — AFP



The bed of the Woodhead reservoir as water levels sink in Glossop.

## UK drought dries up source of River Thames

**LONDON:** The source of the UK's River Thames has dried up for the first time on record against a backdrop of hosepipe bans and warnings of more high temperatures to come. The famous river has moved eight kilometers downstream from its official starting point, outside the south-west English market town of Cirencester.

"Under our changing climate we can anticipate the frequency and severity of such periods of drought and water scarcity to intensify, with increasing competition for a dwindling resource and devastating impacts on aquatic life," Dr Rob Collins, director of policy and science at the UK's Rivers Trust, told reporters.

The driest eight-month period from November 2021, for the country since 1976, combined with

record-breaking temperatures in July, have left rivers at exceptionally low levels, depleted reservoirs and dried out soils. Parts of England have experienced the driest July since records dating back to 1836 began. All of this has put pressure on the environment, farming and water supplies and is fuelling wildfires.

The Met Office has given a warning that there is "very little meaningful rain" on the horizon for parched areas of England as temperatures are set to climb into the 30s next week although forecast a return to more favorable conditions by the middle of the month. While it could mean another heatwave - when there are above-average temperatures for three days or more - it is likely conditions will be well below the 40°C recorded in some places last month.

The situation has prompted calls for action to reduce water consumption to protect the environment and supplies, and to restore the country's lost wetlands "on an enormous scale" to tackle a future of more dry summers and droughts. The call has been heeded by two of the UK's private water companies to date. — AFP

## Portugal changes law to attract foreign workers

**LISBON:** Portugal has reformed its immigration laws to attract foreign workers as it faces a labor shortage in tourism and construction. The Portuguese president approved the new law on Thursday which provides foreigners seeking employment with a temporary 120-day visa that can be extended by 60 days. The reform will come into force in the next few days. The move is also designed to make it easier for digital nomads—those who work online without the need for a fixed business location—to work from Portugal.

"Portugal needs immigrants" for "its demography, its economy and its culture", said Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ana Catarina Mendes. The Iberian country's tourism sector was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and requires around 50,000 extra employees, Tourism Minister Rita Marques said on Tuesday. The change in the law comes after Portugal signed an agreement with Portuguese-speaking nations including Brazil in July 2021 to make it easier for students and workers to move between countries.

The number of foreigners living in Portugal has risen by 40 percent over the past decade according to the latest census, carried out in 2011. That is more than 550,000 of the country's 10.3 million people—but it has not been enough to reverse the population decline seen over this period. —AFP



Lifestyle | Features

# Kardashian breaks up with comedian boyfriend Davidson



Kim Kardashian and Pete Davidson

US reality star Kim Kardashian and comedian Pete Davidson have broken up after nine months of dating, US media reported. The couple split sometime this week because their busy schedules "made it really difficult to maintain a relationship," the entertainment media outlet E! News reported, citing sources close to the celebrities.

Davidson has spent part of the summer in Australia working on a new movie, E! News said. Kardashian, 41, who has 328 million followers on Instagram and 73 million on Twitter, began dating Saturday Night Live star Davidson, 28, after the two performed in a skit together on the show in 2021, sharing a kiss.

They made their relationship public in March this year, around the same time when Kardashian, who also has a clothing and cosmetics line, finalized her divorce with rapper Kanye West, now known as Ye.

Kardashian and Davidson were seen together at many public events, including the Met Gala in New York in May, where Kardashian donned the famous dress worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to John F. Kennedy at an event in 1962.

But the relationship was clouded by Ye attacking Davidson on social media and imploring Kardashian to reconcile. Kardashian filed for divorce with Ye last year after months of press reports about

marital strife and as Ye battled with mental health issues. The two are now co-parenting their four children: Two girls, North and Chicago, and two boys, Saint and Psalm.

It was the first divorce for Ye and the third for Kardashian, who came to fame with the US reality TV series "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," which followed the lives of her family members in Los Angeles.

After her breakup with Davidson, Kardashian's fans wondered what is next in store for her. "It's time to keep up with a newly single Kim Kardashian," wrote E! News. — AFP

## Hindu nationalists push boycott of Bollywood 'Forrest Gump' remake

According to Forrest Gump, life is like a box of chocolates because "you never know what you're going to get". Now, an Indian remake of the movie has been hit by boycott calls over years-old comments by its Muslim star Aamir Khan.

It is the latest example of how Bollywood actors, particularly minority Muslims like Khan, are feeling increased pressure under Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Modi. "Laal Singh Chaddha", an Indian spin on the 1994 Hollywood hit with Tom Hanks, is expected to be one of India's biggest films of 2022.

This is due in large part to its main star, 57-year-old Khan, one of the Indian industry's most bankable actors with past blockbusters like "3 Idiots" (2009) and "Dangal" (2016). But ahead of the August 11 release, the internet is awash with clips from a 2015 interview when Khan expressed a growing "sense of fear" and that he and his then-wife discussed leaving India.

"She fears for her child. She fears about what the atmosphere around us will be. She feels scared to open the

(Kapoor) married a Muslim & promptly named her kids Taimur & Jehangir," said one tweet, referring to the children's typical Muslim names.

"That's enough reasons to boycott Lal Singh Chaddha, basically a production from Bollywood's Love Jihad club. #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha," it added, using a derogatory term coined by Hindu nationalists who accuse Muslim men of marrying Hindu women and forcing them to convert.



Bollywood actor Aamir Khan talks to media during an event held to celebrate his 57th birthday in Mumbai.

**Patriotism**  
Nicknamed "Mr Perfectionist", Khan has been credited with pushing films beyond Bollywood's traditional fare of song and dance into social and cultural issues. He also hosted a TV chat show "Satyamev Jayate"-that discussed touchy themes like rape, domestic vio-

lence and corruption.

**Intolerance**  
Films have long sparked controversy as well as violence-in the movie-mad country of 1.4 billion people. But the heat being felt by Khan, one of a clutch of Muslim megastars in the industry along with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan, mirrors growing intolerance, marginalisation and vilification of the minority, commentators say.

"There is no doubt that Aamir is being targeted by those spreading hatred towards Muslims," one commentator, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of becoming a target himself, told AFP.

**Hindu hegemony**  
Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) owes its origins to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a militaristic group espousing "Hindutva", or making India an exclusively Hindu state. Lynchings of Muslims by Hindu mobs over so-called cow protection-a sacred animal for many Hindus-and other hate crimes have sown fear in the 200-million-strong Muslim population.

Social media is full of misinformation claiming that Muslims will soon outnumber Hindus-due to inter-religious marriages-or that the minority is a treasonous fifth column backed by Pakistan.

**Gung-ho**  
Critics say that the world's most prolific film industry and its stars have been gradually changing their output to fit the government narrative since Modi came to power in 2014. In 2019, the hagiographic "PM Narendra Modi" was too much even for the Election Commission, which delayed its release until after a vote that year.

There has been a recent string of military-themed movies that have been nationalistic, all-guns-blazing stories of heroics by soldiers and police-usually Hindus-against enemies outside and within India. This year's "The Kashmir Files", about the fleeing of Hindus from Muslim-majority Kashmir in 1989-90, saw incidents of people in cinemas calling for revenge killings of Muslims.

Film critic and author Anna MM Vetticad said the methods to "subordinate India's Muslims and Christians to the majority community... include demonising these minorities, and constantly demanding proof of their patriotism."

But little is expected to change. "India's tragedy is that a majority in Bollywood... are apathetic, opportunistic or afraid," Vetticad told. — AFP



Aamir Khan pays respect at the Golden Temple during his visit for the shooting of the upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' in Amritsar. — AFP photos

newspapers every day," he said. More than 200,000 tweets, many from supporters of Modi's BJP party, have been shared since last month calling for people to spurn the movie with the hashtag #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha.

"Aamir Khan married two Hindu Women, yet named his kids Junaid, Azad & Ira. (Hindu co-star) Kareena

lence and corruption. The furore over his new film-which adapts Hanks' famous line to say that "life is like a golgappa", an Indian snack-is such that this week Khan stressed his patriotism, a key tenet of the Modi government. "I feel sad that some of the people... believe that I am someone who doesn't like India," he told local media. "That's not the case. Please don't boy-



Anne Heche

## Actress Anne Heche hospitalized

US actress Anne Heche has been hospitalized in critical condition after crashing her car into a Los Angeles home, US media reported Friday. The Los Angeles Fire Department reported that a vehicle struck a two-story house in Los Angeles' Mar Vista neighborhood, "causing structural compromise and erupting in heavy fire."

The female adult found in the car was "taken to an area hospital by LAFD paramedics in critical condition," it said. US media confirmed initial reports by celebrity gossip publication TMZ that the woman inside the blue Mini Cooper was Heche. The 53-year-old actress initially crashed into an apartment building garage before driving off, according to images collected by TMZ. The same car later crashed into and "heavily damaged" the Mar Vista house. The ensuing blaze took 59 firefighters 65 minutes to confine and fully extinguish, according to the fire department. — AFP

## 'Sesame Oil Camel'...still in service in Yemen



Out of many sesame-crushing mills sprouting out in Yemen's southwestern city of Taiz and its countryside, there is only one old mill that is still using camels to extract oil out of sesame seeds. Over centuries, a camel, known as Sesame Oil Camel in Yemen, used to be the only way to pull presses to obtain sesame oil. But now electric mills are being used instead to crush seeds to extract sesame oil.



— KUNA photos



This photograph taken on February 25, 2022, shows the Boeing 767 airplane dubbed "Air Drake" belonging to Canadian recording-artist Drake, parked on a runway in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. — AFP

## 'Climate criminal': Celebrities rapped over jet use

From a 14-minute flight by Drake's private plane to Taylor Swift's carbon footprint, celebrities are struggling to shake off a firestorm over their jet emissions amid the climate crisis. Fury erupted in July when reality star Kylie Jenner shared a picture to her 364 million Instagram users of her and her partner, rapper Travis Scott, in front of two jets with the caption: "you wanna take mine or yours?"

Critics on social media swiftly attacked Jenner, calling her a "climate criminal". Then last week, British sustainability marketing firm Yard named and shamed the "worst private jet CO2 emission offenders" among celebrities.

Normally used to topping music charts, US pop star Taylor Swift headlined the unenviable list, prompting a torrent of social media outrage, memes and jokes that she was using her jet to pick up food.

Her jet has flown 170 times since January, with total flight emissions for the year reaching 8,293.54 tonnes, or 1,184.8 times more than the average person, Yard said. In second place was boxer Floyd Mayweather followed by rapper Jay-Z.

Jenner's half-sister, reality TV star Kim Kardashian, ranked seventh, having recently flaunted her jet's cashmere-clad interior. Rapper Scott was 10th while Jenner herself was 19th. Yard cautioned that its list was "not conclusive to the biggest offenders" as it is based on the "Celebrity Jets" Twitter account, which tracks the flights thanks to public data. It was also impossible to determine if the stars were on all the recorded flights.

"Taylor's jet is loaned out regularly to other individuals," Swift's publicist told media. "To attribute most or all of these trips to her is blatantly incorrect." While

Drake escaped the top 10 list, the Canadian rapper faced heat over a 14-minute flight between Toronto and Hamilton in July, especially after he said that the "Air Drake" plane was empty.

"This is just them moving planes to whatever airport they are being stored at for anyone who was interested in the logistics... nobody takes that flight," he said on Instagram. "It's even worse if it flew empty," said Beatrice Jarrige, long-distance mobility project manager at Shift Project, a non-profit focused on climate change.

**'Fly with climate bombs'**  
The aviation sector is responsible for two to three percent of carbon dioxide emissions. But a report in May by Transport & Environment, a European non-government group, showed the carbon footprint of private jets is five to 14 times higher per passenger compared with commercial flights, and 50 times bigger than that of train riders.

"We are allowing people to fly with climate bombs," said William Todts, executive director of the clean transport campaign group. The usage of private jets has soared since the coronavirus pandemic, with wealthier customers seeking to avoid any cancellations.

Private jet flights increased by seven percent in 2021 compared to 2019, according to aviation data research firm WingX. In Europe, celebrities using private jets could use the continent's vast train network for the majority of their journeys instead, Todts said.

The Celebrity Jets account was created by 19-year-old student Jack Sweeney in 2020 after he started following Elon Musk's private plane. He now has 30 accounts tracking sports stars, Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg and even Russian oligarchs.

Sweeney has inspired copycat accounts. Sebastian, a 35-year-old aerospace engineer who refused to give his real name, created in April the "I Fly Bernard" account that follows flights by French billionaires including Bernard Arnault, the head of luxury giant LVMH. — AFP





In this picture taken on August 3, 2022, visitors look at lions at the Lahore Safari Zoo in Lahore. A Pakistan zoo is auctioning a dozen lions next week to free up space for a pride that won't stop growing. — AFP photos

## GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE... PAKISTAN LIONS UP FOR AUCTION



Nouman Hassan, a wild animal lover, plays with his Bengal tiger at his farm house in Lahore.

A Pakistan zoo is auctioning off a dozen lions to private collectors next week to free up space for a pride that won't stop growing. Lahore Safari Zoo now has so many big cats that their lions and tigers have to take it in turns to access the paddocks, said Tanvir Ahmed Janjua, the zoo's deputy director.

"Not only will we free up more space here, but our expenses for meat to feed them will also decrease," he told AFP. The zoo is currently home to 29 lions, and officials plan an auction on August 11 to sell 12 of them, aged between two and five years old.

There are also six resident tigers and two jaguars. Conservationists are opposed to the sale, with the environmental group WWF saying the creatures should be moved to other established zoos, or breeding females sterilised or given contraceptives.

"Animal exchanges and donations between zoos are a widely accepted practice," the organisation's Uzma Khan told AFP. "Once an institution such as a zoo places a price tag on a wildlife species it is promoting trade-which is counterproductive to conservation," she



added.

Keeping lions, tigers and other exotic wildlife as pets is not uncommon in Pakistan, and is seen as a status symbol. Wealthy owners post images and video clips of their big cats on social media, and rent them out as props for movies and photoshoots.

Zoo officials have set a reserve of 150,000 Pakistan rupees (\$700) per cat, but hope each will fetch around two million rupees. Not just anyone can take

part in the auction, however.

Janjua said buyers will have to be registered with provincial authorities and show they have the means to provide proper care and shelter for the creatures. Zoo veterinary officer Muhammad Rizwan Khan told AFP an initial attempt last year to auction lions fell through as potential buyers lacked the necessary documentation or licences.

Nouman Hassan, who fell foul of authorities in the past when he was

filmed walking his pet tiger on a leash in Lahore, plans to take part. "I will try to buy two to three lions for sure," he told AFP, adding the auction was a good way to diversify the gene pool for private collectors who already owned a big cat.

With little legislation to safeguard animal welfare, zoos across Pakistan are notorious for their poor facilities, but the Lahore Safari Zoo is considered one of the best, set over 200 acres. In April 2020 a court ordered the only zoo in the country's capital to shut after poor facilities and mistreatment of the animals there were revealed.

The facility had drawn international condemnation for its treatment of an Asian elephant named Kaavan, who was later airlifted to retirement in Cambodia in a jumbo project spearheaded by US popstar and actress Cher.

Veterinarian Khan said the animals at Lahore Safari Zoo were being given the best possible care-something reflected in their fecundity. "They are experiencing a good life in captivity with us," he said. — AFP

## Screaming students under 'fire' in US police school drills

Shots ring out in a Miami school classroom. Inside, a dozen students, their clothing stained with what appears to be blood, desperately scream. A security agent walks down the hall, more shots are heard-and a young man is swiftly knocked down.

It's a terrifying scene-but, thankfully, it is a simulation. The bullets are blanks, and the blood and wounds are fake, as are the screams and the guns carried by the dozens of police officers taking part. The teenagers are volunteers helping police to fine tune their reaction to school shootings in the United States, once again under the spotlight after the disastrous law enforcement response to a deadly gun rampage at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas in May.

There, law enforcement agents waited 73 minutes before finally engaging the shooter, who killed 21 people-most of them young children. The police response outraged Americans, especially after the release of surveillance footage showing officers waiting in the corridors of the elementary school as children and teachers lay dying behind the closed doors of the classrooms.

### Legacy of Columbine

"Our rule is that the first officer on the scene confronts the shooter. Everything is done to save lives," said Major Carlos Fernandez of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. It's a rule of thumb that has been in place for many police departments since two teenagers killed

13 people at a high school in Columbine, Colorado, in 1999.

There is no US federal guideline on the police response to school shootings. But before Columbine, the norm was for officers to wait for SWAT tactical units to intervene, Fernandez notes. After, the priority became to stop the killing by rushing towards the gunfire and engaging the shooter as soon as possible, before helping the wounded-which the

past, medical teams waited outside schools-but now police try to clear the facility as soon as possible so that they can enter quickly, Fernandez says.

"Lasting emotional and physical harm" This simulation, in the middle of the summer vacation, is for police, not students; and the 30 teenagers covered in gory makeup and screaming themselves hoarse have chosen to be there. But for the rest of the year, active shooter drills

after active shooter drills. They concluded that the drills are linked to increased depression, stress, anxiety and physiological health problems in children as young as five years old, while concerns about death also shot up.

There is "almost no research affirming the value" of such drills for preventing shootings or keeping children safe when one does occur, while the evidence "suggests that they are causing lasting

It warns of a "dangerous trend" towards simulations in schools that make drills "more traumatizing than helpful." But when the drills are for police rather than students, it is important that the exercises are realistic and that children take part, argues Miami-Dade Schools Police Chief Edwin Lopez.

"Our goal is to unnerve the officers as much as possible. And that involves students screaming, fire alarms going



A man poses as a victim

officers in Uvalde failed to do.

During the simulation in the Miami suburb of Hialeah, the false suspect is taken out of action just three minutes after the first shots were fired. The street swarms with police cars in front of the school, as agents run down hallways and check that bathrooms and classrooms are empty.

With everything under control, firefighters enter the building and take away four students with fake injuries. In the

are required for public school students in at least 40 of the 50 US states.

And that, argue NGOs and trauma experts, may harm students more than it helps them-particularly when the drills edge closer to realistic simulations like the one in Hialeah, with fake blood, wounded victims and guns.

Gun control advocacy group Everytown last year studied the social media conversations of students in 114 US schools, 90 days before and 90 days

emotional and physical harm to students, teachers, and the larger community," Everytown said.

Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit founded by some of those who lost loved ones in the shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, draws a line between safety drills such as lockdowns-which it says are "scary enough"-and "live-action simulations of fatal shootings."

off, smoke, sound or actual gunshots," he explains after the Hialeah drill. "And it's critical that children make a valuable contribution to our officers. Many of them give law enforcement the information they need on a daily basis to mitigate and prevent" shootings, he adds. — AFP



Miami-Dade Schools Police Officers perform rescue operation.



Children pose as victims



Hialeah Fire Department and Miami-Dade Schools Police Officers perform a rescue operation.—AFP photos





Lifestyle | Features



A local resident holds his bicycle in the city of Bakhmut, eastern Ukraine.



A local resident pushes her bicycle through damaged buildings.



A local resident rides his bicycle in Sloviansk, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They look incongruous, but they are everywhere across Ukraine's embattled eastern Donbas region - elderly cyclists, trundling back and forth on battered push bikes, refusing to be fazed by the chaos around them.

# Ukraine's elderly bikers defy cycle of violence

They look incongruous, but they are everywhere across Ukraine's embattled eastern Donbas region-elderly cyclists, trundling back and forth on battered push bikes, refusing to be fazed by the chaos around them.

Barbaric artillery may rain down on the horizon and armoured trucks tear through the streets, but the senior bikers refuse to flee, projecting a strange sense of normality in the devastated warscape. In the suburbs of Kyiv abandoned by occupying Russian forces in the spring, AFP found numerous bodies of cyclists, seemingly gunned down as they insisted on keeping a normal rhythm of life in perilous circumstances.

"Nothing has hit me so far," grins 77-year-old cyclist Otari Unashvili in the city of Toretsk, his mouth glinting with gold and silver teeth under a bulbous grey moustache. On Thursday, eight people were slain by a Russian airstrike at a bus stop in Toretsk, according to the regional governor. During the night, a strip of shops was savaged by another blast, according to locals at the scene.

In the morning, a mechanical digger shunts rubble and broken brickwork under a blanket of masonry dust. A cleanup crew sweeps walkways, while incoming



A Ukrainian man holds his bicycle as he goes back home.—AFP photos

and outgoing artillery duel in the distance. The cyclists lean on their handlebars, casually watching the proceedings even as cars speed out of the city with parcels of belongings strapped on their roofs.

"I have no vehicle to drive and I still need to get around," shrugs 60-year-old retired mine worker Oleksandr, clutching



the maroon paint-chipped handlebars of a brakeless ladies' bike.

**'If I am shot, who cares?'**

"I feel the danger, of course," he admits. "But if I am shot, then who cares?" Since Moscow called off its assault on Kyiv at the end of March, the war has

refocused on the east and south-east of Ukraine, where the Russian military has been active and backing pro-Kremlin insurgents since 2014.

In the eastern Donbas region-Ukraine's industrial heartland comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk areas-the battle has become an artillery slugging match with territorial gains and losses made in gruelling slow motion.

Cities, towns and villages are now pockmarked with the ageing, unhealed scars of artillery strikes. Buildings are boarded up and fortified with leaking sandbags, seeming long-abandoned to the battleground.

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky ordered the mandatory evacuation of the Donetsk region, saying "the sooner it is done... the fewer people the Russian army will have time to kill". But Ukraine estimates there are still hundreds of thousands of civilians left in the eastern territories not yet occupied by Russia.

Among them are many of the elderly, often without the family ties or finance to find a new home elsewhere for an indeterminate time, with the war in its sixth month and no end in sight. Some are just too stubborn to leave.

**'Cycling is healthy'**

"Cycling is healthy and driving is stressful," says 74-year-old Volodymyr, gathering fistfuls of grass on a motorway verge to feed his ducks and chickens at home. He has parked his pistachio-green town bike further down the carriageway in the city of Kramatorsk, under a propaganda billboard of a Ukrainian soldier brandishing an anti-tank weapon.

"I feel fine," he declares with edgy defiance when quizzed about his casual choice of transport through the largest war on European soil since World War II. "I would prefer that if anything happens, I die immediately so I won't be disabled after."

The cyclist-pensioners of Donbas have been hardened into stoicism by eight years of conflict. Viktor Alekseevich rolls his handsome 40-year-old bike-manufactured in Soviet Russia-along the pavement, his trousers tucked into his socks to prevent them being churned in the gears. "Yes, I feel safe. Our troops are here," declares the 62-year-old. And if a missile lands? "I will hide in the bushes," he says. —AFP

## Seeking water, Brazil indigenous group finds new home

Clutching a machete and a cell phone, indigenous leader Vanderlei Weraxunu tours his community's future home, a swathe of tropical forest land north of Rio de Janeiro where his people will finally have water.

Weraxunu is one of around 50 members of the Mbya Guarani people who will soon establish a new home in the middle of what will be Brazil's first municipal nature reserve, where they plan to live according to their ancestral lifestyle.

The project promises to transform the lives of community members, who have been living in a settlement with no access to potable water in Marica county, in Rio de Janeiro state. Hailing from different regions of Brazil, the community of Mbya Guarani moved there a decade ago and founded a village, Ceu Azul (Blue Sky) on a plot of land donated by a businessman.

But the land, a former coffee plantation, is too degraded to farm crops, and the village has to have water trucked in



Guarani indigenous leader Vanderlei Weraxunu holds a golden-headed lion tamarin (Leontopithecus chrysomelas) at the Kyringue Arandua indigenous land, in the municipality of Marica, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.

by the municipal government. "A river ran through it 150 years ago. But then the former owner turned it into a coffee plantation and it was devastated," says the youthful, chiseled Weraxunu, sporting a beaded armband, traditional face paint and long black hair.

"They cut down the forest and that caused the river to dry up," he adds, as a black- and bronze-furred monkey playfully performs acrobatics on his arms and shoulders. South America is home to an estimated 280,000 Guarani, divided into several subgroups including the Mbya.

They have a long history of conflicts

with non-native farmers, who had often forced them from their ancestral land.

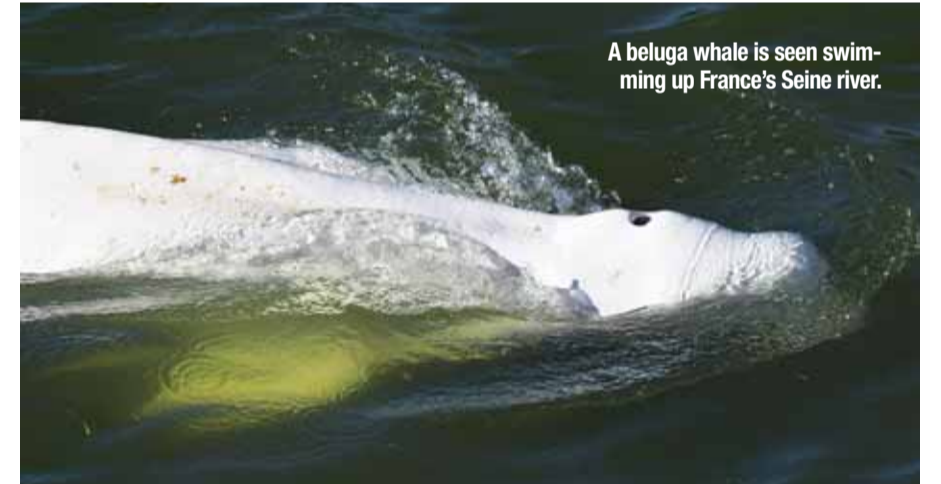
**'Guardians of nature'**

After years of negotiations with the government, Weraxunu's community is now set to move in the coming months to a 50-hectare (125-acre) plot of public land about 35 kilometers (20 miles) away, donated by the municipality.

"We'll have more resources, we'll be able to plant (manioc and sweet potato) and gather medicinal herbs," says Weraxunu. They also plan to bring back native crops such as Guarani maize, which they hold sacred, as well as bamboo for the handicrafts that are an important source of the community's income.

"Until now, we've had to bring in bamboo from other places" to make traditional baskets, says Maria Helena Jaxuka, a Guarani cacique, or chief. The local government has pledged to provide houses, a school, health care and a cultural center for the new village-plus official ownership of the land.

"It will allow us to preserve nature, as well as our culture and way of life," says Weraxunu. "The Guarani and all indigenous peoples are the guardians of nature, which gives us life." — AFP



A beluga whale is seen swimming up France's Seine river.

## France races to rescue beluga whale stranded in Seine river

French authorities and NGOs pursued their efforts Friday to rescue a beluga whale that swam dozens of kilometres inland up the Seine river, a rare occurrence that threatens the life of the protected species.

The whale was first seen Tuesday in the river that flows through Paris to the English Channel, separated from its pod and apparently underweight, regional officials say.

It was spotted again Friday between the locks at Poses and Saint-Pierre-la-Garenne, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) inland from the port city of Le Havre and nearly halfway up the waterway to the French capital.

Despite being a notably sociable mammal, "it is behaving the same as yesterday, it seems very skittish. It rises to the surface only briefly, followed by long dives," Gerard Mauger of the GECC marine conversation society told AFP.

He noted that based on sonar recordings it was also emitting very few of the chirps and quacks the whales are known for, raising further concerns about the animal's health.

Belugas are normally found only in cold Arctic waters, and while they migrate south in the autumn to feed as ice forms, they rarely venture so far. Authorities have not released details on the beluga's size, but an adult can reach up to four metres (13 feet) in length.

Contacted by AFP, officials in the Eure department of Normandy, which are supervising the rescue attempts, declined to outline their plans on Friday. "We think

a DNA test needs to be done quickly so we can determine where it came from and repatriate it," said Lamya Essemli, president of the Sea Shepherd NGO.

"The most urgent thing is to feed it with dead fish, probably frozen herring, to keep it from exhaustion because this is not the ideal environment for it," she told AFP. It is only the second recorded sighting of a beluga in a French river since 1948, when a fisherman in the estuary of the Loire river found one in his nets.



Members of the Sea Shepherd NGO (top) and firefighters (bottom) patrol in boats as they search for a beluga whale.—AFP photos

The sighting comes just a few months after a killer whale-also known as an orca, but technically part of the dolphin family-became stranded in the Seine and was later found dead between Le Havre and Rouen in late May. An autopsy found that the animal, more than four metres long, had likely suffered exhaustion after being unable to feed, though officials said the had also discovered a bullet lodged in the base of its skull-though it was far from clear that the wound played a role in its death. — AFP



Guarani indigenous people pose for a picture during a visit to the land.



Guarani indigenous people arrive for a visit to the land where they will move.



Guarani indigenous members plant corn seeds during a visit to the land.



Vanderlei Weraxunu teaches children in a classroom.—AFP photos



## Sports

# Victor retains Commonwealth decathlon crown as England hunt down Australia

## New Zealand's Walsh retains shot put title

**BIRMINGHAM:** Grenada's Lindon Victor retained his Commonwealth Games decathlon crown in a nail-biting finale on Friday as host nation England closed the gap on Australia at the top of the medals table. New Zealand shot putter Tom Walsh also held on to his title while 18-year-old Kenyan Jackline Chepkoech won the 3000 meters steeplechase in a Games record of 9min 15.68sec. Jamaican triple jumper Shanieka Ricketts shed her bridesmaid's tag-having been silver medalist in the 2018 Games and last month's world championships-to post a Games record of 14.94 meters. But it was the decathlon that provided the edge-of-the-seat drama at Alexander Stadium.

Victor held on by the skin of his teeth as Australia's Daniel Golubovic won the 1500m comfortably, threatening to snatch the title away from him. The Grenadan fell to the ground as he awaited the final tally and to his relief he had done just enough to deny Golubovic, winning by just 36 points with a total of 8,233. "Ahead of the 1500m I just thought, 'Don't relinquish the lead. Run as hard as you need to win', and that's exactly what I did," said 29-year-old Victor.

### 'Different people'

Walsh, the 2017 world champion, won the shot put with a mark of 22.26 metres as New Zealand compatriot Jacko Gill took silver with a personal best of 21.90m. "I don't want to lose to him (Gill), that's for sure," said Walsh. "But having Jacko alongside me (on the podium) will be a pretty special occasion. Jacko and I have been going head-to-head for 12 years now.

"We are different people, and I wouldn't say we're mates, but we get on really well still-just two

different characters." On Saturday, Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah faces silver medalist Christine Mboma in the women's 200m after both qualified for the final. Thompson-Herah will fancy her chances of completing the sprint double-as she has done twice at the Olympics-with Mboma only having returned to training five weeks ago after recovering from a thigh injury.

England's Victoria Ohuruogu is one win away from emulating her sister, Olympic and two-time world champion Christine, in winning Commonwealth Games 400m gold. But the 29-year-old faces a major threat from world bronze medalist Sada Williams of Barbados, who cruised through in her semi-final. Ohuruogu's team-mate, Matthew Hudson-Smith, will start as a warm favorite for the men's 400m, looking comfortable in posting the fastest time of the semi-finals. Hudson-Smith revealed after winning bronze at the recent world championships that he had tried to commit suicide last year.

### Diving double

English diver Jack Laugher won his second gold of the Games, in the men's synchronized 3m springboard with Anthony Harding, despite an interrupted night's sleep, after taking the 1m springboard title. "To say that I had a couple of hours' sleep and then to go out there and perform some of the hardest dives in the world alongside a great syncro partner was obviously pretty good," he said.

England's Matty Lee-who won gold alongside Tom Daley at the Tokyo Olympics-and Noah Williams triumphed in the men's synchronized 10m platform event. India won triple gold in the wrestling competition, with Bajrang Punia defend-



**BIRMINGHAM:** Canada's Margo Erlam and Canada's Mia Vallee compete in the women's synchronized 3m springboard diving final on day nine of the Commonwealth Games at Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham on August 6, 2022. — AFP

ing his men's 65kg title and Sakshi Malik taking the women's 62kg crown.

In the men's 86kg category, Deepak Punia beat Pakistan's Muhammad Inam, who called for more sporting ties despite political tensions between the South Asian nations. "There is no hate," he said.

"The more sporting competition that we can have between us, the better the relations between the people." England's women reached the hockey final with a shootout win against defending champions New Zealand while Australia also needed a shootout to beat India. — AFP

## Medvedev downs Kecmanovic, books title showdown

**LOS CABOS:** World number one Daniil Medvedev continued the build-up to his US Open title defense with a 7-6 (7/0), 6-1 victory over Miomir Kecmanovic in the ATP hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico, on Friday. He booked a title showdown with defending champion and third seed Cameron Norrie, who beat second-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. By reaching Saturday's final, his fourth of the year, top-seeded Medvedev is assured of taking the top ranking into his title defense at Flushing Meadows later this month.

Kecmanovic, ranked 38th in the world and seeded fourth, got off to a strong start against Medvedev, who is playing his first tournament since bowing out of the quarter-finals at Mallorca in June. The Serbian, playing his third semi-final of the year, seized a 4-1 lead, but Medvedev found his range and relentlessly pounded his way back from the baseline. He regained a break and swept through the tiebreaker against the frustrated Kecmanovic, who could find no answer as Medvedev powered to a 3-0 second-set lead on the way to victory.

"Very tough match," Medvedev said in his on-court interview. "He started great and all the first set was a great level. So many tough points, so many points where I felt like I was close to getting the edge. "The tie-break was great." Friday's action marked the first time since Cincinnati last year that the top four seeds made it to the semi-finals of an



**LOS CABOS, Mexico:** Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns the ball against Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic during their Mexico ATP Open 250 men's singles tennis match on August 5, 2022. — AFP

ATP tournament. Britain's Norrie saved a pair of break points in the final game to grab his first win over Auger-Aliassime in five attempts - and admitted those previous defeats weighed on him.

"Felix has got me the last four times, so going into it I really wanted to win that one," said Norrie, who withstood 17 aces from the Canadian. "Previous times I had match points, so I was thinking about that in the back of my mind. "It's never easy," added the Wimbledon semi-finalist, who sailed a forehand long on his first match point then had to fight off a break point before he was able to celebrate a return to the Los Cabos final, when Auger-Aliassime fired wide on his second match point. — AFP



**BRISTOL:** South Africa's Wayne Parnell (left) celebrates with South Africa's Quinton de Kock (center) after the two combine to dismiss Ireland's Andy McBride during the second T20 international cricket match between Ireland and South Africa on August 5, 2022. — AFP

match at this level, Parnell had a fifth wicket when Andy McBride was brilliantly caught by diving wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock. That left Ireland 96-9, with tailender Barry McCarthy's entertaining 32 merely delaying defeat.

Earlier, South Africa captain David Miller marked his return with an unbeaten 32 and a rapid stand of 71 in 33 balls with Heinrich Klaasen that helped the Proteas post 182-6. Miller, who missed Wednesday's match with back spasms, hit three sixes after tight Ireland bowling had initially left South Africa struggling for runs, with opener De Kock again out cheaply. Klaasen's 39 took only 16 balls after opener Reeza Hendricks had just fallen short of a fifth successive T20 international fifty when out for 42. — AFP

## Five-wicket Parnell strikes as S Africa sweep T20 series

**BRISTOL:** Wayne Parnell's maiden five-wicket Twenty20 international haul led South Africa to a convincing 44-run victory over Ireland at Bristol on Friday as the Proteas completed a 2-0 series win. The 33-year-old left-arm quick took 5-30 as Ireland, chasing 183 to win, were dismissed for 138 in what was their eighth successive defeat at this level ahead of a T20 World Cup where South Africa will be one of the leading contenders on this form. "It was just about keeping things simple, doing the basics," said Parnell at the presentation ceremony.

Ireland have run India and New Zealand close this season and they only lost Wednesday's series opener against the Proteas, who've now won four of their last five T20s following a 2-1 success against England, by 21 runs. But Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie accepted his side had been well-beaten on this occasion. "We didn't show up with the bat," he said. "It gets very hard when you lose so many wickets."

Parnell put a dent in Ireland's chase early on, reducing them to 2-2 with two wickets in consecutive balls. Balbirnie fell for a duck when he chipped to cover and Lorcan Tucker, fresh from his 78 in the first T20, went first ball when he miscued to mid-on. The in-form Harry Tector survived the hat-trick, and with the experienced Paul Stirling started to repair the damage. Stirling had hit two fours and two sixes in a score of 28 when he was struck a painful blow in the groin by fast bowler Lungi Ngidi.

The next ball proved his undoing, with Sterling slicing a well-disguised slower delivery from Ngidi to Aiden Markram on the offside. Parnell followed up with two wickets in three balls. Curtis Campher caught behind on the reverse sweep before Tector holed out off a miscued pull for 34. Then, in his 45th

## Rublev wins twice to reach semis at rainy Washington

**WASHINGTON:** Top seed Andrey Rublev won twice on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Washington Open, dispatching Americans Maxime Cressy and J.J. Wolf at the US Open tune-up. World number eight Rublev defeated 32nd-ranked Cressy 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) in one hour and 42 minutes then eliminated 99th-ranked wildcard Wolf 6-2, 6-3 in 78 minutes. "I didn't spend much time on court," Rublev said of his three-hour total. "That was the main key today." Rain Thursday night forced double duty upon Rublev and several others but Friday storms provided everyone a timely rest break between matches.

Rublev, whose only other two-win day was at Washington in 2018, rolled through the first set against Wolf in 28 minutes, then broke to lead 2-1 and cruised from there. Next in Rublev's path is Japan's 96th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, who outlasted British 16th seed Daniel Evans 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 7-5 after three hours and 35 minutes. "Rather than to spend two matches like me than one match like him," Rublev said.

Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios fired 35 aces on his way to beating hometown hero Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (14/12), 6-2 and reaching the other semi-final against Sweden's 115th-ranked Mikael Ymer. Nishioka improved to 5-0 all-time against the 40th-ranked Englishman in the rain-interrupted affair to reach his first ATP semi-final since 2020 at Delray Beach. His only ATP title came at Shenzhen in 2018. "I never gave up and that's the way I think I won," Nishioka said. "I just focused on making a lot of balls and to play long rallies. I knew he didn't want to because he was getting tired."

Rublev seeks his 12th career crown and fourth title of the season after Marseille, Dubai and



**WASHINGTON:** Andrey Rublev serves a shot against J.J. Wolf of the United States during Day 7 of the Citi Open at Rock Creek Tennis Center on August 5, 2022. — AFP

Belgrade to match Spaniards Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz for the most ATP trophies this year. Australia's 63rd-ranked Kyrgios, who won the most recent of his six ATP titles at Washington in 2019, needed only 14 minutes to complete an early win over US fourth seed Reilly Opelka 7-6 (7/1), 6-2.

Kyrgios then outlasted 27th-ranked Tiafoe after two and a half hours, yelling, "I want to go to bed," in the third set of a match that ended at 1 in the morning. Tiafoe won the last five points of the first-set tiebreaker, the last on his sixth ace, and had four match points in the second-set tiebreaker. But Kyrgios answered with an ace, backhand winner, forehand volley winner and service return winner and forced a third set when Tiafoe sent a forehand long.

Tiafoe, who won a third set earlier to defeat Dutch eighth seed Botić van de Zandschulp, hit a crosscourt forehand wide to hand Kyrgios a break to open the third set and missed a backhand to drop a break in the seventh before Kyrgios held to advance. The Aussie hit 60 winners and saved five match points in all. Ymer, who lost his only ATP final last August at Winston-Salem, beat 54th-ranked American Sebastian Korda 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 after two hours and 27 minutes. — AFP

## Raza, 'brilliant' Kaia slam ODI centuries as Zimbabwe win

**HARARE:** Sikandar Raza and Innocent Kaia struck centuries as Zimbabwe recovered from a disastrous start to stun Bangladesh with a five-wicket win in the first match on Friday of a three one-day internationals series. The home team lost openers Regis Chakabva and Tarisai Musakanda with just six runs on the board as they chased a formidable Bangladesh total of 303-2 that included four half centuries. A third Zimbabwe wicket fell after they lifted the score to 62 and then Raza and Kaia came together to put on 192 for the fourth wicket and set up a brilliant victory as Zimbabwe reached 307-5 with 10 balls to spare.

Raza was unbeaten on 135, including six sixes and eight fours, while Kaia struck two sixes and 11 fours in his 110 before being caught by Shoriful Islam at short fine leg. "I thought Innocent was brilliant," said man-of-the-match Raza of his team-mate, who was playing in just his fourth ODI. "I was trying to back him and tell him that if we stayed together we can win this game. "I wanted to calm him down and encourage him to play good shots instead of just trying to hit the ball too hard."

"Most of the chats we had were about me encouraging him and trying to steady his nerves as we chased a very formidable total." Kaia said: "This a big win. Playing against Bangladesh is big for us. When you score your first 100 and go on to win the game, I do not know how to explain this but it is an awesome feeling. I am humbled."

Captain Chakabva, standing in for injured Craig Ervine, added: "I could not have asked for more from the boys. We spoke during lunch about how we needed somebody to get a 100 and then we get two."

### Liton injured

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal was evidently less euphoric, disappointed with a poor performance in the field as well as a serious hamstring injury to opening batter Liton Das. "We have been dropping catches regularly and getting away with it, but I knew that one day it would cost us and today was that day," said Tamim. "The news about Liton (Das) is not good-I think he could miss the rest of the series. This is what I have heard and I need to check up on some others."

Bangladesh, seventh in the ODI rankings and eight places above Zimbabwe, took advantage of being put in to bat by building what seemed a winning score. Opener Liton led the way with an unbeaten 81 before being forced to retire with a suspected hamstring injury. He faced 89 balls and scored one six and nine fours. Anamul Haque (73), Tamim (62) and Mushfiqur Rahim (52) were the other scorers of half centuries for a team fresh from a 3-0 ODI hammering of the West Indies last month.

When Tamim reached 57, he became the first Bangladeshi to score 8,000 ODI runs. He departed soon after having skied a Raza delivery to Kaia. But while the visiting batsmen scored freely, their bowlers had no answers to Pakistan-born Raza and Kaia at Harare Sports Club. The pair reached centuries within two balls of each other during the 39th over with Kaia scoring his maiden ton through a single while two runs from Raza gave him his fourth 100 in the 50-over format. — AFP



Sports

# Bayern hammer Frankfurt 6-1 in Bundesliga opener

## Munich get their quest for 11th title off to best start

BERLIN: Bayern Munich coach Julian Nagelsmann said he didn't mind if it was beginning to feel "normal" for his team to win the title, after thrashing an overwhelmed Eintracht Frankfurt 6-1 away at Deutsche Bank Park on Friday. Munich got their quest for an 11th consecutive Bundesliga title off to the best possible start, with teenage forward Jamal Musiala scoring two as Bayern dismantled the reigning Europa League champions. Asked after the match if Munich winning the Bundesliga was beginning to feel like "normality", Nagelsmann unsurprisingly said he was happy with the status quo.

"When you win ten in a row, yes it starts to feel normal," he told broadcaster DAZN. "But I don't really care if it feels normal or not - but yes, it can stay 'normal'. "The first half was outstanding. I don't think it'll always be like this, but we should be satisfied." Former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane scored on his league debut when he nudged a 28th minute header past goalkeeper Kevin Trapp. The Senegalese was one of five different goal scorers for Munich, allaying fears Bayern may be toothless up front after the summer exit to Barcelona of Robert Lewandowski.

Joshua Kimmich, Benjamin Pavard, Musiala (two) and Serge Gnabry also got on the scoresheet for the Bavarians. Kimmich opened the scoring in the fifth minute via a free kick, with his shot bouncing in off the post past a stunned Trapp, who may have had his vision obscured by dense fog caused by the pyrotechnics of his own home fans. Kimmich lauded the variety

of his side's new attack. "The four up front, they had fun," he said.

### 'Absolute debacle'

French defender Pavard scored just five minutes later, volleying in a loose ball across his body in a manner reminiscent of his goal of the tournament against Argentina in the 2018 World Cup. Despite the opening onslaught, the next stages belonged to the home side, who had two clear cut chances to peg one back. A header from Tuta hit the crossbar one minute after Pavard's goal, while in the 27th minute midfielder Jesper Lindstrom dribbled past several Munich defenders and had keeper Manuel Neuer beaten but sprayed his shot just wide of the left-hand post.

Munich won back the initiative immediately, with Mane heading in past Trapp to score Bayern's third and take the wind out of Frankfurt's sails. Teenager Musiala continued his impressive pre-season form that saw him named man of the match in Bayern's 5-3 Super Cup win over Leipzig, tapping in a dribbled cross from Thomas Mueller from close range.

Fresh from signing a new deal that will see him stay in Munich until at least 2026, Gnabry tickled the ball under keeper Trapp in the 43rd minute to put Bayern 5-0 up at half-time. Seeking to bring some defensive stability to his side, Frankfurt coach Oliver Glasner made three changes at half-time including pulling captain Sebastian Rode from the field. Glasner may have also had one eye on Frankfurt's midweek UEFA Super Cup clash with Real Madrid.—AFP



FRANKFURT: (Left to right) Frankfurt's French defender Evan N'Dicka, Bayern Munich's German midfielder Jamal Musiala, and Frankfurt's Swiss midfielder Djibril Sow vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between Eintracht Frankfurt and FC Bayern Munich on August 5, 2022. — AFP

## Clubs try to adapt with World Cup on the horizon

PARIS: The new season that kicks off this weekend in the Premier League and around Europe promises to be like no other with clubs being forced to adapt to the long interruption in November and December for the World Cup, and the resulting consequences. "The World Cup in Qatar will make this season more intense than any other," insisted Real Madrid and Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois recently as he looked ahead to what is in store at club and international level. In Spain, like in Italy, the season does not begin until next weekend, but the Premier League kicked off on Friday, along with the Bundesliga, Ligue 1 and Dutch and Portuguese championships. All leagues will then stop by the weekend of November 12-13 to allow players involved at the World Cup to join up with their national teams ahead of the opening game in Qatar on November 21. The World Cup final will be on December 18, but the Premier League will restart with its traditional Boxing Day fixture list on December 26.

La Liga returns on December 31 while the French top flight has done away with its traditional Christmas and New Year holiday - instead Ligue 1 teams will play on December 28 and again on January 1. In contrast Serie A will remain shut down until January 4, while the German Bundesliga has conserved its long winter break, shutting down on November 13 and not kicking off again until January 20. "To have the break in the middle, with a World Cup, will affect all the teams in every league around the globe," observed Jurgen Klinsmann, who coached both Germany and the United States at World Cups.

"It will influence players' performances and team performances. It could be a dramatic season for everyone. "It's never been done before. It will shake up everybody." The compressed schedule means just one weekend off for an international break before Qatar, in late September. The lack of time impacts on European competition too: the six Champions League group-stage matchdays will all be played by early November.—AFP

## Fenerbahce fined 50,000 euros for Putin chants

PARIS: Turkish side Fenerbahce were fined 50,000 euros (\$50,900) by UEFA on Friday after their fans chanted Russian president Vladimir Putin's name during a Champions League match against Ukraine's Dynamo Kyiv. Supporters sang the name of Putin after Vitaliy Buyalskyi's goal for Dynamo in the Ukrainian club's 2-1 extra-time victory, which dumped the Turks out of the Champions League last month. The first leg

## AU Padel Tournament ends with great success

KUWAIT: The Australian University (AU) successfully held three-day Padel Tournament for its student and public. Given its fast growing popularity among youth in Kuwait, the university organized the event bringing together the local community to encourage physical activity, teamwork and sportsmanship. The event was organized in collaboration with HM Sport and the Kuwait Tennis Academy (KTA) that attracted more than 160 participants making up to 80 teams divided in three categories: Males and Females of different age.

By the end of the ceremony, champions were awarded with trophies and medals as well as valuable prizes for first place winners. In addition, AU presented token of appreciation to the event supporters HM Sport and KTA. Tournament Winners (Moussa Al Sayegh; Hussain Al Terki), and (Abdulkareem Al Shayie and Fahad Al Shayie) ranked first and second places



had ended 0-0 in a game played in Poland because of Russia's invasion.

As well as the fine, UEFA ordered a partial closure of the Fenerbahce stadium in its next European campaign. A statement said that the UEFA Appeals Body had decided to "fine Fenerbahce 50,000 euros and to order the partial closure of Fenerbahce stadium, which shall consist of at least 5,000 seats, during the next UEFA club competition match." The punishment was for "the throwing of objects and transmitting a provocative message of an offensive nature, i.e. illicit chants."

Putin has questioned the Ukrainian nation's right to exist and branded its leaders as "Nazis" who must be deposed. The five-month war has claimed thousands of lives and featured relentless missile and rocket attacks against Ukrainian cities that have killed civilians daily.

for the "under 18" category. As for the "above 18" category, (Mohammed Abbas and Meshal Al Duaij) won 1st place, while (Yousef Al Najjar and Mohammed Toneyah) won 2nd place. In addition, female players Muneera Hamada and Razan Al Hajeri won first place while Maha Al Faraj and Aysha Al Marzoug won second place.

Commenting on the tournament, Hussain Al Haddad, Manager of Student Affairs at AU, said: "We organized the open to public Padel Tournament due to the university's keenness to encourage youth exercise and occupying their time beneficially. We are pleased to have male and female players from all age groups, moreover, we are proud of the success of the tournament overall. We congratulate the winners of the tournament, and thank the participating organizers. Further we look forward to more activities and events that serve the youth of Kuwait."

From her part, May Al Musallam, Senior Manager of the PR and Marketing department at AU, stated: "Our goal is always to benefit our students and the community at large with our selective events, such as the Padel Tournament. As part of our community responsibility, we believe in empowering youth through athletics, and healthy lifestyle whether on campus or off so they become the best they can be in what they choose."

Last week, Ukraine's envoy to Turkey expressed "sadness" over the chants and Fenerbahce initially said their fans' behaviour did "not represent the stance and values of our club".

"It is very sad to hear the words of support from Fenerbahce's fans for a Russian murderer and aggressor who bombed our country," Ukraine's ambassador Vasyil Bodnar tweeted. But Fenerbahce club president Ali Koc hit out at Ukrainian officials. "We're not going to apologize to Ukraine," he said. "It's up to the Ukrainian ambassador and the foreign minister's spokesperson to apologize to us, after their inappropriate remarks. "I think it was an inappropriate and unnecessary chant, far from how we view ourselves as a club. But what can we do? Shut their mouths?"— AFP

## Lacazette scores on return as Lyon edge Ajaccio in opener

PARIS: Alexandre Lacazette scored on his return to Lyon as the hosts edged promoted Ajaccio 2-1 in a hard-fought Ligue 1 opener on Friday where both sides finished with ten men. Former France international Lacazette has returned on a free transfer five years after he joined Arsenal for a then club record fee of £46.5 million (\$58 million). The 31-year-old striker, who signed a three year contract with the club where he made his name after coming through the youth system, scored from the penalty spot after 21 minutes. Lacazette also played a role in the opener sending through a cross from Johann Lepenant for Brazilian Tete to score after 11 minutes. Former Shakhtar Donetsk striker Tete, who joined Lyon after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, then won the penalty from a Cedric Avinel foul. That allowed Lacazette to make it 2-0 for his 101st goal with Lyon ten minutes later.

But Lyon struggled in defense with goalkeeper Anthony Lopes sent off following a foul on Mounaim El Idrissy in the penalty area at the half-hour mark. Thomas Mangani pulled one back for the visitors, firing in the resulting penalty past substitute goalkeeper Remy Riou. "We had to win the first game at home," said Lyon coach Peter Bosz. "We could see the importance of Alexandre Lacazette, the respect of the opponent for him, the support of the fans are a good thing, but he can do better."

"We were leading 2-0 after twenty minutes playing well. The sending off after thirty minutes changed a lot of things. Luckily they also got a red card which helped us." Ajaccio's Romain Hamouma was sent off just before the break after picking up a second yellow card for a hand in the face of Lucas Paqueta. Both sides had their chances in the second half with Riou denying Riad Nouri after an hour with midfielder Corentin Tolisso, also back in Lyon after five years in Bayern Munich, drawing a blank as he came off the bench with a quarter of an hour to go. Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe will miss Paris Saint-Germain's first Ligue 1 outing of the new season this weekend against Clermont with an adductor injury, his club said on Friday. PSG announced that Mbappe had been left out of the squad that would travel to Clermont for Saturday's game "due to pain in his adductor muscles" and will instead remain behind for treatment. "A further update will be provided in 72 hours time." Mbappe already missed PSG's 4-0 win over Nantes in the French season-opening Champions Trophy in Tel-Aviv, Israel last weekend due to a suspension carried over from the last campaign. PSG begin their defence of the Ligue 1 title with a new coach, Christophe Galtier having taken over from the sacked Mauricio Pochettino. Lionel Messi and Neymar, who both scored against Nantes, are in the squad along with new signings Vitinha, Hugo Ekitike and Nordi Mukiele. However, there is no place for the Qatar-owned club's most recent recruit, with Portuguese international midfielder Renato Sanches not featuring in the list of 21 players announced on Friday.—AFP

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	
	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134

Nuzha Industrial Shuwaikh	22526804
Qadisiya	24814764
Dasmah	22515088
Bneid Al-Gar	22532265
Shaab	22531908
Qibla	22518752
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22459381
Mirqab	22451082
Sharq	22456536
	22465401

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Joyce Piedade** (Civil ID No. 281070408072 / Passport No. R8665839), would like to correct my name, Old Name: Joyce Anthony Piedade, New Name: Joyce Fernandes. (C# 2033)

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LONDON: Fulham's Slovakian goalkeeper Marek Rodak cannot reach a shot from Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson which comes back off the bar during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Liverpool on August 6, 2022. — AFP Photos

## Liverpool stumble, Spurs shine

### Tottenham thrash Southampton 4-1; Bournemouth beat Villa 2-0

**MANCHESTER:** Liverpool's Premier League title challenge got off to a sluggish start as the Reds were held 2-2 at newly-promoted Fulham, while Tottenham delivered on their pre-season hype by thrashing Southampton 4-1 on Saturday. Jurgen Klopp admitted the best part of Liverpool's day was the result as the Champions League finalists twice had to come from behind at Craven Cottage.

Aleksandar Mitrovic maintained his stunning form from last season in the Championship as the Serb outmuscled Trent Alexander-Arnold to head Fulham into a deserved half-time lead. The introduction of Darwin Nunez in the second half brought Liverpool to life and the Uruguayan flicked home his first Premier League goal since a 75-million-euro (\$77 million) move from Benfica to level.

Mitrovic restored Fulham's lead from the penalty spot after he was tripped by Virgil van Dijk inside the area. But Mohamed Salah ensured Liverpool at least did not start the season with a defeat by slotting into an empty net from Nunez's pass. "We started actually exactly the opposite way that we wanted," said Klopp. "We are used to more dominance and we never could get that because we just played not good enough, not quick enough, not precise enough."

#### Tottenham's title dream

By contrast, Tottenham had a dream start to the campaign to raise hopes they could compete for a first league title in 61 years. Spurs also fell behind to James Ward-Prowse's strike from the edge of the box after just 12 minutes, but the response from Antonio Conte's men was emphatic. The goals to turn the game around before half-time came from unlikely sources as Ryan Sessegnon and Eric Dier headed home. Mohammed Salisu then passed the ball into his own net for a comical own goal on the hour mark. Dejan Kulusevski rounded off the scoring



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Swedish midfielder Dejan Kulusevski (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring their fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton on August 6, 2022.

with a cool and precise finish into the far corner to take Spurs above Arsenal at the top of the table. Newcastle may not have delivered the big-name signings many expected in the transfer market, but the Magpies did the business on the pitch to spoil Nottingham Forest's return to the English top flight with a 2-0 win.

Forest have even outspent Newcastle in the window on 12 new signings so far, but were given a lesson in the step up in quality to the Premier League at St James' Park. Fabian Schar's sensational strike opened the scoring before Callum Wilson's predatory finish sealed the three points. Bournemouth were

also 2-0 winners over Aston Villa, dispelling their pre-season gloom after a lack of transfer activity. Jefferson Lerma got the Cherries off to a great start after just three minutes and Kieffer Moore added a second 10 minutes from time.

Leeds shrugged off the loss of Calvin Phillips and Raphinha over the summer as they beat Wolves 2-1 at Elland Road. Daniel Podence had fired Wolves into an early lead, but Jesse Marsch's men fought back impressively. Rodrigo blasted in from a narrow angle to level before Rayan Ait-Nouri's own goal decided the game 16 minutes from time. Chelsea begin their campaign later on Saturday away to Everton. — AFP

that is part of the mentality we want to build." Arsenal were beaten 2-0 at Brentford on the opening night of last year's season, which triggered their worst start to a league campaign for 67 years.

But they backed up their blistering pre-season form and rewarded the faith placed in Arteta with over £100 million (\$120 million) to spend in the transfer market. Gabriel Jesus' arrival to fill the need for a centre-forward has been Arsenal's marquee signing of the summer and the Brazilian nearly marked his debut in style after just four minutes. Jesus slalomed through the centre of the Palace defence and when his initial effort was blocked, Martinelli should have done better than slot the rebound wide of the target.

The visitors were utterly dominant in the opening quarter, but it took a set-piece to make the breakthrough. Another debutant Oleksandr Zinchenko nodded a corner back across goal and Martinelli's header had just enough power to beat Vicente Guaita. Palace had suffered a far more problematic pre-season with a number of key players left at home during a tour of Australia due to their coronavirus vaccination status.

The Eagles took half an hour to find their feet,

but will be disappointed not to have at least taken a point once they got to the tempo of the game. Arsenal were guilty of causing their own problems in raising the Palace fans from their slumber as a clearance from Aaron Ramsdale was charged down and fortunately for the England goalkeeper rebounded to one of his own defenders.

Ramsdale made amends before the break with a fine stop to deny Edouard's header leveling before the French striker had another effort deflected inches over the bar. Palace penned Arteta's men back in the second period, but again failed to take their chances when they came along. Eberechi Eze was the most guilty as he fired tamely into Ramsdale's body with just the Arsenal number one to beat.

"The difference between the two teams is they score the goals," said Palace boss and former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira. "We created two really good chances to score and we didn't take our chances." Arsenal had barely even threatened on the counter-attack in the second half, but got lucky to give themselves breathing space for the final five minutes. Bukayo Saka's driven cross caught his England teammate Guehi off guard as the Palace centre-back's header flew into his own net. —AFP

### India and Pakistan weightlifters unite on and off podium

**NEW DELHI:** Two hulking weightlifters from opposite sides of the often tense India-Pakistan frontier shared the podium at the Commonwealth Games - and then celebrated together to their favorite rapper. The affinity between Pakistani gold medalist Nooh Dastgir Butt and India's Gurdeep Singh, who came third in the 109+ kg category in Birmingham on Wednesday, stands in stark contrast to the nuclear-armed neighbors' political rivalry.

Those tensions often spill into the sporting arena - they only play each other at cricket in multi-nation events, despite it being by far the most popular sport in both countries. The two weightlifters come from either side of Punjab, a state divided between the neighbors at Partition 75 years ago, and have a common language and culture.

They also share a love of the music of murdered Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moose Wala. The two strongmen were born about 250 kilometers apart and according to the 26-year-old Singh first met in junior championships six years ago. They "would share tips about diet. Conversing in Punjabi obviously helped our friendship", he told The Indian Express from Birmingham. Commonwealth Games champion Butt, 24, described them as "very good friends".

"After the gold, I first congratulated Gurdeep and later we did a small celebration where we danced to Moose Wala's songs," he said. Moose Wala, also known by his birth name Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, was shot dead in his car in the Indian state of Punjab in May. The 28-year-old was popular on both sides of the border and among Punjabi communities abroad, especially in Canada and Britain, with his death sparking anger and outrage among fans across the world.

Butt, born into a family of wrestlers, said that he also enjoyed support from across the border. "I have more fans from India than Pakistan in the weightlifting community," he said. "The kind of love India has given me, no other country has given me." His father Ghulam Dastgir Butt, a 16-time Pakistan national champion wrestler, added: "I get surprised when people talk that India and Pakistan are born enemies. 'The amount of love and respect India has given to me, we also love Indian players and Hindustan the same.'" The Indian Express quoted him as saying. —AFP

### Arsenal make a perfect start, stun Palace 2-0

**LONDON:** Mikel Arteta praised Arsenal's ability to ride out a second-half onslaught from Crystal Palace to make the perfect start to the Premier League season with a 2-0 win at Selhurst Park on Friday. On the ground where the Gunners lost 3-0 in April to spark a late season collapse that cost them a place in the Champions League, Arteta's men held out after Gabriel Martinelli's header gave them a deserved half-time lead.

Marc Guehi's own goal late on then sealed the three points after Odsonne Edouard and Eberechi Eze had missed big chances for Palace. "The win is the most important thing. To win the first match it builds confidence, momentum and then we can discuss the things we have to improve," said Arteta. "To win here you need to suffer. We've done it and