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Kuwait depllores storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque by settlers

Zionists agree proposed truce; 31 Palestinians killed including 6 children



JERUSALEM: Zionist security forces protect religious Jews visiting the Al-Aqsa mosque's compound during the annual Tisha B'Av (Ninth of Av) fasting and memorial day, commemorating the destruction of ancient Jewish temples on August 7, 2022. — AFP

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Sunday condemned in the strongest terms the storming of the courtyards of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque by settlers, under the protection of Zionist armed forces. The move is a grave violation of international laws and conventions, a Foreign Ministry statement underlined, urging the international community to intervene and stop all acts of violence against the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, Zionist entity on Sunday agreed to an Egyptian proposed truce with Palestinian militants in Gaza after three days of intense conflict, an Egyptian source said, as Islamic Jihad reported talks toward a ceasefire were underway. The negotiations raise hopes that Egypt could help broker a deal to end the worst fighting in Gaza since an 11-day war last year devastated the impoverished coastal territory, home to some 2.3 million Palestinians.

Since Friday, Zionist entity has carried out heavy aerial and artillery bombardment of Islamic Jihad positions in Gaza, with the militants firing hundreds of rockets in retaliation. At least 31 Palestinians have been killed including six children, and 275 people have been wounded since Friday, health authorities said in the enclave where several buildings were reduced to rubble.

Two Zionists have been wounded by shrapnel, and others forced to shelter from a barrage of rockets fired from Gaza. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has said officials were talking with both sides "around the clock" to ease the violence. A security source in Cairo said that Zionist entity "has accepted" a ceasefire, adding that Cairo was waiting for the Palestinian response.

A source from Islamic Jihad said that "discussions are underway at the highest levels towards calm", but warned that "the resistance will not stop if the occupation's aggression and crimes do not stop". On Sunday, Islamic Jihad - an Iran-backed group designated as a terrorist organization by several Western nations - extended their barrage to fire two rockets targeting Jerusalem, but they were shot down by the army.

The Zionist army has said the entire "senior leadership of the military wing of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza has been neutralized". Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director general of the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, said medics were treating wounded people in a "very bad condition", warning of dire shortages of drugs and fuel to run power generators. "Every minute we receive injured people," he said, earlier on Sunday.

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Cost of bringing domestic workers

KUWAIT: The maximum cost for recruiting domestic workers has been set (excluding traveling ticket) and decided by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Social Affairs and Development Fahad Al-Shraian. The cost set for workers from the Philippines is KD 850, while that of Indians, Sri Lankans and Nepalese workers is KD 700. The cost of recruiting African workers is KD 500. The decision affirmed that those who violate these rules will be punished according to the law. The decision will be revised after six months.

30 inmates escape from Lebanon jail

BEIRUT: More than 30 people fled a Lebanon detention centre at dawn on Sunday, security forces said, after sawing their way through a window, according to a judicial official. "At dawn ... 31 detainees managed to escape" from a detention centre in the Adlieh neighborhood of the capital Beirut, the Internal Security Forces said in a statement on Sunday.

"Immediate orders were given to arrest them and investigations are underway." The detainees broke past

a prison window using a saw smuggled into the facility, said a judicial official close to an investigation into the incident. "The escapees include Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians, among other foreigners," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. A security source confirmed the escape method, saying the prisoners were likely aided by someone on the outside.

On Sunday morning, an AFP correspondent saw security forces and army personnel deployed in the Beirut neighborhood housing the jail. The Adlieh detention centre was formerly controlled by Lebanon's General Security agency but is now managed by the country's prison authority. It was notorious for abuses committed against detained Syrian refugees and

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BEIRUT: Members of Lebanon's security forces deploy on a street with access to a detention center under the Adliyah (Palace of Justice) bridge in the capital Beirut, on August 7, 2022, following a dawn prison break. — AFP

Iran urges IAEA to resolve nuke issues

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday demanded that the UN nuclear watchdog "completely" resolve outstanding issues related to questions over nuclear material at undeclared sites, amid resumed talks to revive its 2015 nuclear deal. Talks aimed at reviving the agreement over Iran's nuclear program resumed this week in Vienna, months after they had stalled.

Iranian sources have suggested that one of the key sticking points is a probe by the International Atomic Energy Agency on traces of nuclear material found at undeclared Iranian sites. "We believe that the agency should completely resolve the remaining safeguard issues from a technical route by distancing itself from irrelevant and unconstructive political issues," Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said.

During a phone call with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Amir-Abdollahian reiterated that his country is "serious about reaching a strong and lasting agreement", Iran's foreign ministry said. "The outcome of this matter depends on whether the United States wants to make an agreement," he added.

The IAEA's board of governors adopted a resolution in June, censuring Iran for failing to adequately explain the previous discovery of traces of enriched uranium at three previously undeclared sites.

Continued on Page 6

Economic slowdown behind oil price drop

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaiti oil analysts said on Sunday that global oil prices lost eight percent of its value during last week due to fears of economy slowdown and US Energy Information Administration (EIA) that showed rise in oil stocks. In separate state-

ments, they clarified that oil prices got support after OPEC+ decision of "a slight increase" in production starting next September, by 100,000 barrel per day, less than previous increases approved by the alliance during the past months that amounted to 400,000 barrel per day. Oil expert Ahmad Hasan Karam said that oil prices reached record levels since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, affected by the fact that Russia is being a key partner in the (OPEC+) alliance that aims at achieving global oil balance. — (See Page 2)

New strike hits Ukraine nuclear site

KYIV: Four more ships loaded with grain set off from Ukrainian ports on Sunday, as Moscow and Kyiv blamed each other for a new strike at a Russian-occupied nuclear plant. "The second convoy of Ukrainian supplies has just left... three from Chornomorsk and one from Odessa," Kyiv's infrastructure ministry wrote on Telegram. It said the Mustafa Necati, the Star Helena, the Glory and the Riva Wind

were carrying "around 170,000 tonnes of agriculture-related merchandise." Meanwhile, Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations over who bombed the Zaporizhzhia nuclear site in southern Ukraine, Europe's largest atomic power complex which has been under Russian control since the early days of the February 24 invasion.

The recent fighting at the plant prompted UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to warn of "the very real risk of a nuclear disaster."

On Sunday, Russia's occupying authorities in the town of Enerhodar where the plant is located said the Ukrainian army overnight "carried out

Continued on Page 6



CALIFORNIA: An oil pumpjack operates near Ventura, California. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Turkish-flagged ship Polarnet carrying tons of grain from Ukraine sails along the Bosphorus Strait past Istanbul on August 7, 2022, after being officially inspected. — AFP

Kuwait's Crown Prince receives verbal message from Bahraini peer

Crown Prince, Prime Minister receive two Bahraini ministers



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani and Minister of Finance and National Economy Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani and Minister of Finance and National Economy Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani and Minister of Finance and National Economy Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa. The meeting gathered Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid. The two guests delivered a verbal message from Bahraini Crown Prince and

Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa on the bilateral ties and regional and international issues of common concern. Also attending the meeting were President of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Chief of Staff of His Highness the Crown Prince's Office Jamal Mohammad Al-Thyab as well as Ambassador of the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain to Kuwait Salah Ali Al-Maliki.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

received on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and acting Minister of the Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday the visiting Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif Al-Zayani and Minister of Finance and National

Economy Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa. The meeting gathered Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid. Also attending the meeting were President of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Dekheil Al-Dekheil and Advisor to His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Dr Basel Hmoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA

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Economy slowdown behind oil prices' drop: Analysts

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaiti oil analysts said on Sunday that global oil prices lost eight percent of its value during last week due to fears of economy slowdown and US Energy Information Administration (EIA) that showed rise in oil stocks. In separate statements, they clarified that oil prices got support after OPEC+ decision of "a slight increase" in production starting next September, by 100,000 barrel per day, less than previous increases approved by the alliance during the past months that amounted to 400,000 barrel per day.

Oil expert Ahmad Hasan Karam said that oil prices reached record levels since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, affected by the fact that Russia is being a key partner in the (OPEC+) alliance that aims at achieving global oil balance. He assured that the current prices is a result to prior decisions by OPEC+ to reduce production, which came as a response to the economic repercussions of the global COVID-19 crisis and the accompanying general closures to confront the spread of the virus. Karam explained that OPEC+ alliance started during the past period to raise production gradually according to shares among members that contributed to control prices and keeping their high levels by controlling amounts supplied in the oil markets. He indicated that there is a "great grumbling" from the major economic and oil-consuming countries over the current prices that exceed their capacity, as they demand on several occasions the oil-producing countries to increase their production in order for prices to return to levels of \$70 per barrel, which they see as a "fair price."

Meanwhile, expert in the field of energy Jamal Al-Garabally said that expectations indicate that



global economic recession will reduce the demand for oil in the coming months, expecting that oil prices would reach \$85 and 90 per barrel through the last quarter of 2022. Gharabally added that the recent decision of the OPEC+ alliance to increase production by 100,000 barrels, starting next September, will contribute to preserving some gains. "This increase reflected the solid position of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the OPEC+ alliance in maintaining oil prices," he added. —KUNA

CAIT hosts virtual workshop on budget, information systems

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of the Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology "CAIT" Haya Al-Wadani, a virtual workshop entitled "Information Systems and Technology Budget Preparation" was held with the participation of approximately 200 employees of various government agencies who supervise the preparation of IT budgets in the country. The workshop touched upon the mechanisms for inclusion of integrated projects and its technical classification, in addition to the criteria for documenting justifications and priorities for arranging and grouping needs.

The Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology "CAIT" Haya Al-Wadani said that the workshop aims to raise awareness and exchange experiences on how to prepare the budget for the needs of information systems and technology, according to best practices and within the controls and directives set by the Central Agency for Information Technology and the



Ministry of Finance.

Wadani added in a press statement on the sidelines of the workshop that budgeting constitutes the cornerstone of a sound government planning system, which is positively reflected on the effective management of public resources, and the implementation of various programs and projects that promote economic growth and development at all levels in the country, in addition to the importance of preparing a special budget.

Local

Kuwait's degree-first approach adds to challenges facing local jobseekers

Companies favor degrees, though irrelevant or outdated, over experience

By Saoud Al-Marzouq

KUWAIT: According to the Kuwaiti Central Statistics Bureau, there are currently 8,318 Kuwaiti citizens who are unemployed. Many tend to take the opinion that these people are misfits, lazy, and do not deserve to be among the Kuwaiti workforce. Despite the fact that this stereotype holds water with some unemployed Kuwaitis, there are many Kuwaitis who are unable to get adequate employment in Kuwait even though they are very savvy and work-oriented individuals.

Ahmed is a Kuwaiti citizen who currently lives in Dubai and has been working there for 18 years. He has had a very successful and progressive career in the UAE, working with multiple multinational organizations. His main expertise lies in talent acquisition and helping companies and startups set up their human resource function from scratch. Previously, Ahmed was working towards a bachelor's in business in Portland, Oregon but was unable to complete it due to family challenges and financial constraints that hindered his ability to finish his degree.

Currently, Ahmed wants to return to Kuwait in order to care for his family. Although he is forced to stay in Dubai as he is unable to acquire adequate employment in Kuwait due to his lack of a higher education degree. Yet he can work in Dubai because, as he explained, "Here in Dubai, they focus on your experience rather than your degree,

which is helpful for someone like me who has had 18 years of experience. Well, in Kuwait, one of the central things firms and companies ask for is your degree. They put a lot of weight on the degree that is sometimes irrelevant or outdated and that's the struggle I've had with finding employment in Kuwait."

Ahmed went on to state, "I've had some great interviews and presentations in Kuwait. I've been offered a role in companies a couple of times but when they ask for my diploma, they see that I'm only a high school graduate, and they quickly retract the offer."

He explained that this unwarranted weight for a degree in the hiring process is an "old paradigm." And Ahmed is not alone in this belief. The Predictive Index, an organization that specialized in talent optimization and studying behavioral tendencies in the workplace and has serviced companies such as Subway, IBM, and Nissan hold a similar belief, stating, "There's an assumption that education provides the training and experience for job performance. It does not. In fact, education is a worse predictor of job performance than a candidate's actual training and experience. In short, a good education does not equal a good employee."

Finding success abroad

Ahmed's employment predicament is a shame, especially given the recent rhetoric of Kuwaitization, meaning increasing the number of



Kuwaitis in the Kuwaiti workforce and decreasing reliance on expat workers that has dominated Kuwaiti political discourse. Ahmed stated, "I am familiar with many Kuwaitis who are successful in their career and work abroad. They work abroad because they have better opportunities there. That is unfortunate because we hear increased rhetoric about Kuwaitization and reducing our reliance on the expat workforce in Kuwait."

Kuwait, like any other country, must prioritize its talented and savvy citizens and give them adequate treatment, but Ahmed believes that Kuwait is not doing so. He stated, "It's very frustrating because

there are many talented Kuwaitis out there, but they don't get the support that they deserve. They should be encouraging us to go back to Kuwait, to work there, change the work environment and contribute to building and developing Kuwait. But they're not giving us a reason to come back."

For many reasons, lack of government prioritization, lack of sufficient infrastructure, and an archaic employment process to name a few, Kuwait is becoming less and less appealing to its specialized and talented citizens, many of whom are genuinely interested in playing a role in developing Kuwait.



'Many Kuwaitis found better work opportunities abroad'

Minister of Information rotates undersecretaries

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi makes new hiring and rotation procedures with regards to undersecretaries and assistant undersecretaries. The following have been hired as undersecretaries for their respective position.



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

- Muhammad bin Naji as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Information
- Turki Al-Mutairi for the Television sector
- Mazen Al-Ansari for Foreign information sector
- Wael Khalifah for Tourism sector
- Lafi Al-Subaie for Press and Publication sector
- Salem Al-Watyan for Management and Finance sectors
- Saad Al-Azemi for New Information sector
- Manal Al-Baghdadi for Law sector



Fire Force shut down 92 basements in rental buildings

KUWAIT: Ninety two basements in housing investment buildings have been shut down since the start of the year due to violations, the Kuwaiti Fire Force's public relations department announced. Tens of other violators have fixed their violations before being shut down. The department has encouraged people living in those investment buildings to report any violations that they may notice, especially basements that are designated for storage and workshops. To report any violations, the department encouraged people to notify them on their WhatsApp number (65914431) to report any complaints.



KUWAIT: The National Assembly.

Cabinet to kick off election preparations

KUWAIT: The Cabinet is set to discuss ministerial procedures to start the organization of the upcoming elections of the National Assembly. Initial procedures will be discussing election dates and an invitation for candidates who wish to be nominated. According to constitutional law, elections must start within two months after the dissolution of the National Assembly, while invitations must, at most, be issued within a month of the dissolution. The election is expected to be held late September or early October, if the invitation is

issued within the next week.

"Investigating panels will start its work as soon as candidates begin submitting their requests for nomination, which will ensure each candidate's qualification according to constitutional law," sources revealed to Kuwait Times. Sources have revealed that election panels in 125 schools have been designated across the different provinces of the country.

Moreover, the Ministry of Justice has organized with more than 1,200 judges and public prosecutors to supervise the election process. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior will provide security to the election process by providing more than 13,000 policemen, of which 4,000 who will be assigned specifically to supervise election ballots. Furthermore, the Municipality will be assigned to provide licensing for candidate advertisements and the hygiene of the election process throughout.



Ministry of Commerce issues ticket for violating store

KUWAIT: A home tools and appliances store

violated the law by selling medical injection needles, which made the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to issue a ticket. The violator has been detained after a consumer complained about the issue, which prompted the ministry to immediately contact the emergency team and proceed with legal procedures.

In my view

Modern day slavery



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

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Slavery and human trafficking are widely condemned in all its forms all over the world, yet modern day slavery is still seen in many countries, and unfortunately for Kuwait, it has a few cases a year that can be seen as that. Modern day slavery is defined as the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain, and unfortunately, some people have intercepted their severe experiences in Kuwait as modern day slavery.

As a lawyer, I receive complaints from expat employees with restrictions that may be seen as modern day slavery, like restrictions on their movement. One example are domestic workers who are not allowed to leave the house they work in, or employers who are illegally keeping the passports of their employees, non-payment of wages, or working long hours with no pay.

No day off

Question: My agreement states a day off weekly, but I am not allowed to take a day off, and I am not being paid overtime. My agreement says food would be provided, but no food is being provided. The manager literally wants to enslave us. This is modern day slavery. He collected our passports and visas. I am yet to get a civil ID and it's my second month in Kuwait. Anytime I ask, he keeps telling me a different story. What can I do?

Fajer: I am really sorry to hear this and I wish extreme cases like this are seriously criminalized. Your option is to walk out of that job and go to shoon (manpower authority) to file for your monetary rights and for your passport. I know it is difficult to go to shoon, especially when you have to work so many hours and when you do not speak Arabic. Please go to the closest shoon office and file a case. Take your agreement with you and any proof you have that you have been working for this company for those hours.

Keeping your passports and visas are illegal and the law takes restriction of movement seriously. Also, your employer has no legal right to hold your passport. I would highly suggest you contact your embassy too and explain to them the situation.

I understand why this feels like enslavement to you, and many may see it as modern day slavery, but please understand you have the right to get up and file a case, even though this may seem so inaccessible to you right now. I hope the above helped. If you have any legal questions, please email me at fajer@kuwaittimes.net

Local

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News in brief

Jahra records highest temperature of 53 C

KUWAIT: An incredible heat wave struck Al-Jahra and Al-Sulaibiya, where temperatures exceeded 50 degrees Celsius. "The station at Al-Jahra recorded 53 degrees, while the station in Sulaibiya recorded 52.1 degrees Celsius," said supervisor at Kuwait Meteorological Center Dherar Al-Ali. The humidity and heat wave are expected to continue until Monday, specifically in coastal areas and the sea, he added. The humidity will gradually decrease at night, as the wind will turn North Westerly, which is expected to last until Thursday. "The heat wave should start to be dusty with North Westerly from Tuesday lasting until Thursday with temperatures ranging from 48 to 50 degrees in some areas," Ali added.

Deputy FM, Chinese envoy discuss ties

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Theeferi held talks on Sunday with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei on the bilateral relations and current developments around the world. Kuwait will continue to back the "One China" principle and all relevant international conventions, the Kuwaiti diplomat told the Chinese envoy during the talks.

Kuwait sends aid to Gaza

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced Saturday that it would dispatch urgent medical aid to Gaza Strip to make up for an acute shortage in medicine and medical equipment in the besieged strip's hospitals. Secretary General of the KRCS Maha Al-Barjas said the Kuwait society had contacted the Egyptian authorities to allow the Kuwaiti aid to enter Gaza Strip through Rafah Crossing. The KRCS had also contacted the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to get a list of the desperately needed medicine and equipment, she said. Barjas added that the Kuwait aid were meant to help Gaza hospitals provide required medical care and treatment for victims of the Zionist entity's ongoing onslaught. She pointed out that the KRCS had also plans to launch a number of drives in cooperation with national and international charities to help people affected by the Zionist entity's attack on Gaza.

Worker rescued after dreadful fall

KUWAIT: A construction worker of Arab nationality has been rescued after falling on a metal rod that went through his shoulder inside a construction building, the department of Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Fire Force announced yesterday. Squads from search and rescue fire station went to Al-Jahra hospital's construction site to rescue the Arab man, and worked with medical teams to remove the rod. These efforts successfully prevented further injuries, KFF added.

US Dollar remains stable at KD 0.306

KUWAIT: The US dollar has stabilized against the Kuwaiti Dinar on Sunday at KD 0.306 while the euro has increased by 0.22 percent to reach KD 0.312 in comparison with the rates last Thursday. The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on its website that the GBP has decreased by 0.63 percent to reach KD 0.370 while the Swiss Franc stabilized at KD 0.319, and the Japanese Yen at KD 0.022. Prices announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait are based on daily averages, and does not reflect actual trade rates.

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of Kuwait City and its suburbs. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Zain sponsored Al-Qabas Masterclass Summer Program

Company shared its leading experience in media and PR with trainees



KUWAIT: Al-Musaibeeh and Al-Momen with the students.



Al-Momen honoring Al-Musaibeeh in recognition of Zain's support.



Al-Musaibeeh takes part in honoring one of the students.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, successfully concluded its sponsorship of Al-Qabas Masterclass Summer Program 2022, organized by Al-Qabas throughout three weeks to develop the youth's media skills up to the highest standards. The program offered a unique opportunity for training and developing professional media talents in Kuwait.

Zain took part in the program's closing ceremony, held at the Opera House in the Cultural Center of the American University of the Middle East (AUM) in Aqaila. The event was attended by Zain Kuwait's Corporate Affairs Department Manager Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Al-Qabas Media General Manager Nasser Al-Momen, as well as the program's participants, their families, instructors, and sponsors.

Zain's support to this program came as part of its

belief in the private sector's vital role in supporting the nation's youth sector and embracing Kuwaiti talents. The company is committed to playing an active role in the investment of the Kuwaiti human capital. By shouldering such initiatives, Zain seeks to support ambitious young people and allow them to apply their skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.

Zain took part in one of the program's seminars, held at the AUM, where it shared its leading experience in media and public relations with the students, introducing them to its Corporate Communications and Relations Division, its strategies, and role in enriching the Zain brand.

The company also introduced the trainees to the various roles of its Corporate Communications and Relations Division, including external and internal

relations, media relations and social media, corporate sustainability and social responsibility, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship.

Al-Qabas Masterclass Summer Program offered a unique opportunity for youth who were interested in pursuing a career in media. Al-Qabas offered the program for Kuwaitis during the summer vacation, featuring workshops, seminars, and field visits. The program was facilitated by a group of media experts, professionals, and academics.

Al-Qabas Masterclass focused on the most essential media skills, including creative writing, drafting press releases, writing articles, conducting interviews and reports, production, photography, smartphone photography, videography, content creation, PR and advertising, social media management, marketing, and more.

Jupiter, Saturn appear in Kuwait's night sky

KUWAIT: Jupiter and Saturn appeared last night in the night sky in Kuwait. The appearance of the two largest planets in the solar system started at 10pm until dawn, and they were visible to the naked eye resembling stars but with a different glow.

announced Al-Ojairi Scientific Center. "Saturn will be at its closest to earth this year with a distance estimated to be 1,325 million kilometers while Jupiter will be at about 630 million kilometers from earth," the manager of Public Relations of the center Khaled Al-Jumaan said Sunday.

"The two planets are considered the guardians of the earth as the sheer power of their gravity attracts any asteroid or object that might be headed towards the direction of the earth making us relatively secure from any destructive collisions," Jumaan added. These objects are a result of asteroid leftovers, which are usually small in size, burn almost instantaneously in the atmos-

phere and they rarely ever reach Earth. It is worth noting that Jupiter and Saturn have the most number of moons in the solar system due to their strong gravitational force.

Moreover, this stops any foreign objects to enter the solar system with specific or direct force. Jupiter is considered to be the largest planet in our solar system, which equates to about 11 times the size of Earth, which allows the planet to almost have its own system with 64 total moons revolving around it. Saturn is considered by many unique due its nature to have a ring which gives it a distinct shape. However, Jupiter also has rings of its own inner halo and an outer gossamer ring. —KUNA



US warns Pacific islands struggle against violent power-hungry regimes

Desperation deepens for families of trapped Mexican coal miners

China's military drills draw to a close

'Relevant flights and sailings can gradually resume'

BEIJING: China's largest-ever military exercises surrounding Taiwan were drawing to a close on Sunday following a controversial visit last week to the self-ruled island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Beijing has raged at the trip by Pelosi—the highest-ranking elected US official to visit Taiwan in decades—ripping up a series of talks and cooperation agreements with Washington, most notably on climate change and defence.

It has also deployed fighter jets, warships and ballistic missiles around Taiwan in what analysts have described as practice for a blockade and ultimate invasion of the island. Those exercises were set to end Sunday, though Beijing has not confirmed their conclusion.

Taiwan's transport ministry said six of the seven "temporary danger zones" China had warned airlines to avoid ceased to be in effect as



Beijing conducted "exercises in the sea and airspace surrounding Taiwan Island as planned", the Chinese military's Eastern Command said.

Taipei's defence ministry confirmed China had dispatched "planes, vessels and drones... simulating attacks on Taiwan's main island and on ships in our waters". Beijing also sent drones over Taiwan's outlying islands, it added.

'Jeopardising' peace

In response, Taiwan said it had mobilised a "joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance system to closely monitor the enemy situation" as well as sending planes and vessels. Su Tseng-chang, Taiwan's premier, said China is "barbarously using military action" to disturb peace in the Taiwan Strait.

Routes still affected in seventh area

of noon on Sunday, signalling a partial drawdown of the drills. It said the seventh zone, in waters east of Taiwan, would remain in effect until 10 am (0200 GMT) local time on Monday.

"Relevant flights and sailings can gradually resume," the ministry said in a statement. Taipei said some routes were still affected in the seventh area, and authorities would continue to monitor ship movements there.

Beijing has also announced fresh drills in the Yellow Sea-located between China and the Korean peninsula—to take place until August 15. Earlier on Sunday,

wielding its military power, showing its muscles everywhere and jeopardising the peace of the region," he told reporters Sunday. Taipei's foreign ministry said the drills threatened "the region and even the world".

An anonymously authored opinion piece published Sunday by state broadcaster CCTV said that after these exercises, China's military would be able to stage "regular" training drills east of the median line. That line is an unofficial demarcation in the Taiwan Strait that Beijing does not recognise.

To show how close it has got to



Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) shows Taiwanese military personnel handling Hsiung Feng II anti-ship missiles at an undisclosed location, in response to Chinese military exercises surrounding the island. —AFP

Taiwan's shores, the Chinese military released a video of an air force pilot filming the island's coastline and mountains from his cockpit. The Eastern Command also shared a photo it said was of a warship on patrol with Taiwan's shoreline visible in the background. Ballistic missiles were also fired over Taiwan's capital during the drills, according to Chinese state media.

'A dangerous opponent'

Taiwan has remained defiant throughout China's sabre-rattling, insisting it will not be cowed by its "evil neighbour". But

experts have warned the drills have revealed an increasingly emboldened Chinese military capable of carrying out a gruelling blockade of the island as well as obstructing US forces from coming to its aid.

"In some areas, the PLA might even surpass US capabilities," Grant Newsham, a researcher at the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies and a former US Navy officer, told AFP, referring to China's military by its official name.

"If the battle is confined to the area right around Taiwan, today's Chinese navy is a dangerous opponent—and if the

Americans and Japanese do not intervene for some reason, things would be difficult for Taiwan."

The scale and intensity of China's drills—as well as Beijing's withdrawal from key talks on climate and defence—have triggered outrage in the United States and other democracies. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was "determined to act responsibly" to avoid a major global crisis. China should not hold talks on issues of global concern such as climate change "hostage", Blinken said, as it "doesn't punish the United States, it punishes the world". —AFP

Colombia's leftist pres sworn in

BOGOTA, Colombia: Ex-guerrilla and former mayor Gustavo Petro will be sworn in Sunday as Colombia's first-ever leftist president, with plans for profound reforms in a country beset by economic inequality and drug violence.

The former senator, 62, takes over from the deeply unpopular Ivan Duque for a four-year term during which he will enjoy support from a left-leaning majority in Congress. Petro's hard-fought victory in June elections brought Colombia, long ruled by a conservative elite, into an expanding left-wing fold in Latin America that could be consolidated in October with a likely victory for Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil.

At a ceremony in Bogota on the eve of his inauguration, Petro said his government would aim to "bring to Colombia what it has not had for centuries, which is tranquility and peace." "Here begins a government that will fight for environmental justice," he added.

On the campaign trail, Petro had promised to raise taxes on the rich, invest in health care and education, and reform the police after a brutal crackdown on anti-inequality protests last year that was internationally condemned.

He has vowed to suspend oil exploration, to promote clean energy and to reactivate diplomatic and commercial relations with the government of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela, suspended since 2019. Petro starts from an "enviable position, with a large majority in Congress and, in terms of the street, with support that no government had in recent years," analyst Jorge Restrepo of the Resource Center for Conflict Analysis (Cerac) told AFP.

'Critical' debt burden

Petro's presidency is historic in another sense, too: by his side will be the country's first-ever Afro-Colombian woman vice-president, environmental and



BOGOTA, Colombia: Colombia's President-elect Gustavo Petro (R) greeting Costa Rica's President Rodrigo Chaves, who arrived in the country to attend his inauguration, in Bogota. —AFP

women's rights activist Francia Marquez, 40. The pair will grapple with an economy reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, a spike in violence and deep-rooted anger at the political establishment that culminated in last year's protests.

Almost 40 percent of Colombia's 50 million people live in poverty, while 11.7 percent are unemployed. Inflation reached 10.2 percent year-on-year in July. On Monday, a preparatory commission set up by Petro said he was inheriting "a level of indebtedness and fiscal deficit that... is critical."

Petro, who in his youth was a member of the M-19 urban guerrilla group, has promised to implement outstanding provisions of the 2016 peace agreement that saw the rebel FARC movement lay down arms after nearly six decades of civil conflict. The former mayor of Bogota has also vowed to pursue negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN) armed group. Despite the FARC disbanding to become a political party, Colombia has seen a surge in violence as thousands of dissidents battle the ELN and powerful cartels for control of drug fields, illegal gold mines and lucrative smuggling routes. —AFP

compatible with injuries inflicted by stomping, as well as lesions compatible with an attack with a cylindrical instrument," she added. "The cadaver is screaming out the circumstances of its death."

The precinct's Instagram account posted pictures of what appeared to be blood stains on the floor and furniture of the couple's apartment. Brazilian media reports said Hahn would not have diplomatic immunity given the nature of the crime. Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Local media reports said Hahn, who had been married to Biot for 20 years, tried to clean up the scene of death before police arrived, then told officers his husband had been drinking a lot and taking sleeping pills.

Biot was a week shy of his 53rd birthday, according to a picture of his ID card published in the Brazilian press. The German embassy did not immediately respond to a request for information. But both the embassy and the consulate in Rio de Janeiro are in "close contact with the Brazilian authorities investigating this case", a source in the German federal foreign office said Sunday. —AFP

German diplomat in Brazil arrested

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Brazilian police said they arrested a German diplomat Saturday for allegedly killing his husband at their home in an upscale Rio de Janeiro neighborhood, then attempting to cover up the crime.

Uwe Herbert Hahn, a German consul, told authorities his husband, Belgian national Walter Henri Maximilien Biot, had taken ill Friday night, collapsing and fatally hitting his head, police said. However, analysis of the body and the couple's apartment in the beach neighborhood of Ipanema found Biot had been severely beaten, they said.

"The version of events given by the consul, that the victim suffered a fall, is incompatible with the conclusions of the forensic report," officer Camila Lourenco said in comments posted on social media by Rio de Janeiro's 14th police precinct.

"It found various bruises, including on the torso,



Expression of interest to establish Maleic Anhydride (MAN) Plant inside the state of Kuwait

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) wishes to declare its interest to sell quantities of N-Butane product through long-term contracts to local or international Investor. Initially, the total offered quantity of N-Butane is around 30 thousand tons per Annum, and it will be sold locally as a feedstock to establish Maleic Anhydride (MAN) Plant in the State of Kuwait where N-butane to be transported by the investor through pipelines. MAN is used in UPR (unsaturated polyester resin manufacturing) which is used in fiberglass-reinforced plastic production, and in the production of lubricating oil additives as well as food industry applications and personal care products.

KPC is soliciting the interest of investors whether local or International companies which have the required qualifications and capacities to establish MAN plant in Kuwait, to submit their interest ("Application") vide an email to KPCLC@KPC.COM.KW along with the following details not later than 22 September 2022.

Interested Company (investor) Profile which includes the following:

- A brief background of the company that includes its activities, Products, and Services.
- The number of full-time manpower.
- Financial Standing, total revenues, etc.
- Declaration of whether the Investor (applicant) owns the rights of the required technology or has a license to use the technology, in case of non-availability of any technology, Investor shall indicate a plan to obtain the required technology, provided that the technology that will be used in the project shall be commercially approved.
- Company previous experience in MAN industries (if any).
- Declare the availability of industrial land to be utilized to build the project, or the Investor to provide the plan to secure the required industrial land for the project.
- The Investor's approach to expand/increase local content, in terms of the following areas:
 - Recruitment of Kuwaiti labor (job opportunities expected to be offered to Kuwaitis, with an indication of expected Kuwaitis employees' ratio).
 - The expected local spend on materials and services for the project.
- A feasibility study for the project (if any) or provide a plan that the Investor will follow to prepare the feasibility study.
- A proposed preliminary timeline/schedule for implementing the project.

General information and guidance:

- The investor (applicant) Expression of Interest (EOI) will be received according to the above-mentioned stipulations by 22/9/2022 and any applications submitted after this date will not be considered.
- All Expression of Interest (EOI) applications that meet the terms and conditions, and supported by all required documents will be examined. Any expression of Interest applications contrary to this will be excluded.
- Clarification/Explanatory meeting will be scheduled prior to the application submission deadline, and who wish to attend must send names and job titles by e-mail to KPCLC@KPC.COM.KW no later than 31/8/2022.
- The investor (applicant) alone bears the responsibility to disclose any information that contains intellectual property, whether it is private to him or others, upon submission.
- KPC will review all submitted applications. Thereafter, a Pre-qualification process for investors will be carried out in order to qualify potential investors to whom auction proposal shall be issued.
- KPC will supply N-Butane product to the winning investor according to international prices.
- This announcement does not entail any obligation or liability on the KPC in any way towards any of the applicants or others, as KPC has complete freedom to study and evaluate the submitted expression of interests (EOIs) and the proposed investment opportunities and to assess whether or not to proceed with the pre-qualification and bidding processes, all in light of the discretionary power of KPC and without any liability on it towards the companies expressing their interest and / or qualified companies and / or companies participating in the auction.

International

Desperation deepens for families of trapped Mexican coal miners

Five workers managed to escape from the crudely constructed mine

AGUJITA, Mexico: Saturday's effort to rescue 10 Mexican coal miners trapped in a flooded deposit for four days ended with little progress, relatives said, with hopes of reaching any survivors dwindling. More than 300 soldiers and other personnel, including six military scuba divers, have joined the bid to free the miners in the northern state of Coahuila following Wednesday's accident, the government said.

Liliana Torres, the niece of one of the 10 workers, told reporters on Saturday night that she had witnessed the relentlessness of rescuers who "do not stop all day", but added that the families were increasingly "desperate".

The water inside the flooded mine has only receded about 9.5 meters (31 feet) from the initial 34 feet, according to a report given to the relatives by the authorities at the end of Saturday's effort, and divers have been unable to enter.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had earlier declared Saturday "a decisive day" for the operation. "According to the experts, we'll know if it's possible for the divers to enter safely," he tweeted.

The main problem has been the flooding, he said, adding that the pumping equipment was working at full capacity. After Saturday ended without success, some families joined a mass near their improvised camp in the community of Agujita.

The Coahuila State prosecutor's office said it had interviewed the five workers who managed to escape from the crudely constructed mine. "Apparently they were expelled by a torrent of water," Coahuila attorney

general Gerardo Marquez told the press. He added that his office had requested information from the landowner and mine concession holder, but declined to name them.

Water leak

Authorities said that the miners had been carrying out excavation work on three mine shafts that descended 60 meters (200 feet) when they hit an adjoining area full of water. Experts detected a leak coming from nearby mines and are trying to find its exact location so they can stop water from flowing into the area where the workers are trapped, said Coahuila's labor secretary, Nazira Zogbi.

A French company has provided equipment to assist in the task, she said, without naming the firm. The arrival of more powerful pumping equipment was a reason for optimism, Zogbi said. Water seen flowing from the mine through drainage channels had initially lifted the hopes of relatives anxiously awaiting news.

"We're still hoping that they're in a higher part (of the mine), although there's too much water... but we trust in God," Elva Hernandez, mother-in-law of one of the trapped workers, told AFP.

History of accidents

Coahuila, Mexico's main coal-producing region, has seen a series of fatal mining accidents over the years. Last year, seven miners died when they were trapped in the region. The worst accident was an



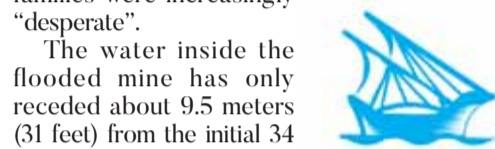
AGUJITA, Mexico: Relatives of 10 miners trapped since Wednesday after a collapse at a coal mine attend a mass as rescue operations are being carried out at the flooded mine, in the community of Agujita. — AFP

explosion that claimed 65 lives at the Pasta de Conchos mine in 2006.

Only two bodies were retrieved after that tragedy. Miners and their relatives painted a picture of a precarious profession fraught with risks due to lax safety standards. "When everything's fine, you don't think about the danger, but when things happen you think

about quitting," said Luis Armando Ontiveros.

However, looking for a new job does not seem like a viable option for the 48-year-old, whose father taught him to dig for coal at an early age. The father-of-three said he needed the monthly salary equivalent to about \$500 to pay for his children's education so they do not have to follow in his footsteps. — AFP



Main problem has been the flooding

More than 250 migrants rescued off Tunisia

TUNIS, Tunisia: Tunisian coastguards "rescued" more than 250 migrants who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Italy, the North African country's National Guard said on Sunday.

Maritime authorities "were able... to rescue 255 would-be migrants, including 170 people of various African nationalities, with the remainder Tunisians," the National Guard said in a statement on Facebook.

The attempted crossings — 17 in total — took place on the night of Friday to Saturday from the east of Tunisia, according to National Guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli.

The statement did not indicate whether any vessels had got into difficulty or sunk, but did note that an unspecified sum of cash was seized during the operations.

The National Guard also on Friday carried out a "pre-emptive operation", arresting five people who were

"preparing to lead an illegal immigration bid departing from the coast of Sousse province in the east of the country", Jebabli said.

The Tunisian coastguard announced in mid-July that 455 migrants had been "rescued" in several operations off the northern, eastern and southern coasts of the country. Attempts by migrants to reach Europe from the North African coastline tend to increase in spring and summer, due to the lower risk of stormy seas. Tunisia and Libya are principal departure points and Italy a favoured destination.

Meanwhile, the Greek coastguard on Sunday said 122 migrants were rescued near Rhodes after their vessel ran into trouble. The migrants, who had set off from neighbouring Turkey, were picked up Saturday by a passing Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship, they said.

The migrants were then transferred to a Greek coastguard patrol boat and taken to the island of Kos.

No details were immediately available on the nationalities and gender of the group or the type of vessel transporting them. — AFP

Iraq Kurd protesters tear-gassed

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Security forces in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region fired tear gas and rubber-coated bullets Saturday to disperse anti-government protesters and briefly detained seven opposition lawmakers, an AFP journalist and an official said.

The opposition New Generation party had called for demonstrations in Sulaimaniyah and other cities in the country's north in protest against deteriorating living conditions, alleged corruption and authoritarian practices by the regional government.

Dozens of police vehicles were deployed to the centre of Sulaimaniyah, and security forces fired tear gas and rubber-coated bullets once several hundred protesters had gathered, an AFP correspondent reported. Security forces stopped journalists from taking images of the crackdown.

Six New Generation lawmakers in the federal parliament in Baghdad who were preparing to join the protests, and another from the regional parliament, were taken in for questioning for a few hours, the bloc's chief Srwa Abdulwahid told AFP. They were



SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Security forces deploy during a rally called for by the New Generation Movement, a Kurdish opposition party, in Iraq's northeastern city of Sulaimaniyah in the autonomous Kurdistan region. — AFP

all later released, she said.

Abdulwahid posted photographs on Twitter of some 30 activists she said had been arrested in recent days. Human rights associations regularly criticise Iraqi Kurdish authorities for carrying out arbitrary arrests, suppressing protests and attacking press freedoms.

Keen on projecting an image as a relative haven of stability and tolerance in war-battered Iraq, the autonomous region has long been dominated by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by the Barzani family, and the rival Patriotic Union

of Kurdistan (PUK), headed by the Talabani clan.

The crackdown in the Kurdistan region comes as supporters of powerful Shiite Muslim leader Moqtada Sadr have been holding a sit-in in the gardens around parliament in Baghdad's normally secure Green Zone, home to government and diplomatic buildings.

The cleric's supporters occupied the legislature last Saturday and remained inside the building for several days, protesting against a rival Shiite bloc's pick for the premiership. — AFP

Kuwait deplores storming of...

Continued from Page 1

In Gaza, run by the Islamist group Hamas, the health ministry said 31 people had been killed. But Zionist entity said it had "irrefutable" evidence that a stray rocket fired by Islamic Jihad was responsible for the deaths of several children in Gaza's northern Jabalia area on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear how many children were killed there, but an AFP photographer saw six dead bodies at the local hospital including three minors. "We came running to the place and found body parts lying on the ground... they were torn-apart children," said Muhammad Abu Sadaa, describing the devastation in Jabalia. The army said it had struck 139 Islamic Jihad positions, with the militants firing over 600 rockets and mortars, but with more than a hundred of those projectiles falling short inside Gaza.

Amid the high tensions, Jews in annexed east Jerusalem marked the Tisha Be'av fasting day Sunday at the Al Aqsa mosque compound, known in Judaism as the Temple Mount. Some Palestinians shouted "God is greatest" in response, and an AFP photographer was briefly detained by police, but commemorations passed off without major incident.

Zionist entity has said it was necessary to launch a "pre-emptive" operation Friday against Islamic Jihad, which it said was planning an imminent

attack. The army has killed senior leaders of Islamic Jihad in Gaza, including Taysir al-Jabari in Gaza City and Khaled Mansour in Rafah in the south. Lapid called the killing of Mansour an "extraordinary achievement".

'Killing and wounding'

Daily life in the Gaza Strip has come to a standstill, with the sole power station shut down due to a lack of fuel after Zionist entity closed its border crossings. The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA has warned of the "severe risk" to the "continuation of basic essential services". "Each day we wake up to child and women martyrs... there is killing and wounding and people displaced," said Gaza City resident Abu Mohammed al-Madhoun, 56. "We hope that aggression will end".

In southern and central Zionist entity, civilians were forced into air raid shelters. Two people were hospitalised with shrapnel wounds and 13 others lightly hurt while running for safety, the Magen David Adom emergency service said. "It's tense, it's frightening," said Beverly Jamil, a resident of Ashkelon close to Gaza. "Ashkelon's a ghost town - it's a holiday, kids should be out playing".

Hamas's response to the violence remains critical, with spokesman Fawzi Barhoum offering the group's support to Islamic Jihad on Sunday, but stopping short of saying they would take part. "The resistance in all its military wings and factions are united in this battle," Barhoum said. Islamic Jihad is aligned with Hamas but often acts independently. Hamas has fought four wars with Zionists since seizing control of Gaza in 2007, including the conflict last May. — Agencies

with an unprecedented economic crisis that has seen the value of the Lebanese pound lose more than 90 percent of its value against the dollar on the black market. Inflation has skyrocketed and public sector salaries have plummeted to record lows, forcing soldiers and other members of security forces to quit en masse to try to eke out an alternative living. The crisis has also further degraded Lebanon's already-dismal jails, with poor conditions and lack of medical care regularly sparking prison riots and unrest. — AFP

Iran urges IAEA to resolve...

Continued from Page 1

But Tehran argued on Friday that the issues surrounding the undeclared sites "are political in nature and should not be used as a pretext for abuse against Iran in the future".

"Nuclear weapons have no place in the doctrine of the Islamic republic of Iran and are contrary to our policies and beliefs," Amir-Abdollahian reiterated on Sunday. The negotiations to revive the deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive

Plan of Action, began in April 2021 before coming to a standstill in March. The 2015 deal gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program to guarantee that Tehran could not develop a nuclear weapon - something it has always denied wanting to do.

But the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 and the reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back on its own commitments. Russia's envoy to Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov however said Sunday that talks are moving "in the right direction". A successful conclusion can be reached "very soon, but no guarantees - as always nothing is agreed until everything is agreed", he told reporters outside the Palais Coburg hotel where the talks are being held. — AFP

amount to playing with fire, with potentially catastrophic consequences," IAEA Rafael Grossi said on Saturday.

'Sign of hope'

The renewed shipments of Ukrainian grain to help ease global food shortages and bring down prices nevertheless offer a small glimmer of hope as the war enters its sixth month. Ukraine, one of the world's largest grain exporters, had been forced to halt almost all deliveries in the wake of Russia's invasion, sending global food prices soaring and making imports prohibitively expensive for some of the world's poorest nations. In Rome on Sunday, Pope Francis welcomed the resumption of grain exports as "a sign of hope" that showed dialogue was possible to end the war. "I sincerely hope that, following this path, we can put an end to the fighting and arrive at a just and lasting peace."

A bulk carrier had arrived in Chornomorsk on Saturday to be loaded with grain for the first time since Moscow's invasion. Last Monday, the Sierra Leone-flagged vessel, Razoni, set sail from the Ukrainian port of Odessa carrying 26,000 tons of corn in the first departure under the deal that was brokered with the help of Turkey. Then on Friday, Kyiv said another three ships loaded with grain had also set off for Turkey and markets in Ireland and Britain with a further 13 waiting to depart. — AFP

30 inmates escape from...

Continued from Page 1

foreign migrant domestic workers, according to rights groups, including Human Rights Watch.

The prison break came as Lebanon grapples

International

US warns Pacific islands of new struggle against violent power-hungry regimes

Battle of Guadalcanal was a turning point in World War II

HONIARA, Solomon Islands: A top US diplomat warned Pacific Islands of a new struggle against violent power-hungry regimes Sunday, as she visited the Solomon Islands to mark the 80th anniversary of World War II's Battle of Guadalcanal.

With China's military conducting drills around Taiwan and Russia bombarding Ukraine, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman hit out at a new crop of world leaders reviving "bankrupt" ideas about the use of force-without mentioning any countries.



It is up to us to decide

Attending a dawn memorial service in the Solomon Islands, Sherman said "some around the world" had forgotten the cost of war, or were ignoring the lessons of the past. She hit out at "leaders who believe that coercion, pressure, and violence are tools to be used with impunity", but did not specify any names during her speech at the service. The battle of Guadalcanal was a turning point in World War II. The brutal seven-month land, sea and air fight between Allied and Japanese forces killed tens of thousands of troops-most Japanese.



HONIARA, Solomon Islands: (L-R) Japan's State Minister of Defence Makoto Oniki, Japan's Chief of Staff, Joint Staff General Koji Yamazaki, US Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy and Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, and the Minister for Defence Industry, Pat Conroy pose for pictures during a ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal at Skyline Ridge in Honiara on the Solomon Islands on August 7, 2022. — AFP

Painting the situation today as carrying faint echoes of the fight against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in the 1930-40s, the State Department number two urged the region to push back.

"We remember how bankrupt, how empty, such views were then, and remain today," she said. "Today

we are once again engaged in a different kind of struggle—a struggle that will go on for some time to come." Sherman's trip comes as the United States tries to rebuild diplomatic relations in the Pacific, where China is growing stronger and democratic alliances have faltered.

Sogavare no-show

Nowhere is the United States's waning regional influence more evident than in the Solomon Islands. The government of Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare recently signed a secretive security pact with Beijing, moved to curb press freedoms, and suggested delaying elections.

Sherman, again without mentioning names, told her hosts: "It is up to us to decide if we want to continue having societies where people are free to speak their minds." It is time, she said, to decide "if we want to have governments that are transparent and accountable to their people".

Sogavare was slated to attend the ceremony, appearing on the event programme, but was a no-show. He did, however, meet Sherman later, for what she described as "wide-ranging" talks.

As well as warnings, Sherman said Washington wants to increase cooperation with the "absolutely critical" Pacific island nations, including by opening embassies in Tonga, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands.

As part of the charm offensive, US President Joe Biden is also expected to invite Pacific Island leaders to the White House for a September summit. Solomon Islands police and security minister Anthony Veke welcomed what he termed US "re-engagement" with the country and the region. But he called on Washington to launch a "scaled-up effort" to remove unexploded WWII ordnance that continues to injure and kill Solomon Islanders to this day. — AFP



NAIROBI, Kenya: Kenya's Azimio La Umoja Party (One Kenya Coalition Party) presidential candidate Raila Odinga (C), his wife Ida Odinga (C-R), and his running mate Martha Karua (C-L) attend an interfaith prayer at Kenya International Conference Centre in Nairobi. — AFP

Kenya campaign ends but disinformation battle drags on

NAIROBI, Kenya: The campaign for Kenya's presidential election has officially closed but the relentless and dangerous-flow of disinformation continues online, as keyboard warriors battle to discredit rivals by sharing fake rigging claims, experts say.

Campaigners for the frontrunners, Deputy President William Ruto and veteran politician Raila Odinga, are circulating dozens of posts claiming that their opponent is engaged in "vote rigging plots", said Benedict Manzin, a sub-Saharan Africa analyst at UK-based intelligence firm Siblyline.

"We are increasingly seeing false information which seeks to delegitimise the results of the election with widespread claims that the opposing side would only win through fraud and that they are attempting to steal the election," Manzin told AFP. In one case, a strategist for Ruto's campaign accused Odinga's team of trying to rig Tuesday's poll because the 77-year-old urged the election commission to use a manual voter register instead of a digital one.

Meanwhile a pro-Odinga blogger tweeted that Ruto was attempting to steal the election, sharing a link to an unrelated video-since taken down-of a politician discussing an old scandal.

Mary Blankenship, a disinformation researcher at the University of Nevada, said the circulation of baseless fraud claims could cause real harm, especially in a country where past polls have been followed by an eruption of violence.

"It creates an avenue for either of the candidates to discredit the outcome of the polls, which could lead to unrest," Blankenship told AFP. She likened the situation to the 2020 US election when former president Donald Trump's fraud claims culminated in an attack on the US Capitol by his supporters.

More than 1,100 people died in politically motivated inter-ethnic clashes in Kenya following the bitterly disputed 2007 elections. A decade later, dozens died during a police crackdown on protests after the 2017 presidential poll which was later annulled by the Supreme Court due to "irregularities and illegalities".

Fabricated opinion polls

Fact-checking organisations-including AFP Fact Check-have debunked hundreds of false and misleading claims about the Kenyan elections. Both sides have sought to cast aspersions on their opponent's educational qualifications, claiming that Odinga lied about

studying engineering in Germany and that Ruto falsified his university grades.

These claims were debunked by fact-checkers but trended on Twitter for days. Mainstream media organisations have also been dragged into the fray, with impostor websites and social media pages mimicking genuine outlets used to spread falsehoods about candidates.

"We are constantly having to issue alerts to say this did not originate from our company," said Citizen TV editor Waihiga Mwaura. Fraudulent opinion polls have emerged as a major trend, with campaigners falsely attributing them to legitimate sources such as survey company GeoPoll and The Daily Nation newspaper.

There are "efforts to make different leaders look even more popular than they are, to create the impression they are winning the elections," said Nic Cheeseman, a political scientist with the University of Birmingham.

"The main misinformation and disinformation we have seen in 2022 is quite similar to the 2017 elections," Cheeseman told AFP, referring to "negative ethnic stereotyping" among other tactics. An undercover expose by UK media revealed that British consulting firm Cambridge Analytica used the personal data of millions of Facebook users to target political ads-including some that preyed on ethnic fears-during President Uhuru Kenyatta's successful campaigns in 2013 and 2017.

Coded language

Kenyan civil society groups and a state watchdog have warned that the barrage of disinformation poses a risk to democracy and called on social media platforms to act. The authorities have also set up a special division to handle "election and hate speech-related offences".

"Part of what this misinformation and disinformation does is that it plays into the stereotypes, preconceived notions and the emotional aspect of voters," said Mark Kaigwa, team leader at StopReflectVerify.com, a Kenyan organisation analysing disinformation.

"It is a way to enrage people and rally them emotionally." While platforms like Facebook and TikTok say they are committed to rooting out disinformation and hate speech, observers are sceptical, not least because election influencers rely on code words to amplify their messages.

"There is a lot of coded language... being used to mask or ensure that these social media platforms don't identify such type of hate speech," said Allan Cheboi, a senior investigator at Code for Africa, a data journalism and civic technology initiative.

For instance, some campaigners use the Swahili word "madoadao" ("blemish") to attack members of various communities in Kenya, Cheboi told AFP. "Incitement starts online then results (in) violence in offline spaces," he said. — AFP

Cuba seeks help to contain depot fire

HAVANA: Cuba asked for help Saturday to contain a massive fire at a fuel depot that has left at least one person dead, 121 people injured and 17 firefighters missing. Some 1,900 people have been evacuated from the affected area, according to officials from the western Matanzas province, where lightning struck a fuel tank late Friday, triggering an explosion.

Provincial health official Luis Armando Wong told a press conference Saturday evening a first body had been recovered at the site. Five people were critically injured, according to an update by the Cuban presidency on Twitter, with three others in a very serious condition in hospital.

The wounded included Energy Minister Livan Arronte. The president's office said 17 firefighters were missing, those "who were closest" to the fire in an industrial zone of Matanzas, a city some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Havana.

"Cuba requested help and advice from friendly countries with experience in fuel" to help put out the fire, the presidency added in a statement. Later in the day, President Miguel Diaz-Canel expressed thanks to the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile, "which have promptly offered material aid."

"We also appreciate the offer of technical advice from the US," he added. The US embassy in Havana said on Twitter: "We want to make clear that US law authorizes US entities and organizations to provide disaster relief and response in Cuba." The United States has had sanctions against the one-party Communist state for six decades.

'The sky was yellow'

The fire broke out after a bolt of lightning struck a tank Friday at the depot on the outskirts of Matanzas, a city of 140,000 people. By the early hours of Saturday, the fire had spread to a second tank, causing

another blast and sending a huge plume of black smoke into the sky.

Helicopters were hard at work fighting the blaze on Saturday, with ambulances, water tanks and cranes at the scene. Exhausted firefighters were gathered at the plant, waiting to enter to look for their comrades who seemingly could not escape the second explosion.

"We felt the blast, like a shock wave that pushed you back," Laura Martinez, a resident of La Ganadera, near the disaster zone, told AFP. Upon hearing the first explosion, 32-year-old Yoney Hernandez and her children fled their home just two kilometers from the depot. They returned a few hours later.

Then, they heard more blasts in the early morning hours, "like pieces of the tank were falling," she said. Ginelva Hernandez, 33, said she, her husband and three children were asleep when the explosions rang out.

"We threw ourselves out of bed: when we went out to the street, the sky was yellow," she told AFP. "The fear of people on the street is uncontrollable," she added.

'Could take time'

Diaz-Canel said extinguishing the blaze "could take time," while Asbel Leal, director of the Cupet state oil company, said the country had never experienced a fire "of the magnitude we have today." According to Cupet, the first tank contained about 26,000 cubic meters of crude, about half its capacity, when it was struck by lightning. The second contained 52,000 cubic meters of fuel oil. Official newspaper Granma reported the fire was likely due to "a fault in the lightning-rod system, which could not withstand the energy from the electrical discharge."

The depot supplies the Antonio Guiteras thermo-electric plant, the largest in Cuba, but service to the plant has not been interrupted, the official said. The disaster comes at a time when the island-with an outdated energy network and persistent fuel shortages-has faced mounting difficulties in meeting increased energy demands amid severe summer heat.

Since May, authorities have imposed energy blackouts of up to 12 hours a day in some regions-sparking at least 20 protests around the Portugal-sized nation of 11 million people. — AFP



MATANZAS: View of the massive fire at a fuel depot, sparked overnight by a lightning strike, in Matanzas, in western Cuba. Cuba asked for help Saturday to contain the massive fire that left 77 people injured and 17 firefighters missing. — AFP

Mortar fire hits Somalia capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia: Mortar shells struck residential neighbourhoods near the presidential palace in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Sunday shortly after parliament convened to approve the country's recently appointed cabinet, underlining the security challenges confronting the new government.

In addition to a looming famine, the Horn of Africa nation also faces a grinding Islamist insurgency, with Al-Shabaab militants ratcheting up their attacks in recent months. On Sunday, as parliament met to approve Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's 75-member cabinet, which includes a former Al-Shabaab deputy leader, several rounds of mortar shells landed near the presidential palace, according

to a security official and a witness. "We have no recorded casualties so far as investigations are ongoing," district security official Mohamed Abdifatah said. One of the rounds damaged a medical facility in the area, according to an onlooker.

"One of the mortar rounds struck in the midst of the Xararyale intersection and another hit a hospital close by," Abdikadir Yare, a witness, said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came weeks after recently elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud hinted at his government's willingness to negotiate with Al-Shabaab, saying it would only happen when the time is right.

A total of 229 legislators voted in favour of the new cabinet, with seven votes against and one abstention. Former Al-Shabaab deputy leader and spokesman Muktar Robow, who once had a \$5-million US bounty on his head, will be the country's new religion minister. — AFP

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

Business

Alghanim Industries considers listing a minority stake on Boursa Kuwait

Listing move significant and forms part of group's expansion strategy

KUWAIT: Executive Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Alghanim said on Sunday that the Group is considering the idea of listing a minority stake on the Boursa Kuwait's Premier Market.

The listing, still under study, may be through an initial public offering (IPO) and its implementation depends on several factors. Although the percentage of the stake on offer has not been announced, it is expected that the stake could be around 35 to 45 percent.

"I would like to announce my intention of exploring the possibility of publicly listing a minority interest of the Kutayba Alghanim Group (Alghanim Industries) on the Premier Market of Boursa Kuwait. While there are many factors beyond our control that may ultimately impact our final decision in this regard, I would like to share with you my thinking regarding a public listing," Alghanim said in an internal memo.

"Our companies under Alghanim Industries have thrived for over 100 years as a family-owned business. To sustain our path of growth in the future, we anticipate expansions in businesses and geographies. I strongly believe that the scrutiny and regu-

lations inherent in a journey to public listing will make us even stronger and ensure the continuity of our organization," he pointed out.

Indeed, leading experts around the world recommend public listing as a best practice to institutionalize family businesses, such as ours, to ensure their long-term health and sustainability, he said.

Moreover, the transparency associated with listing would introduce independent thinking from other stakeholders that would further improve governance, supported by aspiring shareholders - local Kuwaitis as well as regional and global investors - who would have an opportunity to participate in our future growth and value creation, Alghanim said.

"Today, we are at an inflection point in the development of equity capital markets in our region, which have now become the center of attention for investors from all over the globe. This was demonstrated in a number of highly successful IPOs in our region. As a result, the market environment is very supportive for companies such as ours to enter the public market. It is for these reasons that we are pursuing this endeavor, which will strengthen our

business and ensure continued growth and prosperity. I would like to thank each one of you for your outstanding commitment to Alghanim Industries, and I count on your continued dedication to make this exciting journey a success for all of us," the memo added.

Alghanim Industries is one of the largest, privately-owned companies in the MENA region. Founded at the turn of the century, in Kuwait, the company today employs more than 15,000 people in 30 businesses across 40 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Alghanim Industries is a market leader in almost every major sector of its operations, which include: engineering, retail, automotive sales and service, insulation and pre-engineered steel building structures, logistics and warehousing, fast moving consumer goods, food & beverage, oil & gas, office automation, advertising, insurance, consumer credit and travel. The company is actively growing its brand portfolio, with a focus on top-tier global partners. Among them: Avis, British Airways, British Petroleum, Cathay Pacific, Daewoo, Honda, Saint-Gobain and Toshiba. Additionally, Alghanim



Kutayba Alghanim

Industries has created a number of successful regional businesses, including X-cite (consumer electronics), and Safat Home (lifestyle and home furniture).

Musk accuses Twitter of fraud

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk has accused Twitter of fraud, alleging the social media platform misled him about key aspects of its business before he agreed to a \$44 billion buyout, as their court fight heats up.

The Tesla boss lodged the claim as he fights back against Twitter's lawsuit seeking to force him to close the deal, which he has tried to cancel. Musk argued in the filing to a Delaware court that the number of users actually shown advertising on the platform is about 65 million lower than the firm's 238 million figure. "Twitter's disclosures have slowly unraveled, with Twitter frantically closing the gates on information in a desperate bid to prevent the Musk Parties from uncovering its fraud," the claim alleged.

Musk is asking the court to free him from the agreement and make Twitter pay him an amount in damages to be determined at trial, which set to open on October 17. Billions of dollars are at stake, but so is the future of Twitter, which Musk has said should allow any legal speech-an absolutist position that has sparked fears the network could be used to incite violence. In its own filing, Twitter rejected the mercurial billionaire's argument, calling it "as implausible and contrary to fact as it sounds."

"According to Musk, he-the billionaire founder

of multiple companies, advised by Wall Street bankers and lawyers-was hoodwinked by Twitter into signing a \$44 billion merger agreement," Twitter said.

Musk last week filed his countersuit, which was finally made public on Thursday. The entrepreneur accused Twitter of not just deceiving him, but also of lying to US market regulators. Musk relied on Twitter's filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission because he thought doing his own diligence-digging into the company's value-"costly and inefficient", his court claim said.

Analyst Dan Ives said the social media platform's share price gave a clear idea of how investors think the fight will end. "The countersuit Musk filed against Twitter raised some interesting points, however legally speaking the Street views this more of a sign of weakness than strength for Musk," he told AFP. Twitter shares closed up 3.5 percent at \$42.52 on Friday, while Tesla shares ended down more than 6.5 percent.

'Twitter has complied in every respect'

The legal fight is gathering speed as preparations have begun for the five-day trial in Delaware's Chancery Court, which specializes in complex, high-stakes business world battles. This battle flows from Musk wooing Twitter's board with a \$54.20 per-share offer in April, but then in July announcing he was terminating their agreement because the firm had misled him regarding its tally of fake and spam accounts.

Twitter has stuck by its estimates that bots make

fundraising efforts to ensure success." Oil prices have remained volatile this year after hitting close to \$140 a barrel in April following Moscow's military offensive in Ukraine and subsequent sanctions by the US and Europe on crude imports from Russia.

Brent, the global benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, closed 0.85 per cent higher on Friday at \$94.92 a barrel, recovering some of the losses from earlier lows during the week, but still down 11 per cent compared with the previous week. West Texas Intermediate, the gauge that tracks US crude, edged up 0.53 per cent at \$89.01 a barrel, but down 8 per cent from last Friday's close.

Environmental, social and governance investments by sovereign investors globally into funds and companies surged by more than three times last year, as government investment arms continued to add sustainability-linked assets to their portfolios. Investments by SWFs in the ESG space reached \$22.7 billion at the end of last year from \$7.2bn in 2020, according to Finbold.com and data from industry tracker Global SWE. The number of sustainability-linked investment deals at the end of 2021 also rose to 37 from 19 a year earlier.

About 55 per cent of SWFs in the Middle East have repositioned their portfolios in anticipation of further interest rate rises, international asset manager Invesco said in a report last month.

Surging inflation has prompted sovereign funds to re-examine their asset allocations, with private markets the main beneficiary, Invesco said in its 10th

annual Global Sovereign Asset Management Study. Fifty per cent of SWFs in the Middle East plan to increase allocations to private equity, 20 per cent to property and 20 per cent to infrastructure over the next 12 months, it said.

Meanwhile, 63 per cent of Middle East family offices said China presented one of the best investment opportunities in the next 12 months, according to the Preqin report. Family offices also had a lower preference for the Middle East as a market for deployment, which may signal a stronger appetite to see capital invested outside of the region, it said. — Agencies

lead us," the 48-year-old added. Since the outbreak of war in 2011, Syria's oil and gas sector has suffered losses amounting to tens of billions of dollars.

The economy has been hit hard by both the long-running war and sanctions imposed against Damascus. A UN commission in March called for a review of sanctions against President Bashar Al-Assad's regime because of concerns that the measures were hitting ordinary people too hard.

The conflict in Syria started in 2011 with the brutal repression of peaceful protests and escalated to pull in foreign powers and global jihadists. It has killed around 500,000 people and displaced around half of the country's pre-war population. —AFP



WASHINGTON: This illustration photo shows a cell-phone displaying a photo of Elon Musk placed on a computer monitor filled with Twitter logos in Washington, DC. — AFP

up fewer than five percent of users.

The social media platform told the court that Musk's claim that the false account figure tops 10 percent is "untenable." Twitter also disputed Musk's assertion he has the right to walk away if its bot count is found to be wrong, since he didn't seek information on that topic when he made the buyout offer. The company accuses Musk of contriving a story to escape a merger agreement that he no longer found attractive. —AFP



KUWAIT: The crude price rally is driving new opportunities for oil producers to help them diversify their energy sources. — File photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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Flight tracking exposure irks billionaires

NEW YORK: How to upset Russian freight companies, Elon Musk, Chinese authorities and Kylie Jenner in one go? Track their jets. Flight following websites and Twitter accounts offer real-time views of air traffic-and sometimes major news like Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan trip-but that exposure draws push-back ranging from complaints to gear seizures.

Whether Russian air freight firms, Saudi Arabian plane owners or others, Dan Streufert said his group gets dozens of "requests" each year to stop posting aircrafts' whereabouts. "We have not removed anything so far. This is all public information. And I don't want to be the arbiter of who's right and who's wrong," added Streufert, founder of the US-based flight tracking site ADS-B Exchange.

Limits do apply in some cases, but groups that piece together the flight paths note that the core information source is legally available and open to anyone with the right gear.

US rules require planes in designated areas be equipped with ADS-B technology that broadcasts aircraft positions using signals that relatively simple equipment can pick up. A service like Sweden-based Flightradar24 has 34,000, mostly volunteer-operated receivers around the world to pick up the signals, a key source of information that's routed back to a central network and combined with data on flight schedules and aircraft information.

Figuring out or confirming to whom a plane actually belongs can require some sleuthing, said jet tracker Jack Sweeney, who filed a public records request with the US government that yielded a form bearing the signature of a particular plane's owner: Tesla boss Elon Musk. Sweeney has gotten quite a bit of attention with his Twitter account that tracks the movements of the billionaire's plane and even rejected Musk's offer of \$5,000 to shut down @ElonJet, which has over 480,000 followers.

"There's so much traction, I'm doing something right. The celebrity thing-people like seeing what celebrities are doing, that and the whole emissions thing," he told AFP, referring to concerns over the planes' greenhouse gas impact. "Putting it on Twitter makes it easier for people to access and understand," Sweeney added.

Another of Sweeney's Twitter accounts, powered by data from ADS-B Exchange, showed in July that US model and celebrity Kylie Jenner's plane took a flight in California that lasted just 17 minutes. The internet was not pleased and she faced a torrent of criticism on social media over concerns about the message it sent regarding climate change. —AFP



LOS ANGELES: In this illustration photo, the Flightradar24 app is seen on a smartphone tracking the live position of planes in the area of Los Angeles, California, on August 5, 2022, in front of an image of the Flightradar24 receiver box. —AFP

High oil prices offer Mideast SWFs more investment options

ABU DHABI: Higher oil prices are providing fresh capital to the Middle East's sovereign wealth funds to increase allocations to alternatives, a new study showed. Given that much of the regional SWFs' funding relies on state-owned oil and gas industry revenue, the crude price rally is driving new opportunities for managers to help them diversify from a reliance on commodities, research company Preqin said in the report.

The eight-largest Middle Eastern SWFs collectively have more than \$3 trillion in combined total assets, according to Preqin data, which is aimed at helping international managers source new capital from investors in the region. "With oil prices at highs not seen since before 2014, the region's economic outlook is improving, but the desire to move away from reliance on oil revenues provide opportunity for private capital models to see capital invested outside the region," said a specialist familiar with the subject.

"The Middle East provides a promising opportunity for international managers to find new sources of capital. The investors' base is diverse and deep, so intelligence on the potential market is crucial to focus

Syria more than doubles petrol prices

DAMASCUS: Syria's internal commerce ministry has announced a petrol price hike of around 130 percent in the war-torn country facing fuel shortages and extended power cuts.

The cost of a liter of subsidized fuel will rise to 2,500 Syrian pounds, from 1,100 previously, a rise of

Business

When the sun switches off the solar panels

In sunny weather, grid operator cuts off supply due to overload

MUNICH: The more the sun shines in the southern German town of Aurach, the more likely it is that Jens Husemann's solar panels will be disconnected from the grid—an exasperating paradox at a time when Germany is navigating an energy supply crisis.

"It's being switched off every day," Husemann told AFP during a recent sunny spell, saying there had been more than 120 days of forced shutdowns so far this year. Husemann, who runs an energy conversion business near Munich, also owns a sprawling solar power system on the flat roof of a transport company in Aurach, Bavaria.

The energy generated flows into power lines run by grid operator N-Ergie, which then distributes it on the network. But in sunny weather, the power lines are becoming overloaded—leading the grid operator to cut off supply from the solar panels. "It's a betrayal of the population," said Husemann, pointing to soaring electricity prices and a continued push to install more solar panels across Germany. Europe's biggest economy is eyeing an ambitious switch to renewables making up 80 percent of its electricity from 2030 in a bid to go carbon neutral. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put a spanner in the works. Moscow has cut gas supplies to Germany by 80 percent, in what is believed to be a bid to weaken the European powerhouse's resolve in backing Ukraine.

As a result, Berlin has been scrambling for alternative sources across the world to replace the shortfall. This makes it all the more frustrating for Husemann, whose solar panels normally generate enough electricity for 50 households. With the repeated shutdowns, he suspects they will only supply half of their capacity by the end of the year.

Grid bottlenecks

Grid operator N-Ergie, which is responsible for



NUREMBERG, Germany: This file photo taken on August 2, 2022 shows an employee of energy supplier N-ERGIE working at the company's network control center in Nuremberg, southern Germany. — AFP

harvesting electricity from Husemann's panels, admits the situation is less than ideal. There were 257 days last year when it had to cut off supply from solar panels on parts of the grid. "We are currently witnessing and this is a good thing—an unprecedented boom in photovoltaic parks," Rainer Kleedoerfer, head of N-Ergie's development department, told AFP.

But while it takes just a couple of years to commission a solar power plant, updating the necessary infrastructure takes between five and 10 years, he said. "The number of interventions and the amount of curtailed energy have increased continuously in recent years" as a result, according to N-Ergie spokesman Michael Enderlein. "The likelihood is that grid bottlenecks will actually increase in the coming years," while resolving them will take several more years, Enderlein

said. According to Carsten Koenig, managing director of the German Solar Industry Association, the problem is not unique to solar power and also affects wind energy. Solar bottlenecks tend to be regional and temporary, he said. "Occasionally, however, we hear that especially in rural areas in Bavaria, the shutdowns are more frequent."

2.4 million households

Koenig agrees the problem is likely to get worse before it gets better. "This will be especially true if political measures aimed at sufficiently expanding the power grid in Germany... drag on for too long," he said.

Some 6.1 terawatt hours of electricity from renewables had to be curtailed in 2020, according to the most recent figures available. With an average con-

sumption of around 2,500 kilowatt hours per year in a two-person household, this would have been enough to power around 2.4 million households.

A spokesman for Germany's Federal Network Agency said it did not share the belief that "it will not be possible to expand the network in line with demand in the coming years".

Only some aspects of the expansion are seeing delays, the spokesman said—mainly due to slow approval procedures and a lack of specialist companies to do the work. According to Husemann there have also been delays to the payments he is supposed to receive in return for the solar power he supplies—or cannot supply. He said he is already owed around €35,000 (\$35,600) for electricity produced so far this year that has never found its way into a socket. — AFP



BEIJING: China's exports in July rose 18 percent on-year, up from 17.9 percent the month before, according to customs data.

China exports rise in July, defying expectations

BEIJING: China's exports rose unexpectedly in July despite weakening global demand but imports remained low as lingering COVID controls kept consumers jittery, official data showed Sunday. In July, exports rose 18 percent on-year, up from 17.9 percent the month before, according to customs data.

This was well above the 14.6 percent growth expected by economists polled by Bloomberg News. Imports grew 2.3 percent, compared to a dismal

one percent in June. But it was below the four percent growth predicted by analysts, who had expected easing COVID-19 restrictions to boost domestic consumption. China is the only major economy still holding fast to a zero-COVID strategy with snap lockdowns and long quarantines, battering business activity and making consumers jittery.

The country's overall trade surplus rose to \$101.26 billion, from \$97.9 billion in June. China logged its slowest economic growth since the initial coronavirus outbreak last month, expanding just 0.4 percent in the second quarter with lockdowns and property market weakness pushing the government's target further out of reach.

Analysts have said that it is unlikely the official target of around 5.5 percent economic growth this year can be attained, given that it will require a huge acceleration in the second half. — AFP



شركة الصفاء للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 04 AUG 2022

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	36,079	8,626.96	0.3%	0.3%	12.9%	288,720,088	142,941,408	21,591	28.1	2.7	78.6%
Main Market	9,840	5,871.74	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.2%	701,523,148	78,674,572	21,354	14.0	1.3	21.4%
All Share	45,919	7,732.75	0.2%	0.2%	9.8%	990,243,236	221,615,980	42,945	25.1	2.4	100%

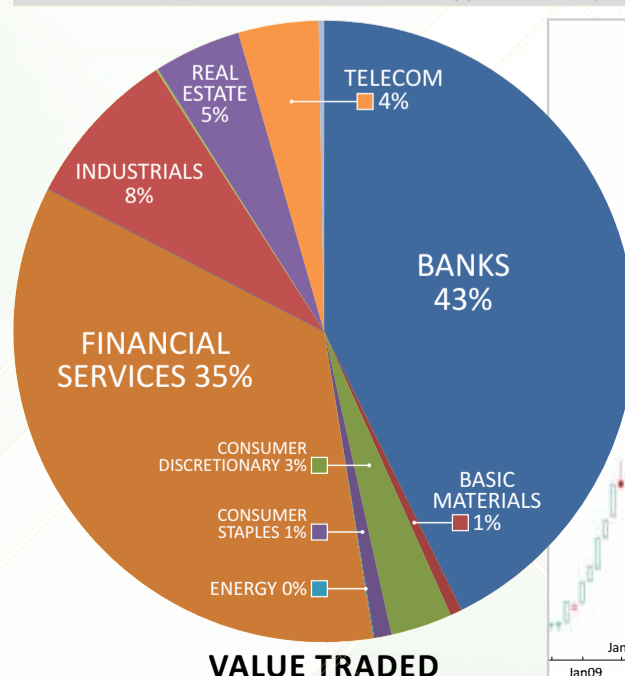
Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	27,767	1,858.78	0.1%	0.1%	14.5%	176,635,390	94,643,670	10,821	26.9	2.6	60.07%
BASIC MATERIALS	904	1,014.19	0.8%	0.8%	-1.0%	3,173,729	1,349,128	654	13.0	1.3	1.96%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	812	1,565.68	2.4%	2.4%	17.1%	26,177,934	7,091,799	2,809	20.4	9.9	1.76%
CONSUMER STAPLES	166	544.89	0.4%	0.4%	-25.5%	4,624,934	1,995,540	318	16.9	1.1	0.36%
ENERGY	240	1,152.58	0.5%	0.5%	-19.3%	1,716,451	125,735	157	14.9	1.2	0.52%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,219	1,435.26	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.8%	642,172,474	77,820,719	16,636	17.8	2.0	9.13%
HEALTH CARE	229	461.25	-0.2%	-0.2%	-42.1%	430	219	2	13.2	3.2	0.50%
INDUSTRIALS	4,483	1,256.71	0.5%	0.5%	10.1%	40,975,893	18,421,424	5,114	46.6	1.5	9.70%
INSURANCE	637	1,526.82	1.1%	1.1%	-0.4%	672,899	234,194	123	7.2	1.0	1.38%
REAL ESTATE	2,686	1,248.49	-0.6%	-0.6%	-5.9%	75,788,627	10,064,708	4,001	13.1	1.2	5.81%
TECHNOLOGY	9	656.93	-7.9%	-7.9%	-3.9%	28,666	2,609	12	-	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,853	1,256.29	1.0%	1.0%	15.3%	15,131,105	9,236,025	2,073	14.7	2.2	8.34%
UTILITIES	221	528.95	0.5%	0.5%	-11.8%	3,144,704	630,211	225	15.5	2.5	0.48%

Top Gainers					
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KHOT	190	19.50	993,708	167,952	48
AJWAN	17.5	15.13	1,362,522	22,438	51
IFHR	46.2	12.68	3,631,347	158,629	332
FTI	50	12.36	1,386	66	3
SANAM	68	7.60	96,445	6,305	52

Top Losers					
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
EKTITAB	8.9	-10.10	12,879,653	117,274	220
MARAKEZ	53.7	-10.05	210,980	11,391	40
PAPCO	53.3	-9.66	1,056	56	2
FCEM	31.8	-9.14	5,239,205	166,451	55
INOVEST	123	-8.89	42,924,713	5,514,924	1,552

Top Volume					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFH	94.4	1.51	358,119,754	34,456,374	5,841
AUB	306	0.33	59,783,475	18,277,069	1,334
NCCI	125	-7.41	58,484,350	7,496,843	1,803
INOVEST	123	-8.89	42,924,713	5,514,924	1,552
NIND	266	-3.27	36,021,077	9,767,498	1,125

Top Value					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFH	94.4	1.51	358,119,754	34,456,374	5,841
NBK	1,068	0.19	27,860,455	29,882,305	2,660
KFH	883	0.00	31,400,917	27,831,906	3,286
AUB	306	0.33	59,783,475	18,277,069	1,334
NIND	266	-3.27	36,021,077	9,767,498	1,125



Market Summary:

- Premier market M. Cap reached 36 billion KD (%78.6), while the Main marker is 9.8 billion KD (%21.4).
- Premier and Main indices have been moving horizontally for the past week which shows sustainability.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7732, with support levels at 7726, 7677, 7635, and 7574, while resistance at 7810. Premier index closed at 8626, support levels at 8599, 8527, 8426, and 8335, while resistance at 8687. The Main index closed at 5871, with support levels at 5865, 5845, 5813, and 5780, while resistance at 5902.

Business

Tons of fruit stranded in EU, South Africa battle of oranges

Citrus growers lock horns with EU over new import rules

MBOMBELA, South Africa: Millions of boxes of oranges are spoiling in containers stranded at European ports as South Africa and the European Union lock horns in a dispute over import rules, citrus growers have said. South Africa, the world's second largest exporter of fresh citrus after Spain, filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) last month after the EU introduced new plant and health safety requirements that orange farmers say threaten their survival.

The measures came into force in July as ships were already at sea carrying hundreds of containers full of South African fruit to Europe, resulting in them being held up on arrival. South Africa's Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) says.

"It's a complete and utter disaster," CGA's CEO Justin Chadwick told AFP by phone.

"Food that has fantastic quality and is safe is (just) sitting there—and this at a time when people are worried about food security." The EU rules aim at tackling the potential spread of an insect called the false codling moth, a pest native to sub-Saharan Africa that feeds on fruits including oranges and grapefruits. The new measures require South African farmers to apply extreme cold treatment to all Europe-bound oranges and keep the fruits at temperatures of two degrees Celsius (35 degrees Fahrenheit) or lower for 25 days.

But the CGA says this measure is unnecessary as the country already has its own, more targeted way of preventing infestation. In its WTO complaint, South Africa argued that the EU requirements



MBOMBELA, South Africa: A general view of oranges on trees at a citrus farm on the N4 outside Mbombela on August 6, 2022. —AFP Photos

were "not based on science", more restrictive than necessary and "discriminatory".

South African citrus growers say the requirement puts undue extra pressure on an industry already in dire straits. "This is going to add a lot of costs... and at the moment, that is what no grower in the world can afford," said Hannes de Waal, who heads of the almost 100-year-old farm Sundays River Citrus.

De Waal, whose company has orange, clementine and lemon trees straddling 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) near the southeastern coast city of Gqeberha, said revenues were already squeezed by high shipping and fertilizer costs. Freight

costs have rocketed since COVID-19 struck, and so has the price of fertilisers due to the war in Ukraine-Russia being one of the world's largest producers.

'Under pressure'

Europe is the largest market for South Africa's almost \$2 billion citrus industry, accounting for 37 percent of all exports, according to the CGA. The new rules hit at the height of South Africa's orange season, during the southern hemisphere's winter, when export operations were in full swing. This gave fruit growers too little time to adapt, said Chadwick.

Some 3.2 million cartons of citrus worth about 605 million rand (\$36 mil-



MBOMBELA, South Africa: A general view of oranges for sale at citrus stall on the N4 outside Mbombela on August 6, 2022.

lion) left port with paperwork that would be wrong on arrival. The South African government was scrambling to issue new documents for shipments that met the new criteria, but hundreds of containers could be slated for destruction, said Chadwick. South Africa already has an effective anti-moth system, the CGA says.

"Our system does involve cold treatment, but targeted at the risk, whereas the EU measure is a blanket measure that covers all oranges," Chadwick said. "The higher the risk, the more extreme the cold treatment," he said, of the South African measures.

The dispute is now with the WTO.

The parties have 60 days to negotiate a solution. Failing that, the complainant can request the matter be decided by a panel of experts.

The EU said it was confident of the "WTO-compatibility" of its measures. "The objective of the EU's plant and health safety criteria is to protect the union territory from the potential significant impact on the agriculture and the environment, should this pest establish itself in the union," a spokesperson for the EU Commission said in a statement. Chadwick hopes that "sense" will prevail and a quick fix can be found. "Our industry is under pressure. It's basically a year of survival," he said. —AFP

NBK Money Markets Report

The hawks remain in the sky

KUWAIT: Several Federal Reserve officials on Tuesday signaled the US central bank was committed to its aggressive fight against soaring prices, prompting a jump in short-dated Treasury yields as investors priced in more interest rate rises. Officials from across policy spectrum signaled on Tuesday that they and their colleagues remain resolute and "completely united" on getting US interest rates up to a level that will more significantly curb economic activity and put a dent in the highest inflation since the 1980s.

San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly said she was "puzzled" by bond market prices that reflect investor expectations for the central bank to shift to rate cuts in the first half of next year. On the contrary, she said her expectation is the Fed will keep raising rates for now and then hold them there "for a while," adding that the central bank was "nowhere near" done with its fight to cool inflation, which continues to run at 40-year highs. In a separate interview, Chicago Fed president Charles Evans said he thought that a 0.5 percentage point increase at the next meeting in September would be appropriate. However, he left the door open to a larger 0.75 percentage point rise, which he said "could also be OK".

Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester struck a similarly hawkish tone, saying she expects below-trend economic growth for this year, which she added is necessary to rein in inflation. She did not believe the US is in a recession given the continued strength of the labor market. After the July meeting of the Federal Open Markets Committee, investors began pricing in a series of smaller rate increases later this year amid signs the Fed's aggressive monetary tightening had started to cool US economic growth. However, the comments from Daly, Evans and Mester moved futures markets, with expectations for where the Fed's benchmark policy rate will stand in December rising from 3.27 percent on Monday to 3.56 percent by the end of the week.

The statements also saw their effect on the bonds markets. The two-year yield, which moves with interest rate expectations, jumped by 0.19 percentage points to 3.06 percent, its biggest daily move since mid-June. The three-year yield rose by 0.22 percentage points, also its largest move since mid-June, to breach 3 percent. Daly reiterated her determination on Wednesday saying "I start from the idea that 50 (basis points) would be a reasonable thing to do in September because I believe I'm seeing evidence in my contact conversations, and in the observations of the world I see, that there are some bright spots for me." However, she continued to say, "If we just see inflation roaring ahead undaunted, the labor market showing no signs of slowing, then we'll be in a different position where a 75 basis point increase might be more appropriate. But I go in with the 50 in mind as I look at the data coming in." Her comments lead to investors paring back the probability that the central bank would raise the policy rate by 75 basis points next month.

Promising

US manufacturing activity slowed less than expected in July amid signs that supply constraints were easing. The Institute for Supply Management's gauge of factory activity eased to 52.8 from 53 a month earlier, marking the lowest level since June 2020 while remaining in expansionary territory.

On the other hand, the US services sector unexpectedly picked up in July amid solid growth in new orders. The Institute for Supply Management's servic-

es sector Purchasing Managers' Index improved from 55.3 for June to 56.7 in July, while economists had expected a decline to 53.9. The figure supports views that the economy may not be in a recession despite output slumping in the first half of the year.

Recession? Or technical jargon?

Friday started slow in the morning as investors braced for employment figures due to be released later in the day, and the release proved to be worth the wait. The figures surprised the markets showing the US economy unexpectedly added 528,000 jobs last month, and indicated payroll growth soared even in the face of tighter monetary policy and waning fiscal support, easing fears of a recession. The data showed unemployment rate edging down to a pre-pandemic low of 3.5 percent from 3.6 percent in the prior month, while also showing an acceleration in the pace of job creation compared to June, when the economy added 398,000 jobs. Economists had expected job growth to slow to 250,000 last month.

The employment report painted a picture of a fairly healthy economy muddling despite back-to-back quarters of contraction in gross domestic product. While demand for labor has eased in the interest rate sensitive sectors like housing and retail, airlines and restaurants cannot find enough workers. With 10.7 million job openings at the end of June and 1.8 openings for every unemployed person, the labor market remains tight and economists do not expect a sharp deceleration in payrolls growth this year. Average hourly earnings increased 0.5 percent last month after rising 0.4 percent in June. That left the year-on-year increase in wages at 5.2 percent.

Gloomy remarks

The Bank of England raised interest rates by the most in 27 years on Thursday in an attempt to smother surging inflation on track to top 13 percent, even as it warned a long recession is coming. The Bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee voted 8-1 to raise interest rates by 0.5 percentage points to 1.75 percent on Thursday. The move now puts Britain in the face of a protracted recession and the worst squeeze in living standards in more than 60 years. The BoE's move follows the similarly aggressive steps by the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve in the face of soaring inflation, but its grim forecasts suggested Britain was facing a much bleaker economic outlook than either the US or eurozone. Households are more exposed to the energy price shocks than in the US, and less protected by government measures than in the eurozone, while the effects of leaving the EU have also damaged the UK economy. On Wednesday, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, a think tank, said more than a million households would soon have to choose between heating and buying enough food.

Asia-Pacific

Australia's central bank on Friday warned inflation was heading to three-decade highs requiring further hikes in interest rates that would slow growth sharply, making it tough to keep the economy on an "even keel". The quarterly statement of Monetary Policy was released by the Reserve Bank of Australia showing it jacked up its forecasts for inflation, downgraded the outlook for growth and foreshadowed an eventual rise in unemployment. Yet even with further increases in rates, inflation was not expected to return to the top of its 2-3 percent target range until the end of 2024, pointing to a long period of pain ahead. The central bank has already raised its cash rate four months in a row, taking it from an emergency low of 0.1 to a seven-year high of 1.85 percent and is flagging more to come.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30675.



Forbes ME lists top GCC exchange houses going digital

KUWAIT: In a major acknowledgment of the GCC region's move towards digitization of financial services, Forbes Middle East Sunday unveiled its list of "Top 5 GCC Exchange Houses Going Digital".

The list shines the spotlight on remittance companies in the GCC region that have been driving digitization of their services, in line with the efforts of their respective nations.

UAE based LuLu Exchange and Al-Ansari

Exchange, Kuwait-based Al Mulla Exchange, Qatar-based Al-Fardan Exchange, and Oman-based Purshottam Kanji Exchange are the top five companies in this list.

These companies are well-established institutions, having provided high quality services to both retail consumers and businesses over several years. They have been in news recently for their aggressive digital push and digital infrastructure investments. Between them, these companies serve millions of customers in GCC, and have invested heavily in building state-of-the-art digital infrastructure to drive their next stage of growth. The companies were evaluated by Forbes on the number of app downloads, number of users and annual volume of digitally conducted transactions.

Global economy is past peak inflation, says Elon Musk

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk, chief executive of Tesla and the world's richest person, said he sees signs the global economy is "past peak inflation". Speaking at the electric vehicle maker's annual shareholder meeting, Musk said Tesla's commodity and component costs are trending downwards over the next six months. He also reiterated that he expects a mild recession that could last 18 months.

"The trend is down, which suggests we are past peak inflation," Musk said at Tesla's Austin, Texas headquarters. "I think inflation is going to drop rapidly" at some point in the future, he added.

Central banks have embarked on a path of policy-tightening as inflation pressures consumers and corporate bottom lines. In the US, consumer prices increased by 9.1 per cent in June from a year earlier, and US Federal Reserve officials say the price gains have yet to slow. The next print on inflation comes August 10.

"We sort of have some insight into where prices are headed over time," Musk said, citing Tesla's need to buy raw materials often months in advance of when they're used. "The interesting thing that we are seeing now is that most of our commodities, most of the things that go into a Tesla - not all, but more than half - the prices are trending down in six months."

While Tesla has a global purview on input



Elon Musk says he expects a mild recession that could last 18 months.

costs and consumer health, Musk cautioned that making macroeconomic prognostications is "a recipe for disaster" and said his comments amounted to a "guess" and "total speculation". The chief executive also warned that trends could change.

Reservation holders and future customers of Tesla's upcoming Cybertruck may still be affected by inflation, Musk suggested. The pickup - inspired by the flying cars in 1982 film Blade Runner - was unveiled in November 2019, and "a lot has changed" since then, he said.

At the time the company started taking reservations, Musk announced a \$39,900 starting price. "The specs and the pricing will be different," Musk said. "I hate to give a little bit of bad news. But there is no way to have anticipated the inflation we have seen and various issues." — Agencies



Spectators are seen after the screening of a filmed play about the 1,400-year-old story of the Hijrah, Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) migration from Makkah to Madinah, at the Ithra Museum in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran. — AFP photos

SAUDI EXHIBIT OFFERS IMMERSIVE LOOK AT PROPHET'S HIJRAH TREK

A Saudi museum is using filmed reenactments and contemporary artwork to depict a key episode from Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) life that led to the establishment of the Muslim community. The exhibition seeks to illustrate - and enliven - the 1,400-year-old story of the Hijrah, when Prophet Mohammed, threatened with assassination, undertook an eight-day, 400-kilometre (250-mile) migration from Makkah to Madinah.



Abdullah Al-Rashid, the director the Ithra Museum in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran, speaks to reporters about the exhibition.

Opened to the public this week, it will be housed for nine months at the Ithra Museum in the eastern city of Dhahran before touring domestically and then abroad. Most Muslims know the Hijrah story in broad strokes, though never has it been presented in such an immersive way, according to Saudi scholar Abdullah Hussein Alkadi.

It incorporates everything from centuries-old artefacts to modern-day drone footage, said Alkadi, who has spent decades studying the Hijrah and whose research formed the foundation of the exhibition. Ordinary Saudis "know that the Prophet migrated from Makkah to Madinah - that's it," Alkadi said, lamenting that the material was not thoroughly covered in schools.

It should be equally eye-opening for non-Muslims who might not know the story at all, conveying messages - like the need for tolerance towards migrants - that are relatable for everyone, Alkadi said. "You have to have tolerance. If you don't have tolerance with all types of people - regardless of their religion, regardless of their ethnicity, regardless of their gender or whatever - no way can you live a peaceful life," he said.

Three years in the making, the exhibition features work by academics and artists from 20 countries. Short films by

American director Ovidio Salazar depict how elders from the Quraysh tribe plotted to kill the Prophet Mohammed, prompting him to flee, and an encounter with the bounty hunter Suraqah, who was offered 100 camels to return the Prophet dead or alive.

Museum-goers will also see a life-size replica of the Prophet's cherished camel Qaswa, contemporary photographs from the Hijrah route and textiles from the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. Other elements are more interpretive, notably a piece by Saudi artist Zahra Al Ghamdi, whose works have been previously shown at the Venice Biennale and the British Museum.

For the Hijrah exhibition, Al Ghamdi spent five months dipping pieces of fabric in mud and clay and knotting them together. The knots, displayed against a white backdrop, are meant to signify the bonds between the residents of Madinah and Prophet Mohammed and his followers. "Through this work, I am making an appeal to revive and bring to life this concept of brotherhood, which gives meaning to life," she said. - AFP



Imam of Almasjed Alnabawi Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali Alhouthaifi addresses the public before the screening of a filmed play about to the 1,400-year-old story of the Hijrah, Prophet Mohammed's migration from Makkah to Madinah.



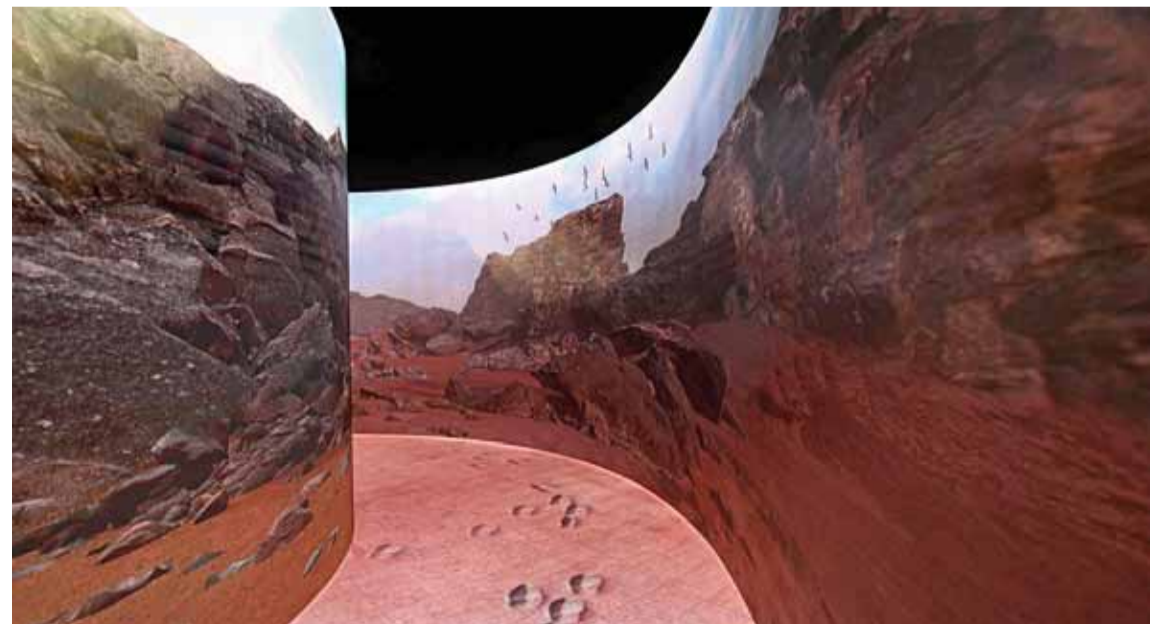
This picture shows the interior of the Ithra Museum.



An artist performs a scene about the 1,400-year-old story of the Hijrah, Prophet Mohammed's migration from Makkah to Madinah.



These pictures show installations related to the 1,400-year-old story of the Hijrah, Prophet Mohammed's migration from Makkah to Madinah.



Aussie pop pioneer and 'Georgy Girl' singer Durham dead at 79

Ethereal-voiced Australian pop-folk singer Judith Durham - who fronted hit 1960s group The Seekers - has died aged 79, the country's arts minister said Saturday. Durham, born in 1943 in Melbourne, gained international fame with upbeat hits like "Georgy Girl" and a series of covers and collaborations with

the likes of Paul Simon. "Once, the best known Australian voice was Judith Durham's", said arts minister Tony Burke.

"With The Seekers and solo Judith earned her place as an icon of our music", he added. Burke recounted one 1967 gig that was attended by a tenth of Melbourne's entire population at the time.

"What a contribution. What a loss." Aside from "Georgy Girl", Durham's soaring range and pseudo-operatic style is perhaps best known from "The Carnival is Over", which sold more than one million copies in Britain alone and topped the charts for weeks.

At home, The Seekers are still a

household name and are well known to younger Australians for the song "I am an Australian", which is still the theme song of the country's public broadcaster ABC. — AFP



Singer Judith Durham



A photo shows the Jamtal Glacier (Jamtalferner) near Galtuer, Tyrol, Austria. — AFP photos



An aerial view shows glaciologists Andrea Fischer (yellow) and Violeta Lauria from the Austrian Academy of Sciences taking ice samples on the Jamtal Glacier (Jamtalferner) near Galtuer, Tyrol, Austria.

AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS RACE TO REVEAL MELTING GLACIERS' SECRETS

Jumping from rock to rock to rock over a creek formed off Austria's Jamtal glacier, scientist Andrea Fischer worries that precious scientific data will be irreversibly lost as the snow and ice melt faster than ever. "I couldn't have imagined that it would ever melt as dramatically as this summer... Our 'archive' is melting away," says the glaciologist.

Fischer-vice director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences—has spent more than 20 years surveying Jamtal and four other Alpine glaciers across Austria's highest peaks for the oldest areas of ice. For scientists looking to reconstruct the Earth's climate in the distant past, such ice formations are a unique time capsule stretching back thousands of years.

The glaciers contain an invaluable treasure trove of data—as they grew, the ice encapsulated twigs and leaves, which can now be carbon-dated, Fischer explains. And based on the age of such



Glaciologists Andrea Fischer (right) and Violeta Lauria from the Austrian Academy of Sciences measure the height under a part of the ice shelf of the Jamtal Glacier (Jamtalferner) near Galtuer, Tyrol, Austria.



A photo shows the Jamtal or Jamtalferner Glacier near Galtuer, Tyrol, Austria.



Glaciologist Andrea Fischer from the Austrian Academy of Sciences looks at ice samples from the Jamtal Glacier (Jamtalferner) near Galtuer in Innsbruck Tyrol, Austria.

material and the depth where it was found, scientists can infer when ice grew during colder periods, or when warmer conditions caused it to melt.

But now the glaciers are melting rapidly—including the one in the remote and narrow Jamtal valley, not far from where tourists found the stunningly preserved 5,300-year-old mummy of Oetzi, the Iceman, in the 1990s. Temperatures in Europe's highest mountains have risen by nearly two degrees Celsius in the past 120 years—almost double the global average, according to the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA). The Alps' roughly 4,000 glaciers have since become one of the starkest signs of global warming.

Disappear completely?

The Jamtal glacier has been losing about one meter (three feet) from its surface annually, but this year it has already

lost more than a meter, Fischer says. "And we've got at least two months of summer left... where the glacier is entirely exposed to the sun," she warns. Snow usually protects most of the glacial ice from the sun until September, but the little snow that fell last winter had already melted by early July. "This year is outrageous compared to the average of the past 6,000 years," says Fischer. "If this continues, in five years, Jamtal glacier won't be a glacier anymore."

By the end of the summer, Fischer fears that about seven meters of depth will have melted off the surface—or about 300 years of climate "archives". "We need the data the glaciers hold to understand the climate of the past—and to create models of what awaits us in the future," she says. Fischer and her team have drilled on both the Jamtal and other nearby glaciers to extract data, taking out ice samples up to 14 meters deep.

As temperatures rise and the glaciers become more unstable, they are compelled to take additional safety precautions — 11 people died in a glacial ice avalanche in the Italian Dolomites in July, the day after temperatures there rose to new records.

'My heart is bleeding'

In Galtuer, the nearest village to Jamtal with 870 residents who are mostly dependent on tourism, the Alpine Club is already offering a "Goodbye, glacier!" tour through the once ice-filled valley to raise awareness about the effects of climate change. Where the ice has retreated, scientists found that within three years about 20 species of plants, mostly mosses, have taken over. In some areas, larches are growing, according to Fischer.

"If the glacier is gone in five years, that's a pity, because it's part of the land-

scape," says Sarah Mattle, who heads the Alpine Club. "But then there'll also be new paths, and maybe there'll be an easier hike over the mountains than over the ice. It'll all be a matter of adapting," the 34-year-old adds.

Other locals like Gottlieb Lorenz, whose great-grandfather was the first manager of the 2,165-metre-high Jamtal cabin set up as a refuge for mountaineers, are heartbroken. "My heart is bleeding when I think about how magnificent and mighty the glacier was and what a miserable tiny pile it is today," the 60-year-old says. He points at a black-and-white photo taken in 1882 showing a thick ice sheet flowing past the cabin. Today, the ice is a 90-minute hike away.—AFP



Glaciologists Andrea Fischer and Violeta Lauria from the Austrian Academy of Sciences collect samples at the Jamtal Glacier (Jamtalferner) near Galtuer, Tyrol, Austria.

'Tito tour' in Croatian capital delves into strongman's legacy

With no street or statue to remember Yugoslavia's late strongman Josip Broz Tito, a new tour in the Croatian capital Zagreb is hoping to trace the leader's complicated legacy in a city where he remains divisive. Adored by some and hated by others, Tito remains a polarising figure four decades after his death across the former Yugoslav republics, including Croatia, where he helped usher in prosperity and authoritarianism alike. The tour's curator Danijela Matijevic said the idea for the project came in 2017, after authorities in Zagreb stripped Tito's name from a

prominent square. The move was the latest in a string of measures over the years aimed at ridding the country of its Yugoslav past, removing plaques and monuments along with renaming streets and squares. But for Matijevic, history still matters. "Tito was definitely one of the 20th century's political giants," Matijevic said.

Walk with Tito

The "Walk with Tito" tour, launched last year, takes people to eight sites in downtown Zagreb linked to the Croatian-born leader and the anti-fascist movement he founded at the start of World War II, commonly known as the Partisans. It stops at the square once named after Tito, the main railway station where Croatia's pro-Nazi regime deported people to concentration camps, and a passage named after two sisters who were resistance heroes.

The tour does not indulge in sugarcoating the past as it explores Tito's successes along with his share of failures. The late leader is known for charting a

middle road for the socialist federation he founded, siding neither with the United States nor the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

"Tito had good relations with the West but did not neglect good ties with the East either, positioning Yugoslavia somewhere between and benefiting from both," said Zagreb-based historian Hroje Klasic. The move kept Yugoslavia out of the Cold War's chaos and made it the most prosperous communist country. But there was also repression and simmering nationalism that exploded after his death, leading to the bloody dissolution of Yugoslavia which sparked a series of wars and killed around 130,000 people in the 1990s. Following the conflicts and Croatia's independence, Tito and Yugoslavia have been largely disregarded, deemed an aberration in the country's past.

But for Matijevic, Tito and his legacy are also personal—two of her grandparents fought with his Partisans during World War II. During a two-year stint in Germany, Matijevic was inspired by how



Danijela Matijevic shows a ticket for her walking historic tour telling the story of late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in Zagreb, Croatia.

the country had grappled with its past, and this helped lay the groundwork for the Tito tour project. "(I was) amazed how Germans handled their turbulent 20th century history," Matijevic said.

'Our history'

The guide's attempt to delve into Croatia's past has not been entirely

smooth. Since starting the tours, Matijevic has been targeted with abuse on social media and has also been threatened with outright violence, in a case being investigated by authorities. In December, right-wing politician Igor Peternel also slammed the Zagreb tourist board for including information about the tour in its brochures, lambasting the body for "promoting Tito and Yugoslavia".

"It is absolutely unacceptable... an ideological provocation and shame," said Peternel, a member of the capital's city council. But many who have taken the tour found it worthwhile.

Economist Vedrana Basic said she was pleased "to learn something new", adding that it was rare to "hear much about Tito in Zagreb" these days. Tanja Simic, a retired journalist from the capital, agreed. "We should capitalize on our history in a touristic sense regardless what one may think about some of its parts", Simic said.—AFP



Danijela Matijevic (second left) gives explanations in front of the Mestrovic Pavilion, the former Museum of the Revolution, at the start of a walking historic tour telling the story of late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in Zagreb, Croatia.



Danijela Matijevic (center) talks as she leads a walking historic tour telling the story of late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in Zagreb, Croatia.



Danijela Matijevic gives explanations in front of busts of sisters Rajka and Zdenka Bakovic, anti-fascist heroines, near a passage named after them, during a walking historic tour telling the story of late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in Zagreb, Croatia.—AFP photos

Sports

Fraser-Pryce runs world-best 100 meter in Silesia Diamond League

Crowned 100m world champion for the fifth time

CHORZOW: Jamaican sprint star Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce ran a world-leading 10.66 seconds to win the women's 100 meters Saturday at the Silesia Diamond League meeting in Poland. Crowned 100m world champion for the fifth time last month in Eugene, Oregon, Fraser-Pryce finished ahead of American Aleia Hobbs (10.94) and Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou (11.00) in Chorzow. "I always come into races expecting to run fast! Last year I set a meeting record here," said Fraser-Pryce. "Last year I felt a lot of pressure on me and this year I decided to just have fun. It is amazing to be this consistent. I am always excited to compete and see what I can do." It was her second Diamond League win of the season over 100m following victory in Paris. The 35-year-old was 0.06sec off her personal best set last August in Lausanne. Fraser-Pryce took gold in 10.67sec at the recent world championships, coming home ahead of Shericka Jackson and Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah in a Jamaican sweep.

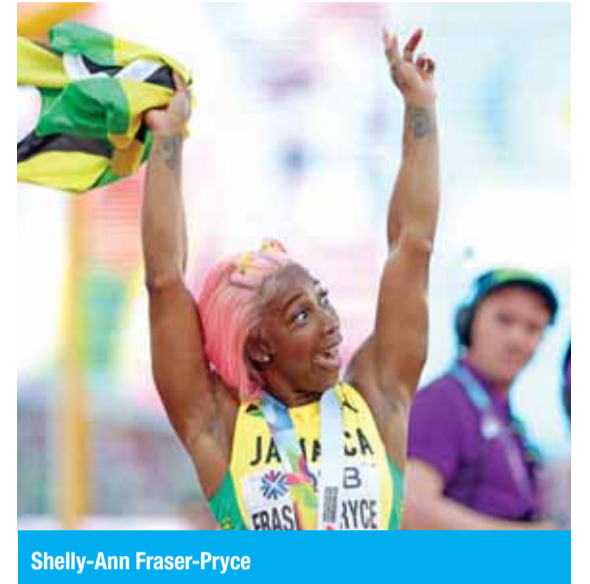
With Thompson-Herah bidding for a sprint double at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, world cham-

pion Jackson continued her strong season in Poland as she won the 200m in 21.84sec. "The race went according to plan. I just wanted to execute, focus on my lane and not look at what my rivals were doing," said Jackson. "I approach all my races like that. I am not thinking about the world record. I just try to do my best, if it comes, it comes." Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, the reigning 400m world champion, came second in 22.35 with American Jenna Prandini third in 22.39.

World bronze medalist Trayvon Bromell triumphed in the men's 100m in 9.95sec, ahead of compatriot and silver medalist Marvin Bracy and Jamaica's Ackeem Blake. American world champion Michael Norman again got the better of Grenada's Kirani James in the men's 400m, while Brazil's Alison Dos Santos set a meet record to back up his 400m hurdles gold in Eugene. Reigning Olympic and world champion Emmanuel Korir of Kenya won the 800m, with Dutchwoman Femke Bol - world silver medalist in the 400m hurdles - prevailing in the women's 400m.

Dominant Duplantis

Newly-crowned world champion Armand Duplantis cleared 6.10 meters to ease to victory in the pole vault. The Swedish star, who holds the world record with 6.21m, pulled out the winning jump on his third attempt in the ninth round of the 13-event series. The 22-year-old beat Norwegian Sondre Guttormsen and Filipino Ernest John Obiena, who both cleared 5.73m. "I like the way I was able to jump today. I do not think I could have jumped very much higher today," said Duplantis. "I am only a human, and I am doing what I was able to do today." Duplantis broke the meet record of 5.91m held by former Olympic champion Renaud Lavillenie since 2017. The 35-year-old French pole vaulter was present at the meet but failed to clear any bar. Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Duplantis won his fifth Diamond League meet of the year after victories in Doha, Eugene, Oslo and Stockholm, but he was not competing for points. Duplantis won his first outdoor world title in Eugene at the end of July, his fifth international senior title since 2018. —AFP



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce



BIRMINGHAM: Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah celebrates winning and taking the gold medal, and set a new Commonwealth record in the women's 200m final athletics event at the Alexander Stadium, on day nine of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. — AFP

Thompson-Herah seals Commonwealth double

BIRMINGHAM: Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah rocketed to a sprint double at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday as Australia pulled clear of England at the top of the medals table. The Jamaican sprint star, 30, was the headline act on the penultimate night of track and field competition in Birmingham and did not disappoint the capacity crowd, destroying the field to win the women's 200m in a Games record of 22.02sec. "I was going for a Games record in the 100 and it didn't work so I said, 'I must get it in the 200,'" said Thompson-Herah. "I'm grateful to claim that gold today, the day we celebrate Independence Day in Jamaica."

Thompson-Herah topped the podium at last year's Tokyo Olympics in both the 100m and 200m, retaining the titles she had won in Rio four years earlier. But she only took bronze in the 100m behind compatriots Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson at last month's world championships and finished seventh in the 200m final. "I knew I had more races to come. I'm not a quitter," said Thompson-Herah of her disappointing world championships results.

'Learn, keep going'

"It's a motivation for me to continue to learn and just keep going," Thompson-Herah, who won the 100m earlier in the Games, faced a tough task on paper in the 200m final despite the absence of her Jamaican rivals. But she finished nearly half a second ahead of Nigeria's Favour Ofilii, with Namibia's Olympic silver medalist Christine Mboma taking bronze. Trinidad and Tobago's Jereme Richards won the men's 200m in a Games record time of 19.80sec.

World bronze medalist Mary Moraa produced an astonishing late burst to come out on top in a high-class women's 800m field, timing 1min 57.07sec. The Kenyan faded after a quick start but found a second wind to pip England's Olympic silver medalist Keely Hodgkinson to gold. Scotland's Laura Muir won bronze - her first Commonwealth medal. "I tried to run 57 or 58 seconds for the first 400 but I think I was 56-something (56.8)," said Moraa. "When I reached the 500m, I think everybody went past me. "But with 200 to go, I closed the gap and then I knew I had to push myself right until the end." Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo outbattled Kenyan pair Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli and Jacob Krop down the home straight to win the 5,000m in a season's best time of 13min 8.08sec, completing a distance double in Birmingham after his earlier 10,000m win. "It was a wonderful performance for me (at the Games)," he said. "I have two (gold medals) and I'm so happy about it." Alastair Chalmers won Guernsey's first ever track and field medal when he took bronze in the men's 400m hurdles.

In the morning session, Australia's Oliver Hoare shocked world champion Jake Wightman and Kenya's Timothy Cheruiyot to win 1500m gold. The 25-year-old produced a storming late finish to cross the line in 3:30.12, breaking a 48-year-old Games record. Australia's Jemima Montag took gold in the women's 10,000m race walk but the country's recently crowned high jump world champion Eleanor Patterson was pushed into second place by Jamaica's Lamara Distin.

Australia won two golds on the last night of action in the diving pool, in the women's synchronized 3m springboard and the synchronized 10m platform. England swept the podium in the men's 3m springboard but Jack Laugher missed out on a third gold in Birmingham after a disappointing penultimate dive, being forced to settle for bronze. Hot favorites Australia beat New Zealand by five wickets in their women's Twenty20 semi-final cricket clash at Edgbaston to set up a gold medal match against India, who edged England by four runs in a thriller. —AFP

Intensity challenge for Springboks before All Blacks rematch

JOHANNESBURG: The front page headline on Sunday in South Africa's biggest Afrikaans language newspaper screamed, "Best in a century" after the Springboks outplayed New Zealand 26-10 in the Rugby Championship opener this weekend. It was South Africa's biggest winning margin against the All Blacks since they won 17-0 in Durban in 1928 - and Rapport backed up their headline with three pages of rave reviews of the Springboks' performance.

Hooker and man-of-the-match Malcolm Marx was given 10 out of 10 for his individual efforts and six other Springboks were awarded nine out of 10, including scrum-half Jaden Hendrikse, who came on to the field after just 43 seconds when Faf de Klerk was con-

cussed. The Springboks win heaped pressure on All Blacks coach Ian Foster, whose charges have lost five of their last six matches, including a home series against Ireland. But Springbok coach Jacques Nienaber and captain Siya Kolisi were wary about proclaiming a new era of dominance against their long-time rivals.

The teams meet again at Ellis Park in Johannesburg on Saturday and the South Africans know that matching the intensity they showed in Mbombela will be a challenge. Kolisi said the support of a packed 42,367 crowd had inspired his players, from the rousing rendition of the national anthem through to the final whistle. "I just don't know how South African people do it," said Kolisi. "The way they turn up with everything that's going on in our country."

'Means the world to us'

"People who can still afford it, still come along and still fill up the stadium for us and it means the world to us as a team. "It feels good, but we know the championship is not done yet. We have five more games to go but the next important one is next week." Nienaber was cagey when asked whether the Springboks would

Ryan Giggs: Man United, Wales icon facing court battle

MANCHESTER: Ryan Giggs is used to life in the public eye as a footballer who grew from a dazzling teenage talent at Manchester United into the most-decorated player in English football history. Giggs is in the spotlight in Manchester once more on Monday as he stands trial on charges of controlling and coercive behavior against his former girlfriend Kate Greville between August 2017 and November 2020.

The 48-year-old is also accused of assaulting Greville, causing her actual bodily harm, and common assault of her younger sister, Emma Greville, at his home. Giggs has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to all charges. But the case has already had implications on his coaching career.

Giggs missed the chance to lead Wales to last year's European Championships after being placed on leave by the Welsh FA since November 2020. He finally resigned from that role in June after Wales qualified for the World Cup under the stewardship of his former assistant Rob Page. But it is for his exploits on the field for Manchester United that Giggs made his name. Former United manager Alex Ferguson recalled his first glimpse of the boy who would play a pivotal role throughout his Old Trafford reign.

"I remember the first time I saw him," he said. "He was 13 and he floated across the ground like a cocker spaniel chasing a piece of silver paper in the wind." Giggs, who was on Manchester City's books as a youngster, made his league debut for United against Everton in March 1991 at the age of 17. In his early days the Cardiff-born winger, blessed with explosive pace and a dazzling skill-set,

inevitably drew comparisons with 1960s United star George Best, with his ability to torment opposition defenders.

Off the pitch he became a pin-up and was one of the most marketable players as the glitzy Premier League era began. He was part of the famous "Class of '92" alongside David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Gary and Phil Neville brothers, but in terms of honours he outdid them all. The most iconic moment of his career was his winning goal in the 1999 FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal, when he raced from his own half and slalomed through the Arsenal defence before smashing a shot past David Seaman.

Treble-winner

That year United went on to complete a historic treble, their greatest achievement during two decades of almost non-stop success under Ferguson. But there were countless other moments of magic in a career in which he racked up a club-record 963 appearances over 23 years, scoring 168 goals.

In his later years Giggs evolved from being a dashing winger into a calm, creative midfield presence, remaining a key player as he approached 40. The Welshman, who won a staggering 13 Premier League titles and two Champions League trophies in a trophy-laden career, finally hung up his boots in 2014. He briefly served as United interim manager at the end of the 2013/14 season, following the ill-fated tenure of David Moyes, and worked for two years as a coach at Old Trafford under Louis van Gaal.

Giggs was never a vocal leader on the field in the mould of some of his Manchester United teammates, and was not considered automatic management material. When he was appointed as Wales boss he said he was aware that his status as one of the their greatest players was no guarantee he would succeed at the helm of the national team. He will hope he has the chance to coach again one day, but for now he is fighting to clear his name as he awaits his day in court. —AFP



Ryan Giggs



Pavel Sivakov

Sivakov wins Tour of Burgos; Almeida claims final stage

MADRID: Pavel Sivakov warmed up for the Vuelta a Espana with victory in the Tour de Burgos on Saturday as Joao Almeida took the fifth and final stage at Laguna de Neila. It is the 25-year-old's third success in a stage race after his victories in 2019 in the Tour of the Alps and the Tour of Poland.

It also marks a first win since Sivakov, who previously competed as a Russian rider, was permitted to race as a French rider in March following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Sivakov, of the Ineos Grenadiers team, was born in Italy but has been resident in France since he was one and holds Russian and French passports. "I'm very happy. I didn't think I would win, even though I knew I was in excellent condition," said Sivakov.

"It's been a long time since I won, so for me it is a great satisfaction and gives me a lot of confidence. I needed this." As Almeida went on the attack, Ineos controlled their response on the climbs and enabled the Frenchman to finish third in the final stage. Sivakov secured his first stage-race win in three years, ending 35 seconds ahead of both Team UAE Emirates' Almeida, who was second overall, and Astana's Colombian Miguel Angel Lopez, who was second in the stage and third in the general classification.

Sivakov's victory, added to his second-place behind Remco Evenepoel in last week's San Sebastian Classic, means he is likely to head to the Vuelta alongside Richard Carapaz and possibly Ethan Hayter and Tao Geoghegan Hart. "I don't yet know the final selection for the Vuelta, which should be made next week by the team," said Sivakov. "We'll see if I'm part of it, otherwise we will talk about what my calendar will include." Burgos marked a second success in two days for Ineos following British rider Hayter's victory in the Tour of Poland. —AFP

Sports

Top-ranked Medvedev downs Norrie to end ATP title drought

World number one launches final build up to title defense

LOS CABOS: World number one Daniil Medvedev won his first ATP title of 2022 on Saturday, roaring past defending champion Cameron Norrie 7-5, 6-0 in the final of the hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico. Medvedev snapped a five-match losing streak in finals—a stretch that included his agonizing, five-set loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final in February. He also came up short this year in 's-Hertogenbosch and Halle. He didn't get a chance at Wimbledon, where Russian and Belarussian players were banned because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

His first trophy since he won the US Open last year—denying Novak Djokovic a calendar Grand Slam—comes just as Medvedev launches the final build up to his title defense in the final Grand Slam of 2022. Next he'll defend his Canadian Open title before tackling the Cincinnati Masters. Defending Los Cabos champion Norrie did what he could in the opening set, but Medvedev gained a decisive break to lead 6-5 and once he'd served

out the opening set there was simply no stopping him.

"It was not easy," Medvedev said in his on-court interview. "Cam is an amazing player, so it was really intense," he added. "When you play against him, you know that you have to fight for every point." Medvedev had two set points on his serve at 5-4, but was broken. In the next game he scraped his hand on the court reaching for a shot on the opening point and needed treatment because of the blood.

"I didn't play bad in that game at 5-4," Medvedev said. "So I knew I just had to stay there. Actually bleeding helped me I think a little bit so I could hold my nerve a little bit more." Medvedev was playing his first tournament since a quarter-final exit at Mallorca in June. With each match he looked more assured, and he ended the week without dropping a set against a modest array of opponents starting with 224th-ranked Australian Rinky Hijikata followed by 98th-ranked Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis and 38th-ranked Serb Miomir Kecmanovic.

High-level match

Norrie was a tougher proposition. Ranked 12th, he has taken his tally of ATP titles to four since winning his first at Los Cabos last year. He had reached his 10th final since the start of 2021 by beating second-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in the semi-finals. Once Medvedev found his groove, however, Norrie had no answer.

"Every match was very good, but the final is always special," Medvedev said. "In the final, you play the best player of this week, so it's always a high-level match and I'm really happy that I managed to show some good level, some good shots in such an important match." Medvedev stamped himself the early US Open favorite, especially given the likely absence of Djokovic because of his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and the uncertainty surrounding injured Nadal. The Spaniard, ranked third in the world, pulled out of the Montreal Masters this week as he recovers from an abdominal tear suffered at Wimbledon. — AFP



LOS CABOS: Russia's Daniil Medvedev holds the winning trophy after defeating Britain's Cameron Norrie during their Mexico ATP Open 250 men's singles final tennis match at the Cabo Sports Complex in Los Cabos, Mexico, on August 6, 2022. — AFP

Pant top scores as India beat Windies by 59 runs in T20

LAUDERHILL: India advanced their preparation for the next Twenty20 World Cup with a series-clinching 59-run victory over the West Indies in the fourth fixture of a five-match series at the Broward County Stadium in Florida on Saturday. Defending a formidable total of 191 for five in front of fiercely partisan Indian supporters at the United States venue, Rohit Sharma's side dismissed their opponents for 132 off 19.1 overs.

India take an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the series ahead of the final match at the same venue on Sunday. Arshdeep Singh led the bowling effort for India, the left-arm medium-pacer continuing to impress with his clever combination of swing and seam to take three for 12, finishing off the match with the wicket of Obed McCoy. For McCoy, who established a new West Indies bowling record in T20Is with figures of six for 17 in the second match in St Kitts last Monday, this was an especially forgettable experience.

Despite taking two wickets, the left-arter was belted for 66 runs across his four overs, the most expensive spell ever by a West Indies bowler in this format. India continued with their policy of all-out attack after being put in to bat with Rishabh Pant leading the effort for the top order with 44 off 31 balls. Each of the top five got starts and while none was able to carry on for a really commanding innings, their pace of scoring ensured the final



LAUDERHILL: Shimron Hetmyer, of West Indies (left), gets stumped by Rishabh Pant, of India, during the fourth T20I match between West Indies and India at the Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill, Florida. — AFP

total was always going to be challenging on a surface where free-flowing strokeplay became increasingly difficult.

"We knew it was not going to be easy because of the conditions," said Sharma after the match. "I thought we had a good score on the board but just could not take things for granted. Our bowlers did extremely well to keep making crucial breakthroughs." For West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran, the margin of the defeat was just another reminder of the amount of work required by the two-time

former champions ahead of the qualifying phase for the T20 World Cup in Australia in October.

His dismissal for 24, run out after carting left-arm spinner Axar Patel for a succession of boundaries, typified West Indian frustration. "The series may be over as a contest but the final match gives other players a chance to put their hands up ahead of the World T20," said Pooran in hinting at a number of changes for Sunday's finale. "They had gotten off to a flying start batting first but I was really happy at least with the way the bowlers stuck to the task." — AFP



GREENSBORO: Sungjae Im of Korea prepares to putt on the first green during the third round of the Wyndham Championship at Sedgefield Country Club on August 06, 2022. — AFP

Im, Wu share PGA lead at Wyndham Championship

WASHINGTON: Brandon Wu lit up a dreary day with a buzzer-beating hole-out eagle that gave him a share of the early third-round lead before play was halted Saturday in the US PGA Tour Wyndham Championship. Wu, a 25-year-old rookie seeking his first tour title, was tied with South Korean Im Sung-jae on 12-under par, both of them through 11 holes when play was suspended on a day that saw two weather delays. Officials had hoped to resume in time to squeeze in another hour of play at Sedgefield Country Club, but those plans were scrapped as thunderstorms continued in the Greensboro, North Carolina, area.

Wu started the day in a three-way tie for the lead along with South Korean Kim Joo-hyung and American Ryan Moore. He fell back with a bogey at the second, but rolled in a nine-foot birdie at the seventh and a five and a half foot birdie at the 10th. At the difficult par-four 11th, his second shot from 147 yards out in the fairway took a couple of bounces on the green then curled into the cup moments before the horn sounded to halt play a second time.

"That was a pretty crazy kind of group of events," Wu said. "We were making the turn and the thunder rumbled. We were just trying to focus on our shots. For that eagle to drop right at the horn was pretty special. Felt like I was a basketball player or something at the buzzer." Wu said he didn't find the prospect of a long wait before he could resume unsettling. "I think it's just fun being in contention, fun being in the last group today," he said. "(I) try not to put too much pressure on myself."

Im, who won the most recent of his two PGA Tour titles at the Shriners' Children's Open in October, started the day one off the lead and picked up three shots on the front nine with a nine-foot birdie at the third, an eight-footer at the fifth and a 13-foot birdie at the eighth. He got to 12-under with a five-foot birdie at the 11th. Kim was 11-under through 10 holes and in the fairway at 11 when play was halted. American John Huh, who fired a career-low 61 to lead the first round, was 11-under through 11.

Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat was the leader in the clubhouse on 10-under par 200. He had seven birdies in a seven-under 63 - his best round ever on the PGA Tour by a stroke. Five more players were 10-under on the course, their sights on improving when play resumes on Sunday morning. Officials said that even with the delays, they expected to be able to finish the tournament on Sunday. — AFP



WASHINGTON: Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan returns a shot to Andrey Rublev in the Men's Semifinal during Day 8 of the Citi Open at Rock Creek Tennis Center on August 6, 2022. — AFP

Nishioka stuns Rublev, books ATP Open final

WASHINGTON: Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka shocked eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev on Saturday to join Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios in reaching Sunday's ATP and WTA Washington Open men's final with straight-set triumphs. Nishioka, a 96th-ranked lefthander, stunned top seed Rublev 6-3, 6-4 in 80 minutes to book his first ATP final since 2020 at Delray Beach. "Just enjoy the day tomorrow," Nishioka said. "Just play my best. (I'm) excited."

Australia's 63rd-ranked Kyrgios ousted Sweden's 115th-ranked Mikael Ymer 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 and reached back-to-back tour-level finals for the first time in his career. The 27-year-old Aussie, who lost to Novak Djokovic last month in his first Grand Slam final, won the most recent of his six ATP titles at Washington in 2019. "It was a tough-fought semifinal and I'm just happy to be in the final once again," Kyrgios said. "I didn't play anywhere near my best tennis."

Nishioka, who won his only ATP title in 2018 at Shenzhen, hadn't won a tour-level match since

March when the week began but has taken five this week and will rise to at least 54th in Monday's world rankings. He fired only 12 winners but took full advantage of Rublev's 33 unforced errors and converted on 4-of-5 break points. "I tried to be a little bit aggressive, because I knew Andrey was going to play aggressive," Nishioka said. "I needed to play a little bit aggressive to him."

Kyrgios is 3-0 against Nishioka, most recently winning in the third round of his 2019 Washington title run. "We've played many times, but he beat me every time since 16 years old," Nishioka said. "It's really tough to play against him. He doesn't have any pace. He just hits the ball so hard every time. Very tough to break his service games. "The most important thing is I have to focus on my service games."

Estonia's Kaia Kanepi, trying to end a nine-year WTA title drought at age 37, and 60th-ranked Liudmila Samsonova will meet in the women's final at the US Open tuneup. World number 37 Kanepi eliminated Australia's Daria Saville 6-3, 6-1 while Samsonova routed China's Wang Xiyu 6-1, 6-1. Rublev, thwarted in his bid for a 12th career title and fourth of the year, fell to 1-2 against Nishioka. Nishioka, 26, broke for a 3-1 lead, Rublev slamming his racket to the court in frustration, and held through to claim the first set on his second ace. — AFP

Record-setting Zarco on pole at 'mythical' Silverstone

SILVERSTONE: Ducati's French rider Johann Zarco clocked a new track record to grab pole for the British MotoGP in qualifying at Silverstone on Saturday as Aleix Espargaro took an honourable sixth after a high-speed crash. Zarco claimed his second prime grid position of the season and eighth in MotoGP in style with a lap of 1min 57.767sec to smash the former track record of 1min 58.168sec set by the absent Marc Marquez. "It's a mythical circuit and it makes me proud to feel comfortable around it," said the man of the moment who has given himself the perfect platform to land his maiden MotoGP success.

Asked at the post-race press conference whether it could be a case of a maiden MotoGP win at the eighth time of setting off from pole, the 32-year-old smiled and replied: "Why not?" "I want this win, but I don't want to only think about that, and then make mistakes. "We'll see how strong the others are, I hope to use the advantage of a hard rear tyre to help me have a perfect present at the finish." Zarco, who rides for Ducati's satellite Pramac team, is joined on the front row for Sunday's race by Maverick Vinales of Aprilia, just 0.098sec behind, and Jack Miller on a factory Ducati.

Penalty

World champion and series leader Fabio Quartararo took fourth on the grid for this 12th round of the 20-race season. The French rider must serve a long lap penalty during the race as punishment for a collision with Espargaro at Assen before the break. The Yamaha star said that after putting together one of his best qualifying laps of the season "I had nothing else to give". "I'm happy with my race pace from final practice so that's very positive," he added.

"Our pace means we will be fighting for the win, but with my penalty I can't say where I'll end up finishing." Quartararo has for company on the second row the Ducati of Francesco Bagnaia and Espargaro's Aprilia. This was a stoic performance from Espargaro who competed in qualifying despite suffering a heavy fall earlier in the day. The 33-year-old, who had just set the fastest time in the third practice session, flew off his bike entering a fast corner at 115mph (185km/h) in the fourth session. — AFP

Sports

Dortmund edge Leverkusen 1-0 as Union claim Berlin bragging rights

Werder Bremen celebrate their return to Bundesliga

BERLIN: A first-half goal from captain Marco Reus was enough to see Borussia Dortmund past Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday while Union Berlin defeated city rivals Hertha. In a fixture known more for attack than defense in recent years - three of the past five games between Dortmund and Leverkusen have featured seven goals - it was highlighted by defense, particularly that of Dortmund newcomer Nico Schlotterbeck.

After a nervy opening, the home side took the lead in the ninth minute when Reus finished off a slick team move kick-started by aggressive pressing from 19-year-old England international Jude Bellingham. Bellingham poked the ball into the path of Dortmund's 17-year-old striker Youssoufa Moukoko, who glided a pass across the face of goal to Bundesliga debutant Karim Adeyemi.

Lukas Hradecky half-saved Adeyemi's shot, before Reus forced it over the line. In stoppage time, Hradecky was red-carded for handling the ball outside the area. Coaching in front of a sold-out Westfalenstadion for the first time, Dortmund manager Edin Terzic said the 82,000 fans gave his side the edge. "It was a very intense game and the crowd helped us through, giving us impetus and an extra metre or two when we needed it."



DORTMUND: The ball ends up on the roof of Leverkusen's Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky's goal during the German first division Bundesliga football match between BVB Borussia Dortmund and Bayer 04 Leverkusen in Dortmund, western Germany on August 6, 2022.



WOLFSBURG: Wolfsburg's German midfielder Maximilian Arnold (center left) and Bremen's German forward Niclas Füllkrug (center right) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfL Wolfsburg and Werder Bremen on August 6, 2022. —AFP Photos

twice from seven Bundesliga clashes since being promoted to the top division in 2019. "For the fans it is an important game, but me, I am a bit more pragmatic and realistic," said Union coach Urs Fischer.

"For me, it's about the three points. When you win games, you gain trust in yourself and (improve your) self-confidence." Hertha coach Sandro Schwarz said the derby loss was "irritating" but that his side had the quality to bounce back next week. Werder Bremen celebrated their return to the Bundesliga after a year in the second division by snatching a point in a 2-2 draw at Wolfsburg. In their first Bundesliga match under former Bayern Munich and Monaco coach Niko Kovac, Wolfsburg took the lead early through Lukas Nmecha.

Bremen hit back with two quick goals through Niclas Füllkrug and Leonardo Bittencourt to take a lead into half-time. Kovac brought on Max Kruse in the 76th minute with his final change. Kruse, who scored 35 goals in 94 games with Werder, quickly created an equaliser, steering a cross into the box for Josuha Guilavogui to hammer home. Borussia Mönchengladbach got off to a winning start under new manager Daniel Farke, beating 10-man Hoffenheim 3-1 at home.

Hoffenheim took the lead in the 25th minute through Robert Skov just after defender Stefan Posch received his second yellow card, but were unable to hold on. The visitors conceded goals to Ramy Bensebaini (41st minute), birthday boy Marcus Thuram (71) and Nico Elvedi (78). Beaten

German Cup finalists in 2021-22, Freiburg continued their strong form under long-time manager Christian Streich, scoring four second-half goals to win 4-0 at Augsburg.

Michael Gregoritsch scored just seconds after half-time, before dead-ball specialist Vincenzo Grifo added another to put Freiburg 2-0 up in the 47th minute. Summer arrival Matthias Ginter added a third in the 61th minute, before fellow new recruit and Japanese international Ritsu Doan added a fourth in the 78th. Mainz defeated Bochum 2-1 through two goals from Austrian striker Karim Onisiwo. On Friday, defending champions Bayern Munich got their quest for an 11th successive title off to the best possible start, routing Eintracht Frankfurt 6-1. —AFP

Union kings of Berlin

American striker Jordan Siebatcheu scored on his Bundesliga debut as Union Berlin cantered to a 3-1 home victory over Hertha. Brought in over the summer to replace Nottingham Forest-bound Taiwo Awoniyi, Siebatcheu glanced a Sheraldo Becker cross past Oliver Christensen to put Union ahead in the 32nd minute.

Becker added the second goal in the 50th minute, before Robin Knoche headed in a Christopher Trimmel corner four minutes later to put the result beyond doubt. Hertha winger Dodi Lukebakio scored a late consolation goal. Union have now won four in a row against their big brothers from the city's west and have only lost

Celtic strike late to beat Ross County

GLASGOW: Celtic needed two goals in the final six minutes to beat Ross County 3-1 at Dingwall on Saturday, as Rangers striker Alfredo Morelos scored on his comeback from injury in a 2-0 win over Kilmarnock. The Scottish champions looked to be heading to their first dropped points of the season when Ross County defender Alex Iacovitti cancelled out Kyogo Furuhashi's opener early in the second half.

However, Moritz Jenz marked his Celtic debut with a towering header before Liel Abada's classy finish sealed the victory in stoppage time. "It's a difficult place to come but the players were outstanding at controlling the game and minimizing their threats," said Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou. "We obviously got challenged in the second-half when they scored but our response to that was excellent and we fully deserved the victory."

Rangers remain alongside Celtic at the top of the table with two wins from two games as they bounced back from European disappointment in midweek. Giovanni van Bronckhorst's men need to overturn a 2-0 deficit against Union Saint-Gilloise in the second leg of their third round Champions League qualifier on Tuesday. Morelos could be key to turning that tie around as the Colombian came off the bench to net in his first appearance since March. Antonio Colak's first Rangers goal broke Kilmarnock's resistance at Ibrox just after half-time.

Morelos made his introduction 25 minutes from time and marked his return by killing the game off late on. "When you keep pushing, keep pushing, eventually the space will come in the second-half," said Van Bronckhorst. "It's very important for the strikers, for their confidence, to score." Elsewhere, a new-look Aberdeen kickstarted their season with a 4-1 win over 10-man St Mirren with new signings Bojan Miovski, Leighton Clarkson and Luis Lopes on target. St Johnstone also got their first points of the season with a 2-1 win at Motherwell thanks to Stevie May's 94th minute winner. —AFP



CLERMONT-FERRAND: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi (2nd right) scores a goal during the French L1 football match between Clermont Foot 63 and Paris Saint-Germain at Stade Gabriel Montpied in Clermont-Ferrand, central France on August 6, 2022. —AFP

Messi turns on the style as PSG begin Ligue 1 title defense

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored twice in the second half, including with a stunning overhead kick, as Paris Saint-Germain began their defense of the Ligue 1 title with a 5-0 demolition of Clermont on Saturday. Neymar was also in outstanding form for a PSG side who did not miss the injured Kylian Mbappe, with the Brazilian opening the scoring in Clermont before setting up Achraf Hakimi and Marquinhos for further goals before half-time.

Messi then exchanged passes with Neymar before sidefooting in the visitors' fourth goal with 10 minutes left. Yet Messi saved the best for last, darting into the box four minutes from the end to control a Leandro Paredes pass on his chest with his back to goal, before converting with an acrobatic overhead kick.

That goal had the crowd at Clermont's Stade Gabriel-Montpied singing the name of the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, who endured a difficult first season in Paris. PSG's victory in new coach Christophe Galtier's first league game in charge was achieved despite Mbappe missing the trip due to an adductor injury. Mbappe also missed last week's 4-0 defeat of

Nantes in the season-opening Champions Trophy due to suspension.

Messi had opened the scoring in that game, while Neymar netted a brace. The duo therefore already have six goals between them this season, with PSG looking in ominous form. "There is no denying we have lots of talent but what I retain is the collective desire to win the ball back very early, to play with intensity, to never let up," Galtier, who replaced the sacked Mauricio Pochettino, told broadcaster Canal Plus. "The squad have been very receptive since I arrived. They like to work hard together, have fun together. But the season is long. This was just the first game."

Galtier said he would have no trouble finding a place in the line-up for Mbappe, who is expected to return next weekend and play his first competitive game since turning down a move to Real Madrid to sign a new three-year deal in Paris. "Kylian is an essential part of this project. For a coach, it is not very difficult to integrate a player like him into the team," Galtier said.

"He had a little alert and so we didn't want to take any risk. "Obviously if we had a difficult game, or a Champions League match, maybe Kylian would have played. We preferred to delay his comeback but he should be back against Montpellier." Neymar fired in the opener in the ninth minute after Messi was unable to control Pablo Sarabia's cutback, and it was Neymar who set up Hakimi to blast in the second in the 26th minute. —AFP

Benteke departs Premier League for Rooney's DC United

WASHINGTON: Belgian international striker Christian Benteke, who has spent the past 10 years in the Premier League, joined Wayne Rooney-coached DC United of Major League Soccer on Friday, the club announced. United obtained the 31-year-old forward on a permanent transfer from Crystal Palace and signed him to a deal through the 2024 season with a club option for 2025. "Christian is a top player who has played at the highest level for a long time," former England and Manchester United star Rooney said.

"His experience and ability to score goals and help the team will be invaluable. It's exciting for the team and myself to get him in and playing. He will make a huge difference." United will need all the help it can get with a record of just six wins and three draws for 21 points, the second-worst in the 28-team North American league. Benteke scored 86 goals in 280 Premier League appearances with Aston Villa, Liverpool, and Palace. Benteke becomes the sixth player to join United since Rooney was named coach last month. —AFP



Christian Benteke

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Khaldiya	24848075	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Kaifan	24849807	Shaab	22518752
Maternity Hospital	24843100			Shamiya	24848913	Qibla	22459381
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital				Shuwaikh	24814507	Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
	25312700			Abdullah Salem	22549134	Mirqab	22456536
Chest Hospital	24849400			Nuzha	22526804	Sharq	22465401
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Kaizen center	25716707	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764	Salmiya	25746401
Adan Hospital	23940620	Rawda	22517733	Qadsiya	22515088		
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Adaliya	22517144	Dasmah	22532265		

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAANYAAL JUNAID, son of JUNAID ISMAIL and holder of Indian Passport No. S9923330 having permanent residence in Bengaluru Karnataka, India and residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under, given name: DAANYAAL JUNAID and Surname: SAIT. (C# 2032)

I, Rahamathulla Fairouz S/o, Rahamathulla R/o No 22 10th Cross Padarayanapura Hosahalli Main Road Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Shaik Fairouz Pasha for all purposes. (C# 2035) 08/08/2022



MANCHESTER: Brighton's English midfielder Solly March (left) fights for the ball with Manchester United's Dutch midfielder Donny van de Beek during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Brighton and Hove Albion on August 7, 2022. —AFP

Haaland's debut double gives Man City's title defense lift off

Ten Hag loses first game as Man United manager to Brighton

LONDON: Erling Haaland scored twice on his Premier League debut as Manchester City opened their defense of the title with a 2-0 win at West Ham on Sunday. Haaland lived up to the hype since his transfer from Borussia Dortmund to give the champions a perfect start to the season in the searing heat of East London.

West Ham nearly derailed City's title chances when they led 2-0 at half-time in the penultimate game of last season before Pep Guardiola's men battled back for the point that ultimately edged out Liverpool at the top of the table. But they were no match this time as Haaland immediately proved the value of City adding a proven goalscorer to their arsenal.

The Norwegian has been signed as the long-term successor to Sergio Aguero and started his City career just like the club's all time record goalscorer with a double on his league debut. Haaland had missed chances in City's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Community Shield, but Guardiola's warning that the goals would soon flow proved to be correct.

City's patient possession game wore the Hammers down as temperatures in the English capital soared above 30 degrees Celsius on Sunday. Haaland took responsibility from the penalty spot to open his Premier League account after he had been brought down by Alphonse Areola. West Ham started the sec-

ond half with more attacking intent but that simply played into the hands of City's new weapon as Kevin De Bruyne split open their defense with one pass on the counter-attack for Haaland to gallop clear on goal and slot low past Areola.

Brighton 2 Man Utd 1

Erik ten Hag said Cristiano Ronaldo's presence will improve Manchester United after a dismal start to his reign in charge as Brighton recorded their first ever victory at Old Trafford with a 2-1 win on Sunday. Any hope of a fresh start for United after a miserable 2021/22 season was wiped away within 45 minutes as Pascal Gross struck twice to put the Seagulls in command.

Alexis Mac Allister's own goal gave United a foothold in the game, but they rarely looked like getting back on level terms, showing the scale of the task lying ahead for Ten Hag. The former Ajax boss left Ronaldo on the bench after he only returned to pre-season training last week. Ronaldo is reportedly seeking an exit from Old Trafford to play Champions League football this season.

But without the five time Ballon d'Or winner, United had no focal point to their attack as Christian Eriksen started in an unfamiliar role as a false nine. "It's clear to see we were better in the middle with Eriksen back and Ronaldo up front," said Ten Hag after Ronaldo came on

eight minutes into the second half. "If he was available, I would've played him. Cristiano is now 10 days in team training. That's too short for 90 minutes. That's the reason we didn't start him."

The outcome could have been very different had Bruno Fernandes not blazed over a glorious chance on six minutes. But Brighton, who beat United 4-0 when the sides last met in May, quickly settled into their passing rhythm. Graham Potter's men have lost two of their best players during the transfer window, as Yves Bissouma joined Spurs and Marc Cucurella moved to Chelsea this week for a club record fee in excess of £60 million (\$72 million).

But it did not show as Brighton exposed the same flaws in United's wide open midfield to pick apart Ten Hag's men with ease. "It's not easy because as the transfer fees suggests they were two really key players," said Potter. "In any team you miss good players. We have got a good group, they are ambitious, they are not perfect, but they give everything and when you're a coach it gives you a chance."

Welbeck haunts old side

Danny Welbeck, who United discarded back in 2014, was a constant threat in behind the vulnerable defensive pairing of Harry Maguire and Lisandro Martinez.

Welbeck created the opener as he ran off Maguire and laid the ball across goal for Gross to slot into an unguarded net at the back post. The German midfielder now has six goals in 12 appearances against United, as he was again in the right place to take advantage when David de Gea could only parry Solly March's shot across goal.

Boos rang out around Old Trafford at the half-time whistle, with the home fans not only restless about the state of their side on the pitch. The club shop was forced to close before kick-off by a protest against United's owners, the Glazer family, on the day Avram Glazer made a rare appearance in the directors' box. Ronaldo's introduction early in the second half at least lifted the noise levels inside Old Trafford, which in turn roused United into a response.

Marcus Rashford failed to build on his encouraging pre-season form as Robert Sanchez produced a stunning save to block the England international's effort from Ronaldo's pinpoint cross. Sanchez quickly undid that good work to give United a lifeline 22 minutes from time. The Spanish international flapped at a corner under pressure from Diogo Dalot and then slapped the ball into his own net off the unfortunate Mac Allister. But an expected siege on the Brighton goal never materialized as the visitors comfortably saw out the closing stages for a famous win. —AFP

Spot-on Jorginho gives Chelsea an opening victory

LIVERPOOL: Chelsea put a troubled pre-season behind them to start their Premier League campaign with a 1-0 win at Everton on Saturday thanks to Jorginho's penalty. Blues boss Thomas Tuchel warned last week that Chelsea were "not ready" for the new season after a grueling tour of the United States, which included a 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Arsenal, left his squad drained.

However, a new era at Stamford Bridge is picking up pace off the field with the signings of Marc Cucurella and Carney Chukwuemeka in recent days joining new arrivals Raheem Sterling and Kalidou Koulibaly. Sterling, Koulibaly and Cucurella made their debuts as Chelsea ended a run of four consecutive defeats at Goodison Park despite a patchy performance. "We have struggled in the last seasons to get points here and we have the points," said Tuchel. "A win is a win, it's the most important thing, but we have to get better."

"We are maybe not at the highest level. We have brought players in but they came in late, pre-season was a bit turbulent but the last week of training was promising." Everton's pre-season preparations were rocked this week by an injury that ruled England striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin out for the first six weeks of the season. The Toffees suffered another injury blow early on when Ben Godfrey suffered a suspected broken leg after coming off worse in a challenge with Kai Havertz, while Yerry Mina limped off in the second half.

"When it rains, it pours," said Everton boss Frank Lampard. "Ben Godfrey's injury feels like it is a small fracture of his leg. We are assessing that. He will be out for a while, Mina is an ankle injury and could be out for a while." Everton have been pre-



LIVERPOOL: Everton's Ukrainian defender Vitaliy Mykolenko (left) fouls Chelsea's English midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Chelsea at Goodison Park on August 6, 2022. —AFP

dicted to struggle again after just staving off relegation last season. But they could easily have taken at least a point from a spirited display. Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy made a fine save to prevent James Tarkowski heading Everton in front on his debut.

Sterling was also denied a debut goal by the off-side flag after he swept home after Jordan Pickford spilled Mason Mount's shot. Everton's good work before the break was undone in the eighth minute of added on time for the lengthy stoppage for Godfrey's injury. Ben Chilwell was bundled over inside the box by Abdoulaye Doucoure and, unlike

in the Euro 2020 final, Jorginho sent Pickford the wrong way from the spot for the decisive goal.

Everton pushed valiantly in search of an equalizer after the break, but were blunt in attack without the presence of Calvert-Lewin or the departed Richarlison. Mendy again rode to Chelsea's rescue with important saves to turn Demarai Gray's shot wide and block Doucoure's powerful effort from point-blank range. At the other end Sterling was frustrated again as his goalbound effort was deflected inches wide by Vitaliy Mykolenko But one goal was enough for Chelsea to end a five-year wait to win away to Everton. —AFP

Ten Sri Lankans vanish from Commonwealth

COLOMBO: Ten members of crisis-hit Sri Lanka's Commonwealth Games contingent in Birmingham have disappeared in a suspected attempt to remain in Britain, a top sports official from the island nation told AFP on Sunday. The nine athletes and a manager vanished after completing their events, the official said, requesting anonymity. Three of them - judoka Chamila Dilani, her manager Asela de Silva, and wrestler Shanith Chathuranga - had disappeared last week. That prompted a police complaint by the Sri Lankan officials. "Since then, another seven have vanished," the official said, without identifying them. "We suspect they want to remain in the UK, possibly to get employment."

The 160-strong Sri Lankan contingent's management possessed the passports of all members to ensure they returned home. That failed to deter some from leaving. British police located the first three that disappeared, but as they had not violated local laws and held visas valid for six months, no action was taken, the Sri Lankan official told AFP. "In fact, the police got us to return the passports that we were holding as a deterrent against defections," the official said. "The police have not told us about their whereabouts."

Sri Lankan athletes have been reported missing from international events in the past. In October last year, Sri Lanka's wrestling manager abandoned his team and disappeared in Oslo during a world championship tournament. During the 2014 Asian Games in South Korea, two Sri Lankan athletes made a run for it and were not found. And in 2004, when Sri Lanka did not even have a national handball team, a 23-member group pretending to represent the country conned their way to a tournament in Germany and disappeared. —AFP