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# Eligible voters jump by 40% to reach 796,000

## Opposition candidates support Saadoun for speaker's post

### Amir thanks traffic employee for rescue efforts

**KUWAIT:** Under the direction of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who introduced to him Hamad Eid Al-Shemmeri, an employee at the Jahra traffic department. HH the Crown Prince conveyed HH the Amir's thanks and the political leadership's appreciation for the employee's sincere efforts that led to the rescue of citizens and residents before the ceiling of the Jahra traffic building collapsed. — KUNA



By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry published the names of all eligible voters at police stations to allow Kuwaiti citizens to ensure they are listed for the National Assembly elections. Petitions are accepted and dealt with within 24 hours, the ministry said. Based on the lists, there are 796,000 eligible voters in Kuwait, a massive 40 percent jump from the previous polls on Dec 5, 2020, when there were just 568,000 voters. The big increase is attributed to the addition of many new residential areas to the existing constituencies, which were not added in the 2020 polls. According to the lists, there are 408,000 female voters and 388,000 male voters.

Former opposition MP Bader Al-Dahoum, whose election was revoked by the constitutional court last year, said he has challenged a decision by authorities not to include his name

among eligible voters. He has also filed a lawsuit at the court for the same reason. Under Kuwaiti law, Dahoum will not be able to run in the polls if his name is not included in the voters' lists. He was to hold a press conference on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, opposition candidates and former MPs welcomed on Sunday the announcement by former three-time National Assembly speaker and opposition leader Ahmad Al-Saadoun to run in the forthcoming general polls and immediately called for electing him as next house speaker. The media committee of the veteran politician announced that the 87-year-old Saadoun will run in the Assembly elections, expected to be held next month, after the parliament was dissolved over political disputes.

Several members of the dissolved house and prominent election candidates immediately welcomed

Continued on Page 6

### News in brief



**DERIK, Turkey:** A video grab taken on August 20, 2022 shows a truck after a crash in this district of Mardin. — AFP

### 34 killed in Turkey road accidents

**ISTANBUL:** At least 34 people were killed and dozens injured in two separate road accidents Saturday, each in places where collisions had taken place shortly before, local media reported. A first crash involving a bus and an ambulance killed 15 people and injured 31 more on a motorway in Gaziantep province, said local officials. In a second deadly accident a few hours later, 250 km away, at least 19 people were killed and nearly 30 injured after a truck driver hurtled into pedestrians in Derik in Mardin province. — AFP



**MOSCOW:** This handout picture released on Aug 21, 2022 shows investigators at the site of an explosion in a car driven by Daria Dugina. — AFP

### Daughter of Russia ideologue killed

**MOSCOW:** The daughter of Alexander Dugin, a hardline Russian ideologue close to President Vladimir Putin, has been killed in a car bombing on Moscow's outskirts, authorities said on Sunday. According to family members quoted by Russian media, Dugin - a vocal supporter of Kremlin's offensive in Ukraine - was the likely target of the blast as his daughter borrowed his car at the last minute. Daria Dugina was killed when a bomb placed in the Toyota Land Cruiser went off as she drove on a highway near the village of Bolshie Vyzomy, some 40 km outside Moscow. — AFP

### 50 info consultants sacked; no iqama renewals of expats

**KUWAIT:** Information and Culture Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has issued decisions terminating the contracts of more than 50 consultants at the information ministry. The consultants were serving in various sectors of the ministry and were receiving salaries without a real need for their jobs. A very limited number of consultants were retained based on the needs of the ministry.

### Four bodies pulled from Iraq shrine

**KARBALA:** Iraqi rescue workers Sunday were desperately searching for survivors trapped under rubble after a landslide hit a Shiite shrine, killing at least four people. "We have found four bodies, including of a woman" at the site near Karbala, central Iraq, civil defense official Abdelrahman Jawdat told AFP. Between six and eight pilgrims had been reported trapped under the debris of the shrine, known as

Qattarat al-Imam Ali, civil defence spokesman Nawas Sabah Shaker had said earlier.

Three children have been rescued following Saturday's disaster, emergency services said, adding that they were in "good condition" and being monitored in a hospital. Rescue teams working through the night were able to provide supplies of oxygen, as well as food and water to some of those trapped through gaps in the rubble, state news agency INA said.

Iraqi President Barham Saleh on Twitter called on the "heroic" rescue workers to "mobilize all efforts to save the trapped people". The emergency responders said earlier they were maintaining verbal contact with the victims "to reassure them".

Continued on Page 6

### Cairo metro employs first women drivers

**CAIRO:** As it prepares to expand to serve a population now exceeding 20 million, the Cairo metro has recruited Egypt's first female train drivers, a novelty in a country where few women have formal jobs. Since April, commuters on the network's newest

line have seen women take the controls in the driver's cab, with reactions ranging from raised eyebrows to outright disapproval, according to the two pioneers.

Egyptian women have had the right to vote and stand for office since 1956, but patriarchal legislation and a male-dominated culture have severely limited personal rights. The Cairo metro itself provides reserved carriages for women who do not wish to ride with men in an attempt to provide protection against sexual harassment.

Continued on Page 6

Meanwhile, in a step to complete the Kuwaitization process, an internal memo banning the renewal of iqamas of expatriate employees of Kuwait Municipality whose services have ended as part of their contracts or at consultant offices of all projects has been issued by Minister of Communication and Municipality Rana Al-Fares.

"Expatriate employees will be replaced with capable nationals in all public jobs at Kuwait Municipality within a specific timeframe in accordance with the needs of the municipality. The plan includes a complete training program which will allow more Kuwaitis to work and improve their overall performance, as these jobs are considered a national service for the overall public interest," the statement said.

Continued on Page 6



**KARBALA:** Iraqi rescue workers search for survivors trapped under the rubble of the Qattarat al-Imam Ali shrine following a landslide on Aug 21, 2022. — AFP



**CAIRO:** Hind Omar, an Egyptian metro train driver, poses on a life-size train simulator at Adly Mansour station in Heliopolis on May 31, 2022. — AFP

## Local

# Hearing-impaired woman overcomes disability with her art and talent

## Noha Al-Roumi shares her lifestyle, fashion and daily struggles on social media

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Disability is never a barrier to creativity. Noha Al-Roumi, a deaf fashion designer, illustrator and artist, uses her talent and skills to show the world that people with disabilities can shine and be the star in their own stories. Her passion for art and fashion design as a child motivated her to embark on her art journey and inspire her followers. Kuwait Times spoke with Roumi, who in 2016 started sharing on social media her lifestyle, fashion and daily struggles as a young Kuwaiti lady. Some excerpts.



Noha Al-Roumi

**Kuwait Times: What was the driver behind creating your Instagram account (Noha inspiration)?**

**Roumi:** I wanted to express my emotions or situations I have been through by drawing them. The account started as a medium to express myself to my friends and family and not only keep it to myself. It quickly expanded to sharing my daily style or outfit of the day, cooking and vlogging, along with showcasing daily bits of situations that I go through as a woman and a person with a hearing disability.

**KT: You describe yourself as an illustrator and a lifestyle blogger. What was your experience of the education system and how did it lead you into blogging?**

**Roumi:** Blogging and social media started as a medium to share my art and my style with the world, and the education system is not correlated to the talent in art and style acquired while growing up.

**KT: You have been deaf from birth. How was your childhood?**

**Roumi:** Yes, I have been deaf since birth, and my family found this out by surprise when my siblings were playing and I was not bothered by the loud noises. I was a shy, quiet girl, but sly (as described by my sister)!

**KT: What struggles and challenges do you face? How do you communicate with people?**

**Roumi:** Miscommunication. I always require someone else to help in translating or explaining something to me and vice versa, in addition to going to gatherings or outings with friends and not being able to be involved in their conversations.

## Kuwait ranks fourth in MENA in average monthly salaries

By Majd Othman

**Kuwait:** According to a recent list published by US magazine CEO World, Kuwait ranks fourth among Arab countries and 26th globally in average monthly salaries, where the average net monthly salary in Kuwait amounts to \$1854.45 or KD 570.140.

Five Gulf countries occupied the top positions in Middle East and North Africa in average net monthly salaries. The UAE topped the list of Arab countries and ranked fifth globally, to be the only country regionally among the top 10 countries on the list.

The value of average net monthly salaries in the UAE, according to the list, amounted to \$3663.27, while Qatar came in second place among Arab countries and 11th globally with an average monthly salary of \$3168.05, followed by Saudi Arabia in third place and 25th globally with an average salary of \$1,888.68, then Kuwait, followed by Bahrain, which ranked 28th globally with an average salary of \$1,728.74 and in sixth place among Arab countries, and finally Oman in the

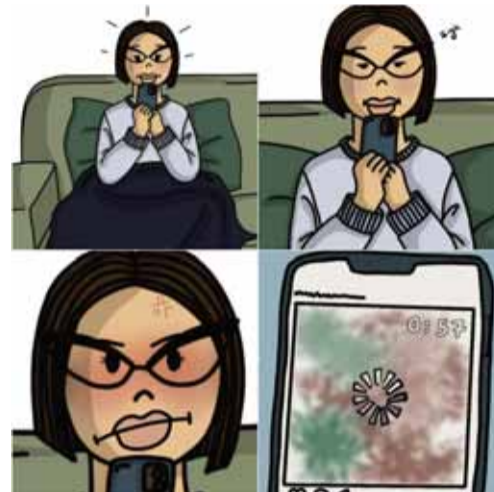


**KT: Do you think Kuwaiti society knows how to deal with deaf people?**

**Roumi:** Everyone, not only in Kuwait, is now more aware and more considerate about any person with disabilities - people are helpful. However, you meet some individuals who don't have the patience or think that you should not have any advantage over them because of your disability.

**KT: How is being deaf tied to your artwork and the various ways you explore?**

**Roumi:** Being deaf in my opinion is a blessing in disguise; it has heightened my other senses, in addition to being more detail-oriented and seeing things from another angle. What I mean by that is that sometimes I incorporate details in my art that others



might disregard or overlook.

**KT: If you had to choose one great thing that being deaf offers, what would it be?**

**Roumi:** Not being able to hear loud/annoying sounds, in addition to not hearing people who bad-mouth you in any way.

**KT: How can the social and cultural offerings for deaf children and young people be improved?**

**Roumi:** By offering translation services, or making sure that people who know or understand sign language are available at all service centers. Thankfully there are a lot of companies and applications that are aware and understand the value of this service and offer it.



People always say pretty but deaf, what a shame!

**KT: What is next for you?**

**Roumi:** Raising awareness in my community, whether for hearing-impaired individuals or any person with a disability, in addition to expanding my current scope of artistic outlets, whether it is my fashion label, my 'Noha inspiration' account or my paintings.

**KT: What advice would you give to any deaf children or young people who are looking to find more artistic platforms?**

**Roumi:** Explore it and never feel the disability is hindering you. If you have the passion and the willpower, you will conquer it.

**KT: What is your message to society?**

**Roumi:** Be kind.



KUWAIT: View of the Liberation Tower and Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

30th spot globally with an average monthly salary of \$1,626.64.

According to CEO World, Egypt has the lowest average of salaries among Arab countries and

ranked 100th globally with an average salary of \$219.73, preceded by Algeria in 98th place with \$249.67 and Tunisia in the 96th spot with an average salary of \$277.44.

Legalese

## Employment agreements



By Fajer Ahmed

fajer@kuwaittimes.net

An employee agreement is the traditional document used in relationships between employees and employers for the purpose of laying out rights, obligations and responsibilities. Today we are going to be discussing employment agreements and their importance to employees, as they discuss rights and obligations, as well as responsibilities. Below are some common questions and their answers:

**Question: I have been working for a company for 5 years, but they never gave me a copy of my agreement and I would like to review it. What can I do to obtain it?**

**Fajer:** You should have access to your agreement with the company - it is your legal right. Also, the Public Authority of Manpower has a copy of your agreement, and you may be able to request it there or request your work permit that should also have important information about your employment.

**Question: If I signed two different agreements, one at the Public Authority of Manpower and one with my employer, which one is valid?**

**Fajer:** They are both valid, but if there is conflict between the two or a difference between the two, then the agreement at the Public Authority of Manpower shall prevail.

**Question: I am starting a new job and am really looking forward to it. But before I sign the employment agreement, what should I keep in mind?**

**Fajer:** My biggest advice is that you make sure it is clear to you. An employment agreement is a great way to set boundaries, so make sure your working hours, job description, salary and any benefits are written clearly, as well as what to do if there is conflict. You also want to have in writing any obligations, such as confidentiality or non-compete clauses.



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry shut down a shop in Salmiya for selling counterfeit goods. A large amount of bags, clothes and accessories bearing counterfeit trademarks of famous international brands were found.

Local

# Action plan a priority for Kuwait education reform

Problem is not in scarcity of money but in its waste and misdistribution

**KUWAIT:** The government established Kuwait University in 1966, distributed over buildings in various residential areas of Kuwait. In the early 1980s, the government decided to build a comprehensive university. But this took about 40 years to complete, with its costs doubling several times and its buildings catching fire on seven different occasions. During that long period, high school graduates compounded and reached 44,600 students in the academic year of 2020/2021 (including adult education graduates) at a compound annual growth rate of 6.2 percent for the last seven years.

To accommodate this large number of students during the long construction period of the public university, besides the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), 15 private higher education institutions were established and operated in addition to five other institutions under construction. The two public institutions still accommodate the most significant number of students (about 77,000 students for the last academic year) or about 66 percent of the total number of higher education students.

Kuwait University, the largest university, comprises 16 colleges in addition to higher studies. Some of these colleges are outstanding. Nevertheless, according to various performance indicators, the KU ranking has descended beyond the first one thousand best universities in the world according to the "QS World University Rankings", with PAAET outputs remaining irrelevant to the labor market. In a country where the state monopolizes about 90 percent of the land, the overpriced and unjustified land prices make establishing any competitive service or commodity project almost impossible.

Selecting a private institution for higher education, it depends entirely on the state granting a piece of land for a certain number of years, fixed and short. This

represents a pressure factor in restoring the project's financial investment and profits in the shortest period, which may give preference to the commercial factor over the educational side. No one notices the low level of educational outcomes as long as the salary of the public office is linked to the certificate, regardless of the class, specialization, or even the need.

Further, it makes no difference whether the certificate is real or fake. Therefore, about 63 percent of the public sector employees hold certificates ranging from post-secondary degrees to PhDs; nevertheless, the sector's productivity is very low. Al-Shall estimates that the tuition costs of a student at the Kuwait University are about KD 13,000 annually and about KD 8,000 at PAAET's institutions. A scholarship abroad student costs about twice the cost at Kuwait University, while the average tuition for private higher education universities ranges between KD 6,500-7,500, and between KD 4,500-5,500 for private higher education colleges.

As in the case of public education, the problem is not in the scarcity of money but in its waste and misdistribution. Within the "QS" ranking of universities, there are 48 Arab universities in the thousand best universities list in the world: 14 Saudi universities, including two universities ranked 109 and 163, UAE has 11 universities with one ranking 183, Lebanon has 8, Jordan has 4 and Bahrain has 3, while Kuwait has only 2 universities. These 2 private universities are the American University of the Middle East (AUM) in the 701-750 category and the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in the 801-1000 category. This means that Kuwait is not among the top 700 universities in the world.

We emphasize that educational reform is a priority, and any talk without a revolution that rescues it will only be a mirage. Besides and according to our esti-



**KUWAIT:** Students arrive at Kuwait University's College of Business in this file photo. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

mates, the costs for a student at a public university is twice the cost at private educational institutions, which is only acceptable if it is linked to the increase of public university rankings and the abundance of its research opportunities compared to those of the private education institutions.

What happens in reality is quite the opposite, which warrants an essential action plan. Granting lands for a

unified period to private education institutions is the wrong procedure. Instead, it should be linked to the progress within the categories of the scientific classifications: even if it extends to 100 years for those that continue to break the classification numbers for the better or withdrawn from those who fail. What is at stake is not money but the development of the human capital. — Al-Shall

## 'Park and Ride' application to control traffic

**KUWAIT:** A request to use a new application where drivers can park their cars in designated areas and use buses to take them to their destination has been sent by a member of Kuwait

Municipality Aliya Al-Farsi as part of the fourth infrastructural plan for Kuwait for 2040. "The project will improve our public transport system and road traffic, thereby decreasing environmental pollution by designating land and spaces for this purpose, which will be in accordance to the country's vision for the future to turn Kuwait into a financial center," the request said.

The service will be spread throughout six studied areas across all governorates, with the possibility of further expanding the service in the future. "The project consists of multistorey parking lots

and special parking spaces for high-quality buses where drivers can park their cars and take the bus to their destination. Moreover the project will also provide commercial spaces," Farsi said.

The service will be provided in Khaldiya, Adailiya, Jabriya, South Sabahiya, West Abu Fatira and Jahra. "The parking lots will not exceed 80 percent of the space, while 15 percent will be designated for buses and the rest will be for commercial activities," Farsi's request included. "The service will ensure comfort and security, as well as time for people to read during the trip instead of worry-

ing about traffic," she added.

A campaign at Kuwait University titled 'Park-Ride-Read' was started and surveys are currently underway in order to make the service more relevant to drivers, and whether it will be used or ignored. "The request comes after increasing concerns over Kuwait's rapid urban development, which puts pressure on institutions, resulting in increased traffic, increased accidents and an increase in air pollution," Farsi clarified. This service is currently being provided in many countries worldwide.

## Kuwaiti, US military top brass discuss cooperation

**KUWAIT:** Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt Gen Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah and Chief of Staff of the US Central Command Maj Gen Patrick Frank held discussions on several military matters on Sunday. Patrick and his delegation, on a visit to Kuwait, were warmly received at the Headquarters of the General Staff of the Kuwait Army, where they lauded the friendly relations between the countries, particularly in defense areas, according to a statement by the General Staff. Also in attendance were Director of Joint Plans Brig Gen Fawaz Al-Harbi and Asst Comd of Land Forces Brig Gen Abdullah Al-Jaba'a, along with a number of senior commanding officers.— KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt Gen Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah and Chief of Staff of the US Central Command Maj Gen Patrick Frank meet on Sunday. — KUNA

## Fire at Sulaibiya farm controlled

**KUWAIT:** A fire at a farm in Sulaibiya agricultural area was controlled on Saturday. "The central command sent fire squads from Sulaibikhat, Istiqlal, Jahra Al-Harfiya and support stations. Upon arriving at the scene, it appeared the fire started from a makeshift room located outside the farm and spread to a number of trees and agricultural crops spread out over an area of 10,000 square meters," the Public Relations Department of the Kuwaiti Fire Force announced. The KFF added the fire was controlled and there were no injuries.



**KUWAIT:** Firemen battle a blaze at a farm in Sulaibiya.

## Air customs seizes Lyrica, capsules

**KUWAIT:** The director of the General Directorate of Customs said air customs officers discovered 80 kg of Lyrica powder and 300,000 capsules ready to be filled in four shipments that arrived from an Asian country. The goods mentioned on the shipping documents included table salt, paint and food supplements.



**KUWAIT:** The drugs that were seized by air customs.

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## Local

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## News in brief

### Ojeiri Observatory: Suhail to be spotted on Aug 24

KUWAIT: Al-Ojeiri Observatory said on Sunday the "Suhail" star would be spotted on September 4 based on the Al-Ojeiri calendar. Head of the public relations and media department of the observatory Abdullah Al-Jaman told KUNA the emergence of the star meant improvement in weather, lengthening of shadows and shorter daytime. He added the star will be seen on August 24 in the southern half of the Arabian Peninsula, and later in Kuwait due to its geographical location. — KUNA



## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of Kuwait City. — Xinhua

## Kuwait 'Guest of Honor' at 2022 Amman int'l book fair



### PAM and Injaz hold 'My Road to Professionalism' program

KUWAIT: A program titled 'My Road to Professionalism' to train fresh graduates and young Kuwaitis was held by the Public Authority of Manpower and Injaz Kuwait. The two-day program included training courses and workshops related to time management, interview preparations, preparing CVs and being an active worker in a competitive professional work environment. The program included a complete explanation about the benefits of working in the private sector. There were 41 participants in attendance, who received a certificate from Injaz at the end of their program.



AMMAN: People visit the 20th Amman International Book Fair in this Sept 23, 2021 file photo. —Xinhua



AMMAN: Kuwait was chosen as the "Guest of Honor" at this year's edition of the Amman International Book Fair, starting from September 1 for a period of 10 days, it was announced Sunday. In a statement to KUNA, President of the Jordanian Publishers Association and Exhibition Director Jber Abu Fares said the decision came to enhance the brotherly relationships between the two countries,

mainly in the cultural field.

It will give the book fair audience "the opportunity to learn about the cultural and heritage efforts and the most prominent and distinguished cultural pioneering projects that Kuwait is working on," he noted. As for Kuwaiti activities at the exhibition, they will include a local cultural program and a symposium titled 'Jerusalem in the eyes of Kuwait',

besides a photo exhibition dedicated to the continuous support provided by Kuwait to the Palestinian people since the start of their war, Abu Fares added.

A group of Kuwaiti writers and intellectuals will participate in the exhibition in its current session to display their literary productions and shed light on the cultural and humanitarian heritage of Kuwait. — KUNA



### Envoy presents credentials to Italian foreign ministry

KUWAIT: New Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Quatani presented Sunday his credentials to Acting Director of the Protocol Department at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Claudio Michia. During a reception, the Kuwaiti ambassador conveyed the greetings of the Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti embassy said in a statement to KUNA. He also discussed with the Italian official ways of developing relations between Kuwait and Italy, promoting economic cooperation and boosting the number and level of official visits, it said. — KUNA

### Ceiling collapse report submitted to minister

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said the technical committee investigating a ceiling collapse at the Jahra Traffic Department completed its inspection of the building and submitted its findings to Deputy Premier, Defense Minister and Acting Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who ordered the referral of the case to the public prosecution.

## AU to extend strategic partnership with CQUniversity

KUWAIT: The Australian University (AU) has signed a collaboration agreement with Central Queensland University Australia (CQUniversity) to offer a joint "Doctor of Philosophy" degree. The agreement was signed by Prof Isam Zabalawi, AU President, and Prof Grant Stanley, Vice President Research - CQUniversity, during an AU-CQU Joint Research Committee meeting held on June 29, 2022. The PhD program is set to commence during the 2022/2023 academic year and is open to both current AU students and Alumni under the supervision of both universities.

The PhD program aims to support research priorities that are of mutual interest to both universities and will likely include topics in the areas of Regional Economies and Supply Chains; Work, Employment, Regulation and Governance; Sustainable Business and Community Justice; Energy; Environment; Digital Transformation; or Health. Additional research areas may also be considered if there is a demonstrated alignment with the research priorities of both universities and/or with the research objectives of relevant external organizations such as the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

AU and CQUniversity have had a long history of research collaboration since the initial Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed in 2015, and with the establishment of the AU-CQUniversity Joint Research Committee in 2016 to drive research cooperation between the two institutions. With support from KFAS, both universities have worked on joint initiatives such as undertaking impactful international research projects in a range of areas relat-



ed to engineering and business, as well as delivering educational business talks for the wider Kuwait community.

Prof Stanley said: "CQUniversity looks forward to continuing our research relationship through this new program which offers opportunities for CQUniversity and AU staff to work together on student research training to complement the successful work already undertaken via joint research projects. The collaborative PhD model will enable students based in Kuwait to access expertise from CQUniversity as well as travel support to visit Australia during their studies."

For his part, Prof Zabalawi commented: "There is no doubt that the joint program between both universities will further develop higher studies and scientific research and will give students the opportunity to network with their peers at the partner university, along with providing better opportunities for research. We further hope that the partnership will contribute to enhancing the development process undertaken by Kuwait, along with providing more job opportunities in the future. Finally, we at the Australian University believe that through this agreement we will provide better educational opportunities, as no one should be prevented from achieving their potential and acquiring a world-class higher education."

## 7th KUNA training program starts

KUWAIT: The KUNA program for college students for the 2022/23 academic year started on Sunday with the participation of 19 students from Kuwait University. "Journalism in all its aspects is an art which requires skill and training, and it has its own basis and regulations which must be followed after writing in any journalistic style," said Professor of Public Relations at Kuwait University and program supervisor Dr Ahmad Al-Kandari.

"Social media has become an integral part of our daily lives, especially journalists, and therefore, it must be used ethically and factually, since it's a tool that could be easily exploited. Moreover, students should take this opportunity to understand the principles of writing a news article, which is considered one of the most important journalistic styles and an entry point to the media workforce," Kandari said.

"The program will continue until September 24, starting with a workshop where students will learn the basics of writing news articles, as well as its types and sources, alongside learning Arabic grammar through their training," deputy chief editor of the international affairs department Uqab Al-Quwaie said. — KUNA





Japan PM tests positive for COVID-19

## How De Gaulle escaped bullets 60 years ago



MOGADISHU, Somalia: Security officers patrol near the destroyed Hayat Hotel after a deadly 30-hour siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists in Mogadishu. —AFP

# Somalia hotel siege toll hits 21

## Hotel building sustained heavy damage during gunfight

**MOGADISHU, Somalia:** The death toll from a devastating 30-hour siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists at a hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu has climbed to 21, Health Minister Ali Haji Adan said Sunday, as anxious citizens awaited news. Emergency workers have been trying to clear the debris of a gun and bomb attack by the Al-Qaeda-linked group on the popular Hayat hotel which left parts of the building in ruins, with many feared trapped inside the venue.

"The ministry of health has so far confirmed the deaths of 21 people and 117 people wounded" in the assault that began on Friday evening and lasted over a day, Adan said. On Sunday morning, the area surrounding the hotel was quiet and the roads blocked by a heavy security presence as emergency workers and bomb disposal experts sought to clear the premises of any explosives and remove rubble.

The hotel building sustained heavy damage during the gunfight between Somali forces and the insurgent. It caused some parts of it to collapse and leaving many people frantically searching for their loved ones who were inside when the attack began.

Police commissioner Abdi Hassan Mohamed Hijar told reporters on Sunday that "106 people including children and women" were rescued by security forces during the siege which ended around midnight. As bullets and flames ripped through the hotel, security forces searched the property to bring civilians to safety, including three young children who hid inside a toilet.

"The casualties mostly happened in the early

hours of the attack, after that security forces spent time rescuing people individually and room by room," Hijar said. The attack was the biggest in Mogadishu since Somalia's new President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took office in June, and underscored the challenge of trying to crush the 15-year insurrection by the Islamist group.

### 'Tense'

Dozens of people gathered near the road leading up to the hotel on Sunday morning, desperate for news of their family members as security forces guarded the area, not letting anyone through. Businessman Muktar Adan, whose brother was inside the hotel when the attack started, told AFP he was waiting for permission to enter the premises and look for his sibling. "My brother was inside the hotel the last time we heard from him, but his phone is switched off now and we don't know what to expect," he said. Said Nurow, who heard the attack unfold, said he was very worried about his friend who was a guest at the property.

"I hope... (he) is alive, he stayed in the hotel according to the last information we got from his sister," he told AFP, describing the mood as "tense". The hotel was a favoured meeting spot for government officials and scores of people were inside when gunmen stormed the property.

Somalia's allies, including the United States, Britain and Turkey, as well as the UN, have strongly condemned the attack. So did ATMIS, the African Union force tasked with helping Somali

forces take over primary responsibility for security by the end of 2024.

Earlier this month, Washington announced its forces had killed 13 Al-Shabaab operatives in an air strike, the latest since President Joe Biden ordered the re-establishment of a US troop presence in Somalia, reversing a decision by his predecessor Donald Trump.

### Twin explosions

Mohamud said last month that ending the jihadist insurrection required more than a military approach, but that his government would negotiate with the group only when the time was right. According to police, the attack began with a blast caused by a suicide bomber who forced his way into the hotel along with gunmen.

Minutes later, a second explosion struck as rescuers, security forces and civilians rushed to help the injured, witnesses said. Al-Shabaab spokesman Abdiaziz Abu-Musab told the group's Andalus radio earlier Saturday that its forces had "inflicted heavy casualties".

Al-Shabaab has carried out several attacks in Somalia since Mohamud took office, and last month launched strikes on the Ethiopian border. The militants were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011, but still control swathes of countryside and retain the ability to launch deadly strikes, often targeting hotels and restaurants. The deadliest attack occurred in October 2017 when a truck packed with explosives blew up in Mogadishu, killing 512 people. —AFP

## ICC chief Khan arrives in Sudan

**KHARTOUM:** The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Karim Khan has arrived in Sudan, state media reported in the country still wracked by unrest since the 2019 ouster of its leader accused of genocide.

"The ICC prosecutor and a court delegation will hold a number of meetings with senior officials and he will be visiting the Darfur region," the state news agency SUNA said late Saturday. Khan's visit will continue until August 25, SUNA said, a year after he visited the country for talks on outstanding arrest warrants over crimes committed during the 2003 Darfur war under ousted president Omar al-Bashir.

His visit this year is the third by an ICC prosecutor to Sudan since Bashir's ouster in April 2019. Khan's predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, held talks in Sudan in May 2021, bringing the strife-hit country's former leaders one step closer to being tried at The Hague for war crimes.

Sudan has been reeling from deepening unrest, spiralling economic crisis, and a spike in ethnic clashes, including in Darfur, since a military coup last year led by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The October military coup upended a fragile transition put in place following the ouster of Bashir, who was deposed following months of protests.

Bashir remains wanted by the ICC over his role in the 2003 Darfur conflict, which pitted ethnic African minority rebels complaining of discrimination against his Arab-dominated government. Khartoum then responded by unleashing the notorious Janjaweed militia, recruited from among the region's mainly Arab nomadic peoples. Human rights groups have long accused Bashir and his former aides of using a scorched earth policy, raping, killing, looting and burning villages.

The United Nations says 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million displaced during the conflict. In 2020, Sudan signed a peace deal with key rebel groups, including in Darfur, that was hoped to end the conflict in the far-flung region. Several ex-rebel leaders have since taken top positions in government.

Since his ouster, Bashir has been held in Khartoum's Kober prison along with several of his former aides who are also wanted by the ICC. He faces charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In April, senior Janjaweed militia leader Ali Muhammad Ali Abd al-Rahman, also known by the nom de guerre Ali Kushayb, faced the ICC in its first trial for war crimes in Darfur. —AFP

## Pope 'concerned' after Nicaraguan bishop detained

**VATICAN CITY, Holy See:** Pope Francis said Sunday he was "concerned" by rising tensions between the state and the Catholic church in Nicaragua, two days after bishop and regime critic Rolando Alvarez was detained.

Francis said he was following "closely with concern and sorrow" the situation in Nicaragua, amid a worsening standoff between the Church and a government accused of increasing authoritarianism. "I would like to express my conviction and hope that through open and sincere dialogue, the basis for respectful and peaceful coexistence can still be found," the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics said after the Angelus prayer.

The Catholic Church in Nicaragua has been under increasing government pressure since opposition protests in 2018 were met with repression that resulted in hundreds of deaths. President Daniel Ortega maintains the protests were part of a Washington-backed opposition plot to unseat him, and accuses bishops of complicity.

The Vatican has said Nicaragua expelled its ambassador to the country in March. Alvarez was detained Friday for "destabilizing and provocative" activities aimed at destabilizing the Central American country.

His detention followed two weeks under police siege at his official residence in Matagalpa, central Nicaragua, after he criticized the closure of Church radio stations and news channels. Supporters said



VATICAN CITY, Holy See: A boy comes to see Pope Francis during the weekly general audience at Paul-VI hall in The Vatican. —AFP

Alvarez was taken "with violence" to an unknown location, prompting the United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS) to express concern.

Eight others, including five priests, who had been holed up with Alvarez were taken to Managua with him, according to the Latin American Bishops Conference (CELAM), and were all under investigation. Later, the church said Alvarez was being held at his "family home" where Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes was allowed to visit him.

Brenes reported the bishop's "physical condition has deteriorated" but his "spirit is strong," the arch-

diocese of Managua said in a statement. The other eight were being held at El Chipote prison, according to the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (Cenidh), which is a notorious lockup for government critics.

Last week, the Cenidh said another Nicaraguan priest, Oscar Benavidez, was "removed from his vehicle and taken by patrol car to an unknown destination." According to the European Union, Nicaragua has more than 180 "political prisoners." In the first half of 2022, the bloc says, Nicaraguan authorities closed down over 1,200 civil society organizations. —AFP

## International

# Ex-president dos Santos' body lands in Angola from Barcelona

## Ending weeks-long feud over the repatriation of ex-president's corpse

**LUANDA, Angola:** The body of Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who died in Spain last month, arrived in Luanda on Saturday, ending a weeks-long feud over the repatriation of the ex-president's corpse.

A plane carrying the remains landed in the Angolan capital from Barcelona in the evening, AFP reporters at the scene said. Only a few dozen people had gathered at Luanda's airport to welcome the former president's casket.

"I was told he was going to arrive, so I came to greet him. It was a nice welcome," said Wilson

nified funeral," said another attendee, Telma Pilartes. Dos Santos, who ruled the oil-rich African nation with an iron fist from 1979 to 2017, died in Barcelona on July 8 at the age of 79 after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Since then, the question of when and where he will be buried has pitted the Angolan government and his widow against some of his adult children. A Barcelona court this week ordered his remains be delivered to Ana Paula and granted authorisation for "the repatriation and international transfer of (his) remains to Angola".

Dos Santos' 44-year-old daughter Tchize dos Santos filed an appeal to challenge the decision. But Josep Riba Ciurana, a lawyer for the widow told AFP a judge had granted immediate execution of the ruling, allowing the body to leave Spain.

### 'Ripped out of my arms'

"We are the first to be surprised," said Tchize's lawyer, Carmen Varela, adding they learnt about the repatriation from television and had not been "notified of anything". Varela explained they wanted to hold the funeral in Barcelona because returning to Angola is not an option for some members of the family.

Several of dos Santos' children have faced an array of corruption investigations in recent years. The repatriation came just a few days before Angolans are due to head to the polls in a national vote, and marks a small victory for President Joao Lourenco.

Lourenco was addressing a large crowd of supporters at a campaign rally in Luanda as the body's imminent return was announced. In an Instagram post, Tchize accused the president of using her father's corpse as a campaigning tool, describing this as a "world shame".

Deux-Eglises, the presidential car is flanked by an escort vehicle and two motorcycle outriders.

Night is falling when the signal comes from the mastermind of the attack, Jean-Marie Bastien-Thiry, an engineer in the Air Ministry with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Bastien-Thiry is a member of the Secret Armed Organization, known by its French acronym OAS, a far-right paramilitary group incensed by De Gaulle's decision to grant independence to Algeria after a brutal eight-year liberation war. The dozen-strong hit squad is a mix of "pieds-noirs"—Europeans born in Algeria during French rule which lasted from 1830 to 1962 — as well as former soldiers and students. The youngest is just 20 years old.

They open fire first with a machine gun from a yellow van, then from a second vehicle parked further down the road. The attack lasts just 45 seconds. More than 150 bullets are fired and there are eight impacts on the car body. One bullet goes through to the back passenger seat, shattering the window by the president and his wife, showered in glass. The De Gaulles owe a debt of gratitude to the sangfroid of their driver Francis Marroux, who had also been at the wheel a year earlier when the presidential car survived a first assassination attempt—later attributed to Bastien-Thiry—in the northeastern village of Pont-sur-Seine.

Marroux manages to keep control of the vehicle and speeds off on two flat tyres under more fire. De Gaulle's son-in-law Alain de Boissieu also plays a key

Al-Sabah said in June that the government will not interfere in the polls and the election of the Assembly speaker, a major boost for the opposition candidate.

Leader of the nationalist Popular Action Movement, former MP Musallam Al-Barrak, said the bloc's candidates who win seats in the Assembly will elect Saadoun as speaker. Saadoun's announcement is the biggest news so far in the current election campaign. He had served as speaker in 1985, 1992 and 1996, but lost in 1999 when the government backed the late Jassem Al-Khorafi for the post.

Affairs and Societal development Fahad Al-Shuraian issued six decisions to replace six cooperative society managers. The decisions appointed Mishal Duhwi as manager of Hiteen Co-op, Khalid Amer at Sabah Al-Nasser Co-op, Jassem Al-Kandari at Hadiya Co-op, Khalid Al-Qahtani at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Co-op, Ghunaim Al-Majidi as manager of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Qurain Co-op and Salama Al-Enezi at Jaber Al-Ahmad Co-op.

shifts offered to women drivers, she said. Omar said the tests for would-be drivers had been grueling, requiring candidates to demonstrate their "attention span" and "endurance". She said drivers had to remain "extremely vigilant for long hours" during a six-day working week.

Omar was one of two women accepted for the training program run by Egypt's National Authority for Tunnels in cooperation with RATP-Dev. The other, Suzanne Mohamed, 32, recalled the first time commuters on the platform saw her in the driver's cab. She said she could understand "they were surprised" in a country where women have limited access to many careers. "Some passengers were afraid," she told AFP. "They doubted my skills and said they didn't feel safe with a woman at the controls."

Launched in 1987, the Cairo metro is the oldest in the Arab world but it has fallen behind other Arab countries in providing employment opportunities for women. Moroccan Saida Abad became the first female train driver in Africa and the Arab world in 1999. Even in Saudi Arabia, where until recently women were banned from driving cars, a first group of women is currently in training to be drivers on the railways. — AFP



**LUANDA, Angola:** Supporters of Joao Lourenco, Angola's President and presidential candidate of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) gather during a campaign rally in Luanda on August 20, 2022, ahead of the Angola elections scheduled for August 24, 2022. — AFP

The nearly four-decade tenure of dos Santos saw members of his family capitalise on the nation's oil riches while most Angolans remained mired in poverty. When he stepped down in 2017, dos Santos handed over power to Lourenco, the former defence minister. But Lourenco quickly turned on his erstwhile patron, unleashing an anti-corruption drive to recoup billions he suspected had been

embezzled under dos Santos, a campaign that has targeted the former president's family.

"You took me to the altar and... I will not be able to take you to your last (resting) place," Dos Santos' eldest daughter Isabel, who has faced a slew of investigations into her multinational business dealings, wrote in an Instagram post. "They ripped you out of my arms." — AFP

role. Sitting in the front of the car he shouts "Get down, father!" to France's leader.

### 'Close shave'

The unflappable De Gaulle, aged 71 at the time, initially acts as if nothing has happened. On arrival at Villacoublay military airport he reviews the troops as usual. But when boarding the plane with Yvonne he admits to de Boissieu: "This time, it was a close shave!" Jean-Noel Jeanneney, French historian and author of a book on the attack, says a combination of factors explains the failure of the 1962 hit, notably that none of those involved were ready to die for the cause. Interviewed by AFP in 2012, one survivor of the cell blamed weapons jamming and shooters not being sufficiently trained. "They're such bad shots," De Gaulle tells Prime Minister Georges Pompidou in a phone call on the night of the attack.

News of the assassination attempt spreads quickly. "Failed attack against De Gaulle" AFP writes in a first "flash" at 8:55 pm. Another follows: "Shots were fired shortly after 8:00 pm against General De Gaulle's car near Villacoublay. No one was hit". Later it emerges that a man driving in the opposite direction was hit on the hand by a stray bullet but only lightly injured.

### Mastermind executed

The hunt for the culprits is swift and efficient, with one of the suspects spilling the beans on the whole operation after his arrest. Nearly all those involved



**PARIS:** A journalist shows the point of impact of a bullet on the car of President Charles de Gaulle on Aug 22, 1962. — AFP

are caught, including Bastien-Thiry. Nine men are put on trial, three of whom are sentenced to death.

De Gaulle pardons two of them but refuses clemency for Bastien-Thiry, who is the last person to be executed by firing squad in France on March 11, 1963 at the age of 35. Ever the strategist, De Gaulle harnesses public outrage over the attack to build support for a constitutional amendment to have the president elected by popular vote, rather than by an electoral college. The attack he confides to one of his ministers came "at just the right time." — AFP

## How De Gaulle escaped bullets 60 years ago

**PARIS:** August 22, 1962: French President Charles de Gaulle and his wife are being whisked by car through the Paris suburb of Petit-Clamart for a flight back to their country home, when a man on the side of the road waves a newspaper.

The signal has been given. A group of right-wing extremists spring into action and rake the presidential Citroen DS with gunfire. Three of the bullets penetrate the bodywork and pass within inches of De Gaulle's head but he and his wife Yvonne miraculously escape unharmed.

"They're such bad shots!" France's World War II hero later jokes about the attempt on his life which shocks the country and gives De Gaulle an opportunity to boost the powers of his office. Yvonne's immediate concern meanwhile is for the jellied chicken she has in the boot of the car, having stocked up on the delicacy while in the capital.

### Hail of bullets

Speeding along that summer evening towards a military airfield where they will board a plane taking them to their estate in the village of Colombey-les-

## Eligible voters jump by 40% to reach...

Continued from Page 1

Saadoun's announcement and said they will support him as speaker for the next house if they are elected. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal A-Ahmad Al-Jaber

## 50 info consultants sacked; no iqama...

Continued from Page 1

Also, Commerce and Industry Minister of Social

## Cairo metro employs first...

Continued from Page 1

Business graduate and mother of two Hind Omar said she had rushed to apply to be a train driver, eager to be a pioneer in a country where only 14.3 percent of women are in formal employment, according to 2020 figures.

"I have several thousand lives in my hands every day," the 30-year-old told AFP, proudly wearing a fluorescent jacket emblazoned with the RATP-Dev logo of the foreign operations arm of the Paris metro beneath her black and white headscarf. Omar acknowledged that she had been lucky to have the support of her family. "My parents found it strange at first but they ended up supporting me," she said. "My husband was enthusiastic from the start and always encouraged me."

A key factor had been the exemption from night

## Morocco king calls for support over Western Sahara

**RABAT:** Morocco's King Mohammed VI has called on his country's partners to "clarify" their position over the disputed Western Sahara territory and offer "unequivocal" support. "I would like to send a clear message to the world: The Sahara issue is the prism through which Morocco views its international environment," he said in a televised speech Saturday evening.

He also described the issue as the "clear and simple measure for the sincerity of friendships" between Morocco and its partners, in remarks marking the Revolution of the King and the People, a national holiday that celebrates the kingdom's anti-colonial struggle.

Rabat controls most of Western Sahara, which it views as its own territory. Morocco fought a 15-year war with the Polisario Front independence

movement after Spain withdrew from its former colony in 1975.

A United Nations-monitored ceasefire deal provided for a referendum, but Morocco has since rejected any vote that includes independence as an option, offering only limited autonomy. King Mohammed VI called on allies to "clarify their stance... in an unequivocal manner" on the matter. He did not specify which countries he was addressing, but saluted the United States' "incontrovertible" position.

The US under former president Donald Trump recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed former Spanish colony, a policy that has continued under his successor Joe Biden. The king also lauded recent moves by Spain and Germany to reverse previous policies and recognise Rabat's autonomy initiative for the territory.

In a U-turn, Spain in March publicly backed Morocco's autonomy plan for the disputed region after a months-long diplomatic spat. Rabat and Berlin had in February agreed to renew ties after a year-long diplomatic freeze over disagreements including on Trump's recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara. — AFP

## Four bodies pulled from...

Continued from Page 1

"We are working hard, with the utmost precision, to reach" those trapped, said Jawdat, director of the civil defense media department. "Any mistake could lead to further collapses."

One man at the scene, Bassem Khazali, said his nephew was among those buried. "I am afraid that all the efforts undertaken will be in vain... We want to know what happened, why it happened," Khazali told AFP. Shaker told AFP that "sand dunes and rocks collapsed onto the shrine building", blaming the saturation of the earth that had been caused by humidity.



**Members of Iraqi emergency services scan the rubble for victims following a landslide at the Qattarat al-Imam Ali shrine. — AFP**

The landslide on Saturday afternoon hit the shrine located in a natural depression about 25 km west of the Shiite holy city of Karbala. The rocks and sand started sliding because of the "saturation of the earthen embankment adjacent to the shrine", the civil defense told INA. — AFP

## International

# Japan prime minister tests positive for COVID-19, symptoms mild

## Japan mulls long-range missile upgrades due to China threat: Report

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has tested positive for COVID-19, his office said Sunday, a week before the leader was expected to attend an African development conference in Tunisia.

Kishida took a PCR test "after experiencing a mild temperature and a cough" from Saturday evening, an official from the Prime Minister's Office of Japan told AFP. Reports in local media including public broadcaster NHK said he may now attend the August 27-28 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) remotely.

Japan has logged record COVID-19 cases in recent days, although its total death toll from the disease is far lower than many other countries, at 36,780. The 65-year-old Kishida, who took office in October, had his fourth vaccine shot earlier this month.

He has been on holiday with his family and was due to return to work on Monday. Japan has never imposed a strict lockdown, and anti-infection measures mainly targeting bar and restaurant opening hours were lifted in March across the country.

The nation's borders have partially reopened although tourists are still banned unless they are on organised group trips. Tokyo has partnered with African countries since 1993 to hold TICAD around every five years.

At the upcoming meeting, Japan will strongly support "African-led development" with a focus on economy, society, and peace and stability, a Japanese foreign ministry briefing document said. Japan would also contribute to enhancing food

security in Africa to address the food crisis which had worsened due to the situation in Ukraine, the document said.

Meanwhile, Japan is considering the deployment of more than 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to increase its ability to counter growing regional threats from China, local newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Sunday.

The country plans to upgrade its existing surface-to-ship missiles to extend their range from 100 kilometres (62 miles) to about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), which would be enough to reach Chinese coastal areas as well as North Korea, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed sources.

Upgrades would also need to be made to allow Japan's existing ships and aircraft to be able to fire the new missiles, which could hit land-based targets, the newspaper reported. The missiles would be deployed in and around the southwestern Kyushu region and on the small islands that dot Japan's southwestern waters near Taiwan, Yomiuri reported.

Japanese officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the issue. The plan is part of Japan's attempt to narrow the missile capacity gap with China, while also addressing threats from North Korea, the newspaper said.

Japan's military is not officially recognised under the country's post-war constitution and defence spending is limited to funding nominally defensive capabilities. Recent geopolitical tensions, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's increasingly

aggressive stance over Taiwan, have prompted growing calls in Japan to review defence programmes.

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has vowed to significantly boost defence spending, which has been kept close to around one per cent of GDP. Local media also reported that Japan's defence

against state institutions and officers... is likely to disturb public peace and tranquility," it added.

The ex-premier is set to hold another rally tonight in the city of Rawalpindi, neighbouring Islamabad. Khan swept into power in 2018 thanks to an electorate weary of the dynastic politics of the country's two major parties, with the popular former sports star promising to sweep away decades of entrenched corruption and cronyism.

He remains highly popular among the country's youth and his speeches draw top ratings on television, with highlights trending on Pakistan's social media. Saturday night's protest followed the arrest of a senior leader from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, who authorities alleged had made anti-military remarks on a TV channel that was subsequently suspended.

Criticising the military—which has ruled Pakistan for roughly half its 75-year history—is considered a red line. A PTI senior official, Asad Umar, lambasted the media regulatory body's move to ban Khan's speeches.

"Banning Imran Khan's speeches telecast is another attempt to find an administrative solution to a political problem," Umar told AFP. He added that his party will challenge the ban in court. —AFP

charged with inciting violence and obstructing the course of justice over his speech and for having allegedly suggested that ZANU-PF members were behind the murder.

Police have arrested a man they say was the victim's ex-lover over the killing. Sikhala's lawyers have denied any link between their client and the violence. Amnesty International has described the case as "political" and a "travesty of justice".

The rights group's director for Zimbabwe, Lucia Masuka, told AFP the case is part of a pattern that has seen a string of opposition figures arrested in recent years, often on charges of inciting violence.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, a coalition of rights groups, logged 114 cases of arbitrary arrest across the country in the first six months of this year alone. High-profile cases include award-winning novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga who was arrested in 2020 over a protest and three young female activists held the same year on accusations of having faked their own abduction.

**Anger over economy**  
The crackdown comes as the government of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who replaced Mugabe in 2017, is struggling to rein in inflation which reached more than 250 percent in July, and Zimbabwe's chronic power cuts and ease entrenched poverty.

General elections are due to be held in 2023, at a date that is likely to be in the first half of the year. Mnetwa, a veteran defender of dissenters in Zimbabwe, said she expected the situation to worsen as the vote neared. "There is no question about it," she said.

"There's an economic meltdown, things are not working at all," said Masuka. "People are disgruntled". By going after the likes of Sikhala, the government was sending a message to discourage others who might want to engage in activism and speak out, Masuka said.

"He has to sleep on the floor and we have had a very cold winter," said Mnetwa. Sikhala is being held in a single cell typically used for prisoners considered danger-

ous, she said, and was shackled every time he changed location. An activist in the Movement for Democratic Change and now a senior official in the Citizens Coalition for Change, Sikhala faces up to 10 years behind bars if convicted. He is due in court for a bail hearing on Monday, after several previous failed bids to secure his release.

But Mnetwa was sceptical of his chances, saying that independent judges had been sidelined, disciplined or dismissed under Mnangagwa. "The point is not so much to have him prosecuted, but to harass him and to keep him in custody for as long as possible," she said. —AFP

"We urgently request the international community... to join hands with the Afghans at this critical time and (to) spare no effort to help the victims," Karimi said. The country's meteorological department said more heavy rains and floods were expected across 21 provinces in the coming days.

Foreign aid and disaster relief schemes have been dramatically reduced since the Taliban stormed back to power in August last year. Western nations are wary that any assistance could be commandeered by the Taliban and used to consolidate their grip on Afghanistan. —AFP



Japan has never imposed a strict lockdown



**TOKYO:** File photo shows Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (L) receives the fourth dose of the new coronavirus vaccine for COVID-19 in Tokyo. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has tested positive for COVID-19, his office said on August 21, 2022. —AFP

aggressive stance over Taiwan, have prompted growing calls in Japan to review defence programmes.

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has vowed to significantly boost defence spending, which has been kept close to around one per cent of GDP. Local media also reported that Japan's defence



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's former Prime Minister and leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) Imran Khan, speaks during an anti-government protest rally in Islamabad on August 20, 2022. —AFP



Job Sikhala

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## Pakistan bans live telecast of former PM Khan's speeches

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's media watchdog has banned television channels from broadcasting live addresses by former prime minister Imran Khan, ahead of his rally on Sunday. Since being ousted from power in a no-confidence vote in April, the former cricketing star Khan has staged a series of popular anti-government protests.

The ban, effective immediately, was issued late Saturday night—the same day Khan held a rally in the capital Islamabad in which he criticised police officials and the judiciary over the arrest of one of his party's leaders.

In a notice to television channels seen by AFP, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) said Khan was levelling "baseless allegations and spreading hate speech". "His provocative statements

## Zimbabwean MP pays the price of oppn in solitary cell

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa:** When Zimbabwean lawmaker Job Sikhala settles down to sleep at night, he does so on the floor of an ageing maximum-security prison in Harare. The 50-year-old opposition MP has been held in solitary for almost two months.

Jail is hardly a novel experience for the 50-year-old firebrand, who in a political career spanning more than two decades has been arrested 67 times but never been convicted, his lawyer says. Under Robert Mugabe—a liberation hero who ruled with an iron fist for 37 years—the southern African country gained a long experience with arrests of dissenters and abuse.

But rights groups say the clampdown has stepped into new territory, often featuring repeated detentions and exceptionally harsh custody, as elections loom. "It's worse than under Mugabe right now," Sikhala's lawyer, Beatrice Mnetwa, told AFP.

The justice and information ministries as well as the national prosecuting authority did not respond to an AFP request for comment. Sikhala was arrested in June along with fellow opposition politician and lawmaker Godfrey Sithole over a speech he gave at the memorial service for another opposition activist whose mutilated body was found in a well days earlier.

A practising lawyer, Sikhala told mourners that the woman's spirit would come back to avenge her death, his lawyer said. The day was marked by what police has described as an "orgy of public violence."

### "Travesty"

Supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party reportedly harassed funeral-goers. In turn, opponents torched the house of a ruling party official. Sikhala was

## Flash floods kill 20 in eastern Afghan province

**KABUL:** Heavy rains triggered flash floods in the eastern Afghan province of Logar, killing at least 20 people and destroying more than 3,000 homes, officials said Sunday. The rains lashed several areas of the province on Saturday, injuring more than 30 people in addition to those

## Five arrested in HK over Southeast Asia job scams

**HONG KONG:** Five Hong Kongers have been arrested for allegedly setting up job scams in which victims were lured to Southeast Asia and then held against their will, police announced Sunday. In recent months, victims have reported travelling to countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos on false promises of romance or high-paying jobs, and then being detained and forced to work.

On Thursday, authorities set up a task force to help trafficked residents who had fallen prey to the scams. Almost all of the 36 requests for police help were related to job scams, according to Tony Ho, senior superintendent of the organised crime and triad bureau.

Police have arrested three men and two women suspected of tricking Hong Kongers into accepting "highly unrealistic" job offers abroad, Ho said Sunday. Twenty-two victims are still believed to be ensnared in Cambodia and Myanmar, and nine among them have not contacted their families or the Hong Kong police, Ho said.

Ho said the victims were given flight tickets and most had their passports taken when they landed, before being sent to a scam centre and forced to defraud others. Politicians from Hong Kong's DAB party told reporters Sunday that a victim's family sought help from them as the Hong Konger had been trapped for about a month in a human trafficking hotspot in Myanmar's Kayah State.

"His family suspect he was physically abused," said Woo Cheuk-him, a politician who received the request for help. "He said he has been forced to work more than 10 hours a day... if he didn't perform well, he wouldn't be given enough food."

Human rights lawyer Patricia Ho said Thursday that Hong Kong's existing laws were not enough to tackle such scams, as the city had no legislation that specifically outlawed human trafficking and forced labour. —AFP

## Guinea opposition calls fresh protests after deaths

**CONAKRY, Guinea:** A political coalition on Saturday called for fresh protests a day after Guinea's junta denied its forces had shot dead two teenagers at opposition demonstrations earlier in the week. On Wednesday, an opposition alliance, relatives and neighbours said that security forces in Guinea's capital had shot dead two teens as their convoy drove through the capital Conakry during protests against the junta.

The National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC) accused junta leader Mamady Doumbouya's forces of having killed the pair, aged 17 and 19. Junta spokesman Amara Camara said in a statement released late Friday: "The rumours about shots fired from the presidential motorcade are false and unfounded."

But the FNDC, a coalition of political parties, trade unions and civil society organisations, called for fresh protests in messages posted on social media Saturday. The junta banned the group earlier this month.

The alliance staged rallies on July 28 and 29 in which five people were killed. It called for the demonstrations last Wednesday—also forbidden by the junta—at which the two teenagers were shot dead. —AFP

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

# Business

## British dock workers latest to join summer of strikes

### UK workers on a war-path over pay amid soaring inflation

**LONDON:** Workers at Britain's biggest container port, Felixstowe, on Sunday began an eight-day strike over pay, in the latest industrial action as decades-high inflation intensifies the country's cost-of-living crisis. Nearly 2,000 unionized employees at the port in eastern England, including crane drivers, machine operators and stevedores, started their walkout Sunday morning in the first strike at Felixstowe since 1989. It comes amid stoppages over pay and working conditions across various UK industries, with railway workers just the latest to strike on Thursday and Saturday this week.

Postal workers plan a four-day strike later this month, Telecoms giant BT will face its first stoppage in decades while Amazon warehouse staff, criminal lawyers and refuse collectors are among the others staging walkouts. Pay hike demands are driven by inflation, which hit a 40-year-high above 10 percent last month, as soaring food and energy prices hurt millions.

The Bank of England has forecast it will top 13 percent this year, tipping the British economy into a deep and long recession. The global impact of the war in Ukraine on energy and food prices, and, to a lesser extent, post-Brexit trade frictions are blamed for the UK's spiraling cost of living.

The Unite union representing the striking Felixstowe staff said the stoppage will have a big impact at the port, which handles around four million containers a year from 2,000 ships.

The union wants pay rises for its members at or near inflation, arguing the docks are "enormously profitable". "They can give Felixstowe workers a decent pay raise," said Unite general secretary Sharon Graham, who added that parent company, CK Hutchison Holding Ltd, handed out nearly 100 million (\$121 million) to shareholders in 2020.

The Port of Felixstowe said in a statement that it was "disappointed" the walkout had gone ahead and called its offer of salary increases of on average 8 percent "fair". "The port provides secure and well-paid employment and there will be no winners from this unnecessary industrial action," it added. A growing number of unions are planning strikes as Britain faces its worst cost-of-living crisis in decades. Latest figures put inflation at 10.1 per cent - a 40-year-high - and increasing numbers of Britons are struggling to cope with steeply rising energy and food bills as wages fail to catch up with the cost of living. Postal workers, lawyers, British Telecom staff and garbage collectors have all announced walkouts for later this month.

Rail workers began a series of large-scale strikes that grounded national train travel in June, demanding better pay and working conditions as authorities try to reform the rail system, which has lost large chunks of its income due to the coronavirus pandemic and shifting commuting patterns.

The government and transit unions have not reached a resolution despite months of talks. —AFP



**LONDON:** Workers at Britain's biggest container port, Felixstowe, on Sunday began an eight-day strike over pay.

## Asia Pacific growth poised to slow further: Report

**SINGAPORE:** The global economic outlook has darkened, and growth across Asia and the Pacific is poised to slow further amid the continuing impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other shocks, according to a recent report. Economic growth in Asia and the Pacific is projected to decelerate to 4.2 percent this year, 0.7 percentage points less than we forecasted in April and slower than the 6.5 percent growth in 2021. We lowered our 2023 forecast to 4.6 percent, down by 0.5 percentage points. Risks that we highlighted in our April forecast—including tightening financial conditions associated with rising central bank interest rates in the United States and commodity prices surging because of the war in Ukraine—are materializing. That in turn is compounding the regional growth spillovers from China's slowdown.

China, Asia's largest economy, saw a significant deceleration in the second quarter as the zero-COVID policy prompted lockdowns for major cities and supply-chain hubs. Accordingly, our full-year growth forecast is lowered to 3.3 percent from 4.4 percent in April, and we expect 4.6 percent growth next year, a reduction of 0.5 percentage points.

Such a decline in activity, which also reflects a prolonged and intensifying slump in the real estate sector, is likely to have sizeable spillovers on

regional trading partners. Japan and Korea, the two largest regional economies integrated closely with global supply chains and China, will also see growth slow on weaker external demand and disruptions to supply chains.

But despite China's recent slowdown, signs of a rebound in economic activity are emerging as some pandemic restrictions on mobility are now being gradually eased. The resilience of manufacturing and rebound in tourism is supporting a gradual rebound in Malaysia, Thailand and the Pacific island countries.

### Financial conditions tighten

Most emerging market economies in Asia, excluding China, have experienced capital outflows comparable to those in 2013, when the Federal Reserve hinted it might taper bond buying sooner than previously expected, causing global bond yields to rise sharply. The outflows have been especially large for India: \$23 billion since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Outflows have also occurred from some advanced Asian economies such as Korea and Taiwan Province of China, as the Fed signals continued rate hikes and geopolitical tensions reverberate.

Asia's share of total global debt has increased from 25 percent before the global financial crisis to 38 percent post-COVID, raising the region's susceptibility to changes in global financial conditions. Sri Lanka is an extreme case where the run up in debt became unsustainable and the economy lost access to global capital markets, leading to a default on its external obligations.

Furthermore, increased trade policy uncertainty and a fraying of supply chains, which contribute to

what was reported in the April edition of the World Economic Outlook.

Global inflation is rising because of food and energy prices and continuing supply and demand problems. This year, it is expected to be 6.6 percent in developed countries and 9.5 percent in developing countries. These numbers are revised upwards from the previous estimates by 0.9 and 0.8 percentage points, respectively.

Disinflationary monetary policy is expected to cause the global economy to grow by just 2.9 percent in 2023. Global economic slowdown: The global economy has slowed down, which has led to a decrease in business activity. This has been made worse by political instability and conflict.

Global trade: This is another reason the global economy is having problems. Trade volumes have continued to decline since 2022. This trend started because of the United States-China trade war that happened in 2019.

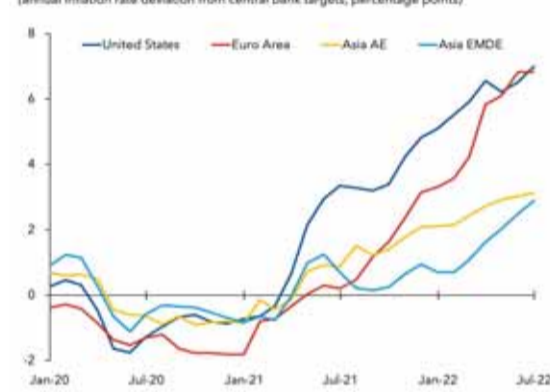
Global interest rates: There is less money circulating within countries' borders. As a result, there will be more demand for capital than the available supply. Hence, interest rates will go up. However, this might not be enough for some companies who need access to credit so they can continue operating without going bankrupt.

Global inflation: The rates have skyrocketed due to continued economic growth stagnation in both developed and developing countries. This can be mainly attributed because most central banks' currencies weakening against foreign currencies such as the US dollar by using monetary policy tools, including increasing interest rates or devaluing their currencies.

China's economic slowdown: In addition, China's economy has slowed down significantly since 2022 due to its continuous trade war with the United States and other problems such as COVID -19,

### Rising prices

Inflation is more moderate than in other regions but still above central bank targets in many Asian countries. (Annual inflation rate deviation from central bank targets, percentage points)

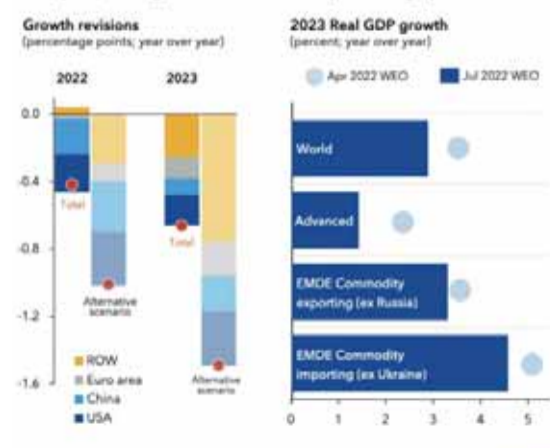


Source: Haver Analytics; IMF staff calculations. Note: Advanced Asia includes Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Mexico, Singapore and Taiwan POC. EME/EA Asia includes China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

the trend toward geoeconomic fragmentation, is expected to delay the economic recovery and exacerbate scarring from the pandemic in Asia—one of the biggest beneficiaries of decades of deepening global trade and financial integration. While growth is weakening, Asian inflation pressures are rising, driven by a global surge in food and fuel costs resulting from the war and related sanctions. That hits the poor and vulnerable the hardest, who are least able to cope, hurting consumption and raising the chances of social unrest, as seen in Sri Lanka, and in other countries. Asia's growing inflation pressures remain more moderate compared with other regions, but price increases in many countries have been moving above central bank targets. — IMF Blog

### Slowing growth

Growth is forecast to slow to 3.2 percent this year and 2.9 percent next year, downgrades of 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook (WEO) and IMF staff calculations. Note: ROW = Rest of the World; EME = Emerging Market and Developing Economies.

declining productivity levels, increased debt levels, and a real estate market crash.

Global unemployment: The global unemployment rate has risen to its all-time high of 7.8 percent in 2022. This can be attributed primarily to job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in labor force participation by younger people who were not previously looking for work. Although the US paints a different circumstance, global unemployment is hurting.

The Russia-Ukraine war: The United States and European Union (EU) placed economic sanctions on Russia. These sanctions have dramatically slowed economic growth rates within both countries and put pressure on their currencies. The overall outcome has also affected the global market since Russia is a major exporter of petroleum products and Ukraine is a major wheat exporter.

## Saudi leads ME, Central Asia in IMF growth outlook

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia led the Middle East and Central Asia in the IMF's World Economic Outlook growth projections for 2022 and 2023, according to a report. The kingdom, the Arab world's largest economy and world-leading exporter of crude oil, is forecast to grow 7.6 percent after expanding 3.2 percent last year.

The IMF estimates Saudi Arabia's growth to reach 3.7 percent in 2023. Meanwhile, "global inflation has been revised up due to food and energy prices as well as lingering supply-demand imbalances, and is anticipated to reach 6.6 percent in advanced economies and 9.5 percent in emerging market and developing economies this year—upward revisions of 0.9 and 0.8 percentage point, respectively."

"In 2023, disinflationary monetary policy is expected to bite, with global output growing by just 2.9 percent." The IMF said in its report: "With increasing prices continuing to squeeze living standards worldwide, taming inflation should be the first priority for policymakers. Tighter monetary policy will inevitably have real economic costs, but delay will only exacerbate them. Targeted fiscal support can help cushion the impact on the most vulnerable, but with government budgets stretched by the pandemic and the need for a disinflationary overall macroeconomic policy stance, such policies will need to be offset by increased taxes or lower government spending."

It added: "Tighter monetary conditions will also affect financial stability, requiring judicious use of macro-prudential tools and making reforms to debt resolution frameworks all the more necessary. Policies to address specific impacts on energy and food prices should focus on those most affected without distorting prices. And as the pandemic continues, vaccination rates must rise to guard against future variants. Finally, mitigating climate change continues to require urgent multilateral action to limit emissions and raise investments to hasten the green transition."

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's citizen unemployment rate fell to the lowest since 2008 as economic growth surged on the back of higher oil revenue. Joblessness was at 10.1 percent in the first quarter, down from 11 percent in the final three months of last year. The rate reached 5.1 percent for male citizens and 20.2 percent for female citizens, according to data published by the Kingdom's General Authority for Statistics.

The economy of the world's largest crude exporter grew nearly 10 percent in the first quarter, buoyed by higher oil prices and production. The non-oil economy, the engine of job creation, expanded 3.7 percent. Citizen unemployment peaked at over 15 percent at the height of the pandemic in mid-2020 and has since fallen almost every quarter.

Yet even in a booming job market, the labor participation rate for Saudi citizens fell by 1.4 percentage point from the fourth quarter to 50.1 percent in the first three months of this year. — Agencies



Business

# British leadership hopeful Truss downplays prospect of recession

## 'Help is coming' over the soaring cost of living

LONDON: Tory leadership favorite Liz Truss downplayed Sunday the prospect of a UK recession, while the man tipped to be her finance minister vowed "help is coming" over the soaring cost of living.

Truss, the frontrunner in polls to beat rival Rishi Sunak and become Britain's next prime minister, pledged in an interview to lead a "small business and self-employed revolution" if in power.

"There is too much talk that there's going to be a recession," Truss told The Sun on Sunday tabloid.

"I don't believe that's inevitable. We can unleash opportunity here in Britain." She argued that the UK should create the economic conditions to produce "the next Google or the next Facebook".

"It's about that level of ambition," Truss added. In a separate interview with the Mail on Sunday, Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng—who is expected to head the finance ministry in Truss's government—said he understood the "deep anxiety" sweeping Britain as decades-high inflation bit.

"But I want to reassure the British people that help is coming," he added, telling the paper that work had started on "the best package of measures" to allow the next prime minister to "hit the ground running". Either Foreign Secretary Truss or ex-finance minister Sunak will replace outgoing leader Boris Johnson after the result of the summer-long contest is announced on September 5.

The victor, set to formally take power the next day, faces a daunting challenge, with the Bank of England predicting a recession later this year as well as continued rising prices. Truss has vowed immediate tax cuts rather than direct financial handouts to help people struggling to pay their surging bills, drawing stinging criticism from Sunak, his allies and others.

### Gove backs Sunak

On Saturday, senior UK Conservative lawmaker Michael Gove accused her of taking a "holiday from reality" with the tax-slashing plans amid the cost-of-living crisis.

Gove, who has held a raft of cabinet roles and previously stood to be Tory leader, instead endorsed Rishi Sunak for the top job. "I am deeply concerned that the framing of the leadership debate by many has been a holiday from reality," Gove said in an article in the The Times newspaper.

"The answer to the cost-of-living crisis cannot



LONDON: Shoppers walking along Oxford Street in London. — AFP photos

be simply to reject further 'handouts' and cut tax."

He added Truss' plans to reverse a recent rise in national insurance taxes earmarked for the health and social care sector "would favor the wealthy", while slashing corporation tax would help "big businesses, not small entrepreneurs". "I cannot see how safeguarding the stock options of FTSE 100 executives should ever take precedence over supporting the poorest in our society, but at a time of want it cannot be the right priority," Gove said.

The 54-year-old, who previously supported the right-wing lesser known MP Kemi Badenoch in the leadership race before it narrowed to the final pair, said he now backed Sunak. "I know what the job requires. And Rishi has it," he added. Gove—who until July led the government's department for leveling up, housing and communities, and has previously led the education and justice ministries—indicated he was not likely to take on another role. "I do not expect to be in government again. But it was the privilege of my life to spend 11 years in the cabinet under three prime ministers," he added. —AFP



MANCHESTER, United Kingdom: Contender to become the country's next Prime minister and leader of the Conservative party British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss smiles during a Conservative Party Hustings event in Manchester, north-west England, on August 19, 2022.

## Soaring inflation warrants policy response: India CB

NEW DELHI: Inflation in India is persistently at elevated levels that warrants appropriate policy responses to anchor expectations going forward, said an article published by Reserve Bank of India. Retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) softened to 6.71 per cent in July, mainly on account of moderation in food prices.

The Reserve Bank has increased the benchmark lending rate (repo) in three quick successions by 140 basis points to tame inflation, which remains above its tolerance level for the seventh month in a row. "...perhaps the most heartening development in recent times has been the easing of inflation in July 2022 by 30 basis points from June 2022 and an appreciable 60 basis points from the average of 7.3 per cent for Q1:2022-23. "This has validated our hypothesis that inflation peaked in April 2022," said the article on the 'state of the economy'.

For the rest of the year, the RBI's projections scent a steady easing of the momentum of price changes, it said. The article has been authored by a team led by Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra. The RBI said the views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India. "With the trajectory of outcomes largely in line with projections, we expect momentum to ease from 3.0 per cent in Q1 to 1.7 per cent in Q2 and further to 1.3 per cent in Q3 and turn mildly negative in Q4 before picking up modestly and on seasonal food price effects to 2.2 per cent in Q1:2023-24," according to the article. If these expectations hold, inflation will fall from 7 to 5 per cent in Q1 next financial year - within the tolerance band, hovering closer to the target, but not yet positioned for landing, the authors said. — Agencies



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 18 AUG 2022

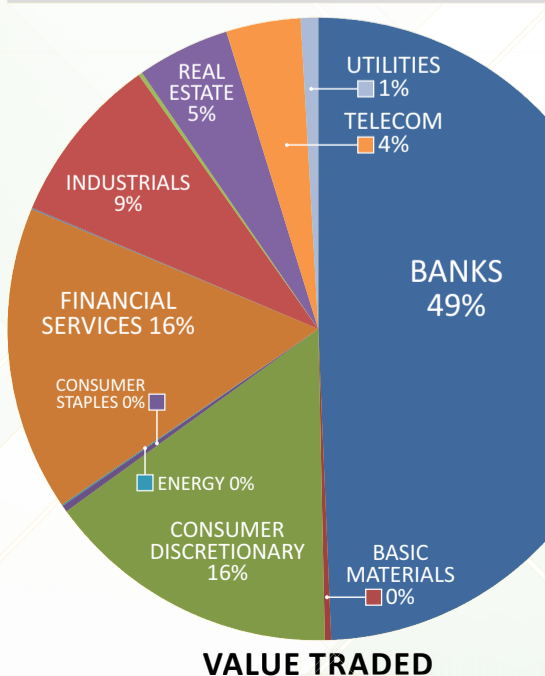
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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	36,091	8,580.05	-0.1%	-0.3%	12.3%	444,710,857	205,885,904	30,769	27.4	2.6	77.5%
Main Market	10,457	5,821.11	-0.6%	-0.9%	-1.1%	1,237,952,457	88,600,005	30,663	18.3	1.4	22.5%
All Share	46,548	7,685.43	-0.2%	-0.4%	9.1%	1,682,663,314	294,485,909	61,432	25.4	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	27,578	1,848.90	0.2%	-0.5%	13.9%	301,678,195	145,284,941	16,349	26.6	2.6	59.25%
BASIC MATERIALS	906	1,015.71	-0.3%	0.9%	-0.9%	1,841,213	960,337	492	12.0	1.3	1.95%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	1,040	1,553.88	1.0%	1.7%	16.3%	800,015,050	45,280,356	11,962	40.0	12.3	2.23%
CONSUMER STAPLES	158	519.19	-3.4%	-4.3%	-29.0%	2,567,006	1,000,239	432	34.0	1.1	0.34%
ENERGY	245	1,176.52	-1.4%	2.6%	-17.6%	8,905,289	215,947	195	12.7	1.2	0.53%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,662	1,430.14	-0.6%	-0.5%	0.5%	362,817,159	46,685,446	14,223	19.1	2.1	10.02%
HEALTH CARE	217	437.14	-0.2%	-5.4%	-45.2%	343,743	176,708	18	11.8	3.4	0.47%
INDUSTRIALS	4,333	1,224.37	-2.1%	-2.1%	7.3%	48,843,387	26,009,331	7,913	41.0	1.6	9.31%
INSURANCE	635	1,523.72	-2.7%	0.9%	-0.6%	6,279,440	588,629	457	7.4	1.0	1.36%
REAL ESTATE	2,675	1,247.55	-0.7%	-0.6%	-5.9%	117,420,580	14,205,239	5,848	26.2	1.2	5.75%
TECHNOLOGY	9	638.74	-5.1%	-10.4%	-6.6%	146,310	12,684	40	0.0	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,875	1,263.28	0.6%	1.5%	16.0%	18,289,551	11,392,186	2,683	14.8	2.2	8.32%
UTILITIES	216	515.79	-2.5%	-2.0%	-14.0%	13,516,391	2,673,867	820	15.0	2.2	0.46%

Top Gainers						Top Losers					
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
JIYAD	25	0.44	59,042,178	1,285,598	1,566	IFAHR	47.7	-0.14	726,987,248	37,215,972	8,201
KGL	72.1	0.14	5,907,330	421,445	367	MADAR	85	-0.11	800,100	68,767	10
FUTUREKID	128	0.12	1,238,203	153,353	90	TAMINV	412	-0.10	10,520	4,484	19
SULTAN	136	0.11	2,807,847	366,779	200	KSHC	33.1	-0.09	2,061,288	69,003	217
CLEANING	45.6	0.11	2,288,544	100,055	189	SOKOUK	24.8	-0.09	581,369	14,275	59

Top Volume						Top Value					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
IFAHR	47.7	-0.14	726,987,248	37,215,972	8,201	KFH	882	0.03	68,764,421	59,354,381	6,805
AUB	305	-0.01	142,996,548	43,400,614	3,366	AUB	305	-0.01	142,996,548	43,400,614	3,366
GFH	92.5	-0.04	121,362,808	11,393,752	3,550	IFAHR	47.7	-0.14	726,987,248	37,215,972	8,201
KFH	882	0.03	68,764,421	59,354,381	6,805	NBK	1,063	-0.01	19,675,326	21,095,750	2,293
JIYAD	25	0.44	59,042,178	1,285,598	1,566	AGLTY	850	-0.04	20,011,215	17,126,643	3,745



**Market Summary:**

- Premier Market M. Cap is 36.09 billion KD (%77.5), while Main Market is 10.457 billion KD (%22.5).
- Premier and Main indices gained some momentum last week which both will try to overcome the resistance and regain previous peaks.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7685, with support levels at 7677, 7635, and 7574, while resistance at 7726. Premier index closed at 8580, support levels at 8527, 8426, and 8335, while resistance at 8599. The Main index closed at 5821, support levels at 5813 and 5780, while resistance at 5845.

## Business

Al-Shall Weekly Economic Report

# Banks offered KD 44.679bn credit facilities for residents by June 2022

## Credit facilities to real estate sector amounted to KD 9.771bn

**KUWAIT:** In its monthly statistical bulletin for June 2022 as published on its website, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) stated that the balance of total public debt instruments (including securities and bonds transactions since April 2016) has decreased by KD 450 million reaching KD 500 million by the end of June 2022 versus June 2021, that is 0.9 percent out of 2022 GDP estimated at KD 57.951 billion (EIU estimates), excluding foreign public debts.

The average interest rate (return) on public debt instruments for a one-year term was 2.750 percent, 3.250 percent for 2 years, 3.375 percent for three years, 3.625 percent for five years, 3.750 percent for seven years and 3.875 percent for 10 years. Local banks capture 100 percent of the total public debt instruments (100 percent at the end of June 2021). The CBK bulletin states that total credit facilities for residents offered by local banks by the end of June 2022 scored KD 44.679 billion, about 54.6 percent of total local banks' assets, rising by KD 3.924 billion and indicating a growth rate of 9.6 percent over its level in June 2021.

Total personal facilities scored KD 20.502 billion or 45.9 percent out of total credit facilities

(KD 17.951 billion in the end of June 2021) and increased by 14.2 percent. Based on our estimation, this is a deviation from the beneficial credit growth. Total value of installment loans was at KD 15.214 billion or 74.2 percent of the total value of personal facilities. Share of facilities provided for the purchase of securities scored KD 3.005 billion, 14.7 percent of total personal facilities. Value of consumer loans amounted to KD 1.896 billion. Credit facilities to the real estate sector amounted to KD 9.771 billion or 21.9 percent of the total (KD 9.307 billion at the end of June 2021).

This means that about two-thirds of the credit facilities went to personal and real estate facilities. Nearly KD 3.312 billion or 7.4 percent went to the trade sector (KD 3.196 billion at the end of June 2021), and KD 2.484 billion or 5.6 percent went to the industry sector (KD 2.200 billion at the end of June 2021), KD 1.959 billion or 4.4 percent went to the construction sector (KD 1.854 billion at the end of June 2021), and KD 975 million or 2.2 percent went to the non-bank financial institutions (KD 953 million at the end of June 2021). The bulletin also indicates that total deposits at local banks stood at KD 47.108 billion, representing

57.6 percent of total local banks liabilities, rising by KD 2.955 billion compared to June 2021 at a growth rate of 6.7 percent, due to the rise in the public sector deposits by KD 316.7 million and the increase in the private sector deposits by KD 2.638 billion.

About KD 39.917 billion or 84.7 percent went to the clients of the private sector in its comprehensive definition including major institutions like the - Public Institution for Social Securities - and does not include the government. About KD 37.272 billion was in Kuwaiti dinars, 93.4 percent went to private sector clients and the equivalent of KD 2.645 billion was in foreign currency to private sector clients.

As for the average interest rate on customer term deposits, both in the Kuwaiti dinar and the US dollar compared to the end of June 2021, the bulletin recalls that the difference in average interest rate is still in favor of the Kuwaiti dinar at the end of both periods. However, the difference decreased due to the increase in US interest rates which exceeded the increase in the discount rate on the Kuwaiti dinar. The difference was at 0.583 points for 1 -month deposits, 0.383 points for 3



months, 0.388 points for 6 -month deposits and 0.419 points for 12 -month deposits. Conversely, the difference at the end of June 2021 was at 0.733 points for 1 month deposits, 0.809 points for 3 -month deposits, 0.858 points for 6 -month deposits and 0.896 points for 12 -month deposits. The monthly average exchange rate for the Kuwaiti dinar against the US dollar in June 2022 scored 306.240 Kuwaiti fils for each US dollar, a decline of - 1.8 percent compared with the monthly average for June 2021 when it scored 300.900 fils per one US dollar.

## Solomon Islands wins \$66m Chinese loan for Huawei deal

**SYDNEY:** Solomon Islands has secured a \$66 million loan from China to fund tech giant Huawei building 161 telecoms towers across the Pacific nation, its government said. It is the first large-scale financing the country has received from Beijing since they signed a secretive security pact in April.

The island nation's growing financial and security links to China have roused concern from the United States and its allies, including Australia, which had agreed to build six telecoms towers in the country.

The Solomons will receive a 20-year concessional loan from state-linked Export-Import Bank of China that will fully fund Huawei's construction of the towers, the government said, calling it a "historical financial partnership". Almost half of the towers will be built before the country hosts the Pacific Island Games in November 2023, according to the government's statement.

The towers would allow Solomon Islanders, especially those in rural areas, to watch the games even if they cannot travel to capital Honiara, the government said.

Western officials have warned China could use the security pact to build a military base in the country-something the Pacific nation's prime minister, Manasseh Sogavare, has repeatedly denied.

The country switched diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing in 2019. A spokesperson for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said they were aware of the telecoms deal and supported infrastructure investment that "avoids unsustainable debt burdens". Earlier this month, Sogavare proposed changing the constitution to delay national elections until after the games, saying the country could not afford both events.

That was slammed as a "lame excuse" by opposition leader Matthew Wale.

If the push to delay elections is successful, Solomon Islands would not go to the polls until 2024 at the earliest. The next election-currently due to be held before September 2023 - will be the country's first since widespread rioting by anti-Sogavare protests broke out in Honiara last year.

It would also be the first poll since Sogavare signed the security pact with Beijing, which-according to a leaked draft-would allow Chinese security forces to be called in to quell unrest. —AFP

## Huawei MateBook D16: Solid performance, cool super features

**KUWAIT:** Laptops come in many sizes and designs. Laptops that are both compact and powerful exist but are generally expensive. Well, comes into play the newly launched Huawei MateBook D 16. A 16-inch compact, high-performance laptop that has everything you need and more. It has a large and immersive display, a sleek metallic body, powerful performance, next-level Super Device features, and it's smarter than your average laptop. Here are all the reasons why we love it.

### A large and comfy display

If you spend long hours in front of your laptop, the 16-inch Eye Comfort Huawei FullView Display on the Huawei MateBook D 16 might just be the right thing for you. The large display surrounded by ultra-narrow bezels draws your attention to the content while minimizing distractions.

The taller 16:10 aspect ratio of the screen also helps improve productivity. It allows more headroom for viewing web pages, documents, and charts. You can also enjoy rich details and vivid colours from the Huawei MateBook D 16 display. Besides, the display has certified TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light (Hardware Solution) certification for its hardware-based low blue light solution that can accurately reproduce colors without the dreaded yellow cast. The display uses DC

## Turkey forces banks to slash commercial loan interest rates

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey is pushing commercial lenders to slash interest rates charged on loans to companies after the central bank moved this week to stimulate the economy with a surprise rate cut.

The monetary authority on Saturday released rules that will force banks to bring commercial loan rates closer to Turkey's benchmark policy rate, in an attempt to counter signs the \$800 billion economy might be slowing. The regulations follow the central bank's decision on Thursday to cut its policy rate to 13 per cent, even with inflation running at a 24-year high of 80 per cent.

The intended objective is to keep relatively cheaper cash flowing to companies and generate jobs as Turkey gears up for elections in 2023. Banks will also need to carry more lira-denominated government bonds to adjust, a requirement that may prompt a rally in Turkish debt markets like the one that followed similar measures in June. The monetary authority said the regulations will strengthen the so-called transmission mechanism, or its ability to influence the cost of money that banks lend to their customers.

But the bulk of the changes are aimed at lowering the cost of loans for corporate customers.

Lenders that charge too much or lend too aggressively will be required to park a larger amount of lira assets at the central bank. Lenders asking for interest rates of 22.85 per cent to 29.4 per cent on new commercial loans will be required to lock lira bonds worth 20 per cent of new credit at the monetary authority. For even higher interest rates, the ratio rises to 90 per cent.

## China attempts to 'induce' rainfall with cloud-seeding

**BEIJING:** Asia's largest waterway, the Yangtze River, is now at record low levels amid a historic drought and record-breaking heatwave in China, with the country now attempting to induce rainfall with cloud-seeding planes.

The climate crisis-induced extreme weather events have hit the country in two ways - the heatwave has increased the demand for energy, while the drought has impacted hydropower reservoirs, about half of which have been forced to stop work. As a result, large swathes of the country are facing a power supply shortage with prolonged power cuts and worsening water levels, while heavy flooding is reported in other areas.

dimming method to alleviate eye fatigue. Also, this laptop is easy to carry around with a sleek metallic body that weighs just 1.7kg and measures only 18.4mm in thickness.

### Breeze through your workload

Would you agree that most office tasks could be done faster and easier if only your laptop could keep up with your pace? If yes, the Huawei MateBook D 16 offers the solution by giving you all the power of 12thGen Intel Core H-series processors. The highest variant of the laptop packs the i7-12700H Processor, which has 14 cores and 20 threads. If the cores and threads confuse you, just know that it's blazing fast. Even heavy tasks such as data analysis or technical drawing are going to run fast. No less significant is the fact that you have two power modes to choose from. Press the Fn and P keys at the same time, and you will be able to toggle between the Standard Mode and the Performance Mode.

### Super device for a seamless experience

The Huawei MateBook D 16 takes multi-device collaboration to a whole new level, thanks to Super Device, bringing super productivity with a cohesive multi-device experience. It lets you effortlessly connect to other Huawei devices nearby, and collaborate between them all. Simply place your Huawei earphones, mice, keyboards, speakers and printers close to the Huawei MateBook D 16, and the laptop will automatically discover them and provide a prompt for quick and easy pairing.

In addition, with smartphones like the newly launched Huawei P50 and tablets like the 12.6-inch Huawei MatePad Pro, it is even more useful. Once you have wirelessly connected your phone, you will see its UI (User Interface) appear on



The new regulations apply to loans that will be extended through the end of the year, and the rates band will remain linked to the official policy rate. There's been a sharp divergence between Turkey's official policy rate and the cost of loans in the banking sector in recent months.

Lenders now charge more than double the central bank's rate, which had been held at 14 per cent since December until Thursday's cut. The average rate for commercial loans in liras spiked to 30 per cent in July, the highest in four years. While it's fallen slightly amid complaints from businesses about a finance crunch, it was still at 27 per cent as of August 12, according to official data.

The ministry of water resources said in a notice on Wednesday that drought throughout the Yangtze river basin was "adversely affecting drinking water security of rural people and livestock, and the growth of crops". To combat the dual challenge, the country is trying to artificially induce rainfall with cloud seeding.

Several regions along the Yangtze have shot rockets into the sky in recent days to "seed" clouds with chemicals to try to make them produce more rain, according to Chinese media.

The latest province to try to artificially modify weather was Hubei, which announced on Wednesday that it would use silver iodide rods. In the process of cloud seeding, these small silver iodide rods that are shot up into the cloud would serve as an agent to increase moisture, making it more likely to release. These rods typically have a structure similar to ice and provide a base for snowflakes to form.

Cloud seeding has been in practice for almost eight decades now. China has the biggest program

for cloud seeding in the world and has used this technique in the past, including during Beijing Olympics in 2008. However, its effectiveness is debatable and the process contains several risk factors, including unknown long-term impact on weather patterns.

The country, however, is in a desperate state currently for solutions as the ongoing weather extremes have affected millions of people, besides the severe impact on the power and agricultural sector as well as its economy. —Agencies



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your laptop screen, so you can operate it as if your smartphone and laptop are one device. You can access and edit your files, use and manage up to three phone app windows simultaneously, take video or audio calls from your phone through your MateBook D16, and even use your mouse and keyboard to control your smartphone.

Your tablet can be transformed into a drawing pad or second screen, with documents, images and more seamlessly shared between the two. The Huawei MateBook D 16 can also connect to a Huawei MateView monitor, so you can see your work on an even larger screen. The laptop also supports multi-device file management and AI search.

### Ace your online meetings

Laptop webcams have never been that good. Videos don't look all that flattering with them. But Huawei MateBook D 16 is here to change the game with its 1080P AI Camera. The new camera and the Smart Conference features make video conferencing a delight, thanks to the picture quality and smart AI features. This laptop has a slew of tricks up its sleeve to make



video calls look better and more engaging. The AI Camera smart feature processes the video, adding video effects like Virtual Background, FollowCam and Eye Contact, which are even supported by third-party video calling applications.

During a video call, the AI Camera's FollowCam adjusts the screen in real-time to keep you in the centre of the shot. Even if you move around, your audience never gets distracted from what you are saying. Huawei MateBook D 16 features a quad-mic setup placed along the laptop's edges, supporting sound pick-up from sources up to five meters away from the device.

Lifestyle | Features



This picture shows family members performing the "Manene" traditional rite of cleaning the preserved remains of deceased relatives in Lembang. —AFP photos



This picture shows members of the Toraja ethnic group exhuming bodies of their relatives from a community burial site (right), to be cleaned and dressed in a series of traditional ceremonies honoring the dead known as "Manene", in Torea village in North Toraja, Indonesia's South Sulawesi.

# Dressing the dead: Indonesians clean corpses in afterlife ritual

A family on an Indonesian island poses for a photo with an elderly relative no longer able to smile, while another clan tries to dress one of their eldest forebears in khakis and a shirt. But the eldest generation isn't stuck in a retirement home or harboring a grudge against their younger kin—they are dead. In two small towns on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, residents are celebrating a days-long ceremony called the Manene.

Hundreds of corpses are pulled out and dressed in the village of Torea as part of the ritual to honor their spirits and provide offerings. "When we do Manene, we would start by opening the grave chamber and cleaning it and its surrounding area," one of the family members, Sulle Tosae, told AFP. "Then, we would dry the bodies under the sun before [we] change their clothes," he said. Coffins holding the preserved bodies of their loved ones are pulled from a burial cave carved into the mountainside.

"The offerings are a symbol of gratitude from the children and grandchildren to the departed ones," Torea village head Rahman Badus told AFP. They honor their spirits "so they can always bless the living with safety, peace and happiness," he said. One family offered their freshly exhumed relative a cigarette, while another affixed a pair of stylish sunglasses. A few of the bodies remain relatively intact from the mummification process while others have deteriorated to skeleton remains.

## Spirits of the dead

Torajans are an ethnic group that numbers about a million people on Sulawesi island. They have few qualms when it comes to talking with an embalmed corpse, dressing them up, brushing their hair or even taking pictures with a mummified relative. Depending on the village, the Manene is usually held every few years in July or August.

The Torajans believe spirits of the dead will linger in the world before their funeral ceremonies and will begin their journey to the land of spirits after their



Members of the Toraja ethnic group exhuming bodies of their relatives from a community burial site (left), to be cleaned and dressed in a series of traditional ceremonies honoring the dead known as "Manene", in Torea village in North Toraja, Indonesia's South Sulawesi.

souls are immortalized. The families will preserve the body until they have saved enough money for an elaborate funeral. The deceased were previously mummified through an embalming process using natural remedies such as sour vinegar and tea leaves. But many families now take the shortcut of injecting a formaldehyde solution into the corpse.

The disinterring is a shocking and gruesome scene for onlooking Western tourists, yet residents are more than happy to clean out the bodies, take pictures and pray for their souls. But the village chief says some locals have gone too far. "The bodies must be treated with the utmost respect in the Manene ritual," Badus said. "Relatives are paying respect to their parents or ancestors and disrespect has consequences." —AFP



Family members performing the "Manene" traditional rite of cleaning the preserved remains of deceased relatives in Lembang.



Members of the Toraja ethnic group exhuming bodies of their relatives from a community burial site, to be cleaned and dressed in a series of traditional ceremonies honoring the dead known as "Manene", in Torea village in North Toraja, Indonesia's South Sulawesi.



A family member performing the "Manene" traditional rite of cleaning the preserved remains of a deceased relative in Lembang.



## J Lo and Ben Affleck hold lavish estate wedding

Celebrity couple Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck tied the knot Saturday—for the second time in just over a month—in a lavish ceremony at the "Good Will Hunting" star's estate, US media reported. The A-list lovebirds already wed in Las Vegas in mid-July, but made it official again, this time in front of friends and family at Affleck's 87-acre (35-hectare) waterfront compound in the southeastern US state of Georgia.

Among the Hollywood types in attendance at the three-day affair were longtime Affleck pal Matt Damon and director Kevin Smith, People magazine reported. Guests wore all-white while Lopez donned a Ralph Lauren dress made in Italy, according to Fox News. Images posted by celebrity gossip site TMZ ahead of the wedding showed dinner seating being arranged on what appeared to be a large, covered dock, with a substantial barge for pyrotechnics floating nearby.

The pair—he is 50 and she is 53 — first met on the set of the widely panned movie "Gigli" in 2002. They became a media sensation as they dated but postponed their planned 2003 nuptials, then announced their relationship was over in early 2004.

"Bennifer"—the couple's public nickname from their first highly publicized relationship—set the internet alight last year when photos of them together again began circulating. Lopez and Affleck announced their engagement in April. Lopez posted a video of herself appearing emotional and admiring a green ring in her newsletter. "On The JLo." US media reported that the ring was an emerald-cut pale green diamond. This is the fourth marriage for Lopez and the second for Affleck. Lopez discussed her renewed relationship with Affleck in an interview with People in February. "It's a beautiful love story that we got a second chance," she said. —AFP

The closest most people get to owning a world-famous artwork is to buy a cheap poster from a gallery, but art dealers are determined to harness technology to draw in new collectors. Anaida Schneider, a former banker based in Switzerland, is among those promoting new ownership schemes—for a small fee, investors can buy a digital chunk of a painting and share in the profits when she sells. "Not everyone has \$1 million to invest," she told AFP. "So I came up with the idea to split, to make like a mutual fund but on the blockchain."

Each buyer gets an NFT, the unique digital tokens created and stored on the blockchain, the computer code that underpins cryptocurrencies. Although cryptoassets have been routed this year with plunging values, collapsing projects and widening scandals, the NFT art sector has weathered the storm better than other parts of the crypto world. NFT artworks accounted for some \$2.8 billion in sales last year and the rate has declined only slightly in the first half of this year, according to analyst firm NonFungible.

Collectors and artists are among the most eager experimenters with the technology, even if it means owning only a slice of a digital copy of a painting. A fifth of 300 collectors surveyed by the



In this file photograph a gallery assistant looks at a digital reproduction of the painting 'Madonna del Cardellino (Madonna of the Goldfinch)' by Raphael, displayed as part of the 'Eternalising Art History: From Da Vinci to Modigliani' exhibition at the Unit London gallery in London, where so-called "NFT", (non-fungible token) digital reproductions of six Italian masterpieces, are on display in London as part of the exhibition, entitled "Eternalising Art History". —AFP

website Art+Tech Report said they had already engaged in so-called fractional ownership. Schneider's Liechtenstein-based company Artessere offers squares of paintings by Soviet artists including Oleg Tselkov and Shimon Okshteyn for 100 or 200 euros (\$100 or \$200) a piece. She is giving herself 10 years to resell them. Schneider owns the paintings she sells, thus avoiding legal complications, but attempts to offer novel digital ownership schemes for publicly owned works is proving more tricky.

## 'Complex and unregulated'

Thirteen Italian museums recently signed deals with Cinello, a firm that sells limited edition digital reproductions, to offer ownership of digital replicas of masterworks. The buyer gets a unique, high-resolution digital copy to project onto a screen and a certificate from the museum, which gets half the proceeds. The company held a splashy London show in February displaying digitized works by Renaissance masters including Raphael, Leonardo and Caravaggio. It has since sold

a handful of them.

But the Italian culture ministry was reportedly irked that a replica of Michelangelo's "Doni Tondo" sold for around 240,000 euros but Florence's Uffizi gallery got less than a third of the proceeds. A spokesman for the ministry was quoted in several outlets last month as saying the issue was "complex and unregulated" and asked museums not to sign any new contracts around NFTs. Cinello boss Francesco Losi was not pleased with the characterization, telling AFP: "We don't sell NFTs." Buyers can ask for an NFT to go with their image, but the firm said they had their own patented system to secure ownership, which they call DAW.

## Mixed blessing

Cinello said it had digitized more than 200 works and its sales had generated 296,000 euros in extra revenue for Italian museums. But the firm's difficulties in Italy underline the mixed blessing of NFTs—they bring publicity but also suspicion. The NFT sector—which covers anything from avatars in computer games to million-dollar cartoon apes—is replete with scams, counterfeit works, thefts and wash trading. Losi said he was well aware that NFTs could be used "in the wrong way" and was unsure what future they had in the art world. —AFP

# Art market pushes on with rocky crypto romance

# Rat race: What rodent drivers can teach us about mental health



Rats climb around their car as part of a study at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. —AFP photos



Olivia Harding returns rats to their cage as part of a study at the University of Richmond.



Olivia Harding handles rats as part of a study at the University of Richmond.

The girls can't hide their excitement as they're brought out to the racing arena. "Black Tail" is up first, taking a few seconds to sniff her surroundings before placing her paw on a lever and zooming away. After storming to the finish line, she devours a well-earned Froot Loop hanging on a "treat tree." Black Tail is one of the University of Richmond's rat drivers—a group that first dazzled the world with their ability to operate tiny cars back in 2019.

Now, the rodents serve as ambassadors for the school's Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory, headed by Professor Kelly Lambert. "It gets people's attention about how clever and teachable these animals are," explained Lambert, who has to balance her affection for the furry speedsters with the need for scientific detachment—naming them only by the Sharpie colors that mark their tails. The idea of racing rodents started out as a playful challenge from a colleague.

But far from being a novelty act, the animals are part of a boundary-pushing project exploring the ways in which environmental enrichment sculpts the brain—and could in turn hold potential for solving human mental health challenges. For Lambert, one of the great failings of modern medicine has been its inability to cure mental illness through drugs, even as pharmaceutical companies have reaped in huge profits.

These pharmaceutical approaches have faced increasing scrutiny since a landmark study published in July questioned the theory that chemical imbalances, especially a lack of serotonin, cause depression.

## Roots of their labor

Instead, Lambert sees behavior therapy as the key to treating the mind, which is



Olivia Harding handles a rat as part of a study at the University of Richmond.

where studying fellow mammals comes in. "Our brains are changing, from the womb to the tomb," she said. "If we have some type of engaging life, this is probably important and related to depression."

A previous experiment of hers had split rats into groups of "workers," who were assigned an effort-based reward task of digging through dirt mounds for a Froot Loop—or a control group of "trust fund" rats that were simply handed over treats.

When challenged with stressful tasks, the worker rats persisted longer than those conditioned to remain in a state of what psychologists call "learned helplessness." And when tasked with swimming, the worker rats showed greater emotional resilience, as shown by a higher ratio of the hormone dehydroepiandrosterone to cortisol in their droppings.

Rats that learned to drive also had biomarkers of greater resilience and lowered stress—which Lambert suggests might be linked to the satisfaction of acquiring a new skill, like a human mastering a new piano



Olivia Harding handles rats as part of a study at the University of Richmond.

piece. "They make pathways that they take over and over again in the wild, and we wanted to see if they could continue to have this great navigational skill in a vehicle," explained research lab specialist Olivia Harding. Training wasn't simple: the team first tried having the rats nudge the driving control with their snouts, before finding the animals preferred to stand on their hind legs and use their front paws.

Early car models required the rats to touch wiring placed in the front, left or right of the car, completing a mild electric circuit that corresponded to movement direction. Now, though, they get around in fancier rides with levers designed by a roboticist.

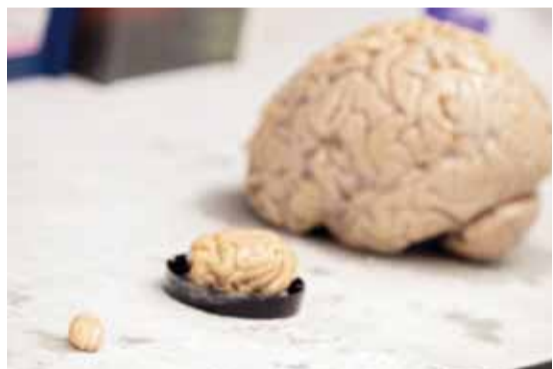
Even when their cars were placed in an unfamiliar spot, pointed away from the treat, the rats learned to turn their vehicles and navigate toward the reward, indicating

advanced cognitive processing at work. Today's driving ladies, Black Tail and Multicolored Tail, show clear signs of "anticipatory" behavior when humans enter the room, pacing back and forth and trying to climb their walls. However, just like people, not all rats have similar interests: while certain individuals seemed eager to drive just for the fun of it, others did so just for treats, while still others couldn't be coaxed into participating at all.

## Into the wild

Female rats in particular were long ignored by science, because earlier generations of researchers thought their four-day estrous cycles muddied research results. This potentially deprived scientists of female-specific insights, a trend Lambert has been adamant to reverse in her experiments—and is also now a required condition for federal grants. Lambert recognized early in her career that studying rats living "non-enriched" lives inside cages without obstacle courses and activities was of limited use, akin to studying humans in solitary confinement.

In her driving study, rats raised in enriched cages fared far better at driving tasks. Her most recent paper focused on differences between lab rats and those caught in the wild—finding the latter had larger brains, more brain cells, larger spleens to fight disease, and much higher stress levels than their captive cousins.—AFP



Preserved brains of a rat, raccoon, and human in Dr Kelly Lambert's lab at the University of Richmond in Richmond.



Rats are part of a driving study at the University of Richmond in Richmond.



A rat drives a car as part of a study at the University of Richmond in Richmond.

## Hadraawi, 'Shakespeare of Somalia', dies aged 79

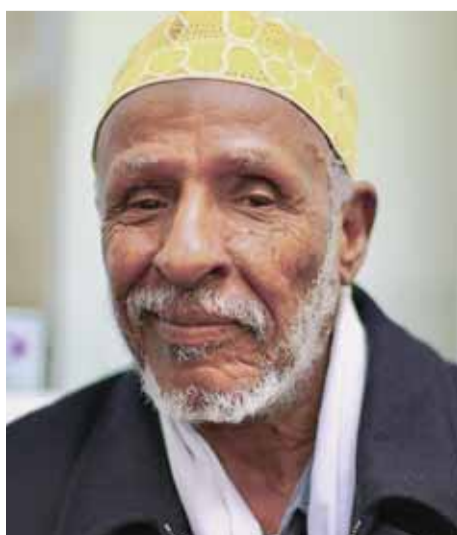
Award-winning Somali poet Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame, better-known by his pen name Hadraawi, died Thursday aged 79, prompting a flood of tributes to the "Shakespeare of Somalia". Hadraawi died in a hospital in Hargeisa, the capital of the breakaway region of Somaliland, after battling ill health for the past seven years. The poet, who composed dozens of songs and epics in verse, spent five years in prison during the military dictatorship of Siad Barre for criticizing the regime.

Following his release, he moved to Ethiopia, where he joined the opposition Somali National Movement before travelling to Britain and finally relocating to Somaliland, where he was a popular presence at literature workshops and seminars. "This is shocking and a great loss, I want to inform the Somali speaking people anywhere and the world about the death of poet Hadraawi, and that we ought to pray for him now," Somaliland president Muse Bihi told a press conference in Hargeisa.

"I send my condolences to the Somaliland people and to all other Somali-speaking people anywhere in the world, we will prepare his burial," he added. Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the British government's representative in

Hargeisa, Lizzie Walker, also expressed their condolences. "May God have mercy on poet Mohamed Warsame Hadraawi, he was one of the Somali intellectuals who spent efforts in contributing to the awareness of Somali people and their literature," Mohamud said in a statement.

"Sending my heartfelt condolences to the people of #Somaliland and to all #Somalis for the loss of Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame 'Hadraawi', an iconic poet and one



Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame

of the most eminent and beloved Somali poets of all time," Walker said on Twitter. Hadraawi had no surviving children and his wife died earlier this year.

## 'Profound and beautiful'

One of nine children, Hadraawi was born in Somaliland's second largest city Burao and moved to Yemen when he was 10 years old. He returned to Somalia after the country became independent in 1960 and began working at the state-run station Radio Mogadishu before achieving success as a poet. In 2012, he was awarded the Dutch Prince Claus prize for his body of work. The Amsterdam-based foundation praised him for "interweaving striking imagery and metaphor with philosophy and social commentary."

"At his charismatic recitals, audiences revel in his mastery of classical and colloquial language and his experimental use of metre and alliteration," the Prince Claus Fund said, announcing the 100,000 euro (\$101,000) prize. "Hadraawi is honored for creating profound and beautiful poems that enrich and expand the centuries-old oral poetry tradition that is central to contemporary Somali culture and identity... and for building bridges, providing inspiration and promoting peace through poetry." Somaliland and Somalia have a long oral storytelling tradition. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 but the move has not been recognized by the international community.—AFP

## Spook's fantasy author Joseph Delaney dies

British writer Joseph Delaney, known for his Spook's dark fantasy series, has died at 77, his family said Thursday in a statement released by publisher Penguin Random House. Delaney was working as an English teacher when his first book, "The Spook's Apprentice", was published in 2004. The success of his book launched a best-selling series that sold millions of copies and has been published in 30 countries.

The first book was later adapted as a 2014 film, "Seventh Son", starring Jeff Bridges and Julianne Moore. Delaney's children said that the author, who died Tuesday, "loved writing and lived his dream over the last 18 years". Puffin publishing director Ruth Knowles said that "Joe and his totally unique blend of fantasy-horror have been a part of my entire working life".

Delaney was born in Preston in northern England and remained living in the area. He said that the Spook's series was inspired by



British writer Joseph Delaney

Lancashire folk tales and local places. He initially left school at 16 and worked as an apprentice engineer and fitter before passing school-leaving exams at night school, studying English at university and becoming a teacher. His books have sold more than 4.5 million copies around the world.—AFP

## Sports

# Dominican unbeatens Garcia, Puello take WBA world titles

## Puello captures super lightweight world crown

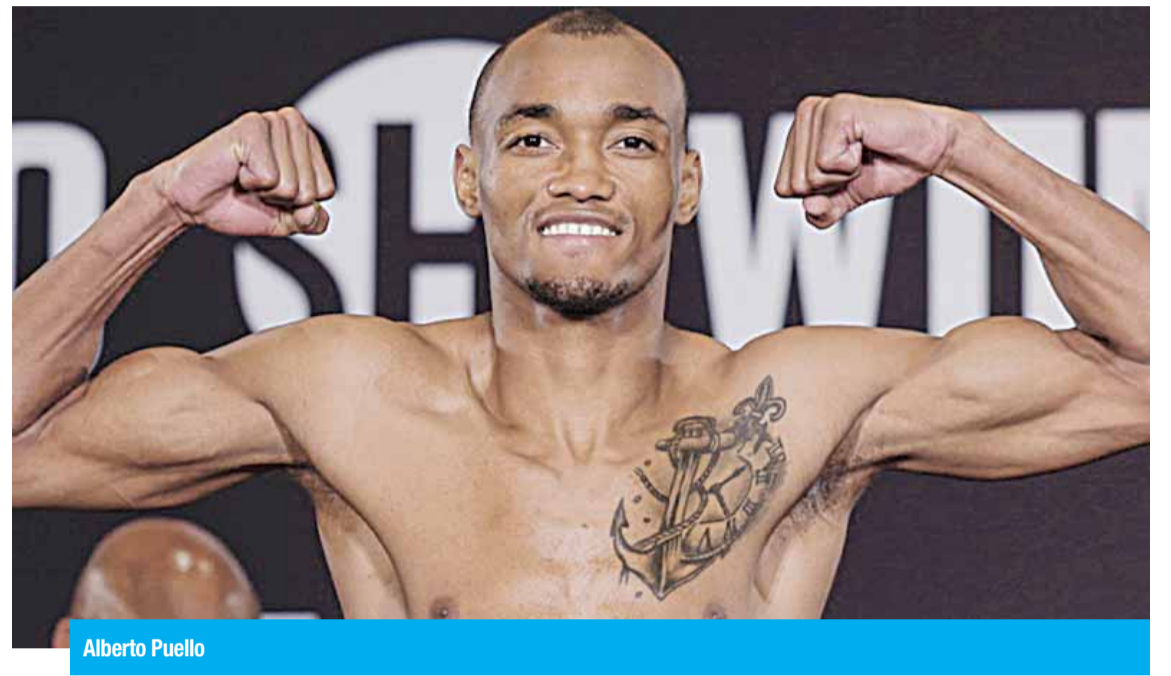
MIAMI: Unbeaten Dominicans Hector Garcia and Alberto Puello won World Boxing Association titles on Saturday in championship bouts at Hollywood, Florida. Garcia took the WBA super featherweight world title with a unanimous decision over Venezuela's Roger Gutierrez. Judges gave the 30-year-old southpaw the victory by one score of 118-110 and two scores of 117-111.

"Thank God for this victory after so much sacrifice," Garcia said through a translator. "The victory was very important for me and for my country." Puello took a split decision over Russian Batyr Akhmedov to capture the vacant WBA super lightweight world crown, becoming the first Dominican world champion in the 140-pound division. "I gave the second title to the Dominican Republic," Puello said through a translator. "The party has already started."

Puello improved to 21-0 while Akhmedov fell to 9-2 as two judges scored the fight 117-111 for Puello while the third saw it 115-113

for Akhmedov. Puello felt insulted by the Russian after he earlier rejected Puello as a sparring partner in a training camp. "He said I couldn't be in his camp because I didn't have enough talent," Puello said. "I showed him tonight." Garcia improved to 16-0 with his eighth consecutive triumph while Gutierrez, 27, fell to 26-4 with one drawn by dropping the second defense of his 130-pound division crown.

The fight with Garcia was postponed from last month after Gutierrez caught COVID-19, making it a full year since his prior bout. Garcia landed a hard left to the champion's head in the fourth round and tagged Gutierrez to the body in the fifth, the challenger setting the early pace. The South American battled back late, landing a hard right and solid left hook in the 11th round and both kept punching to the final bell. "I was looking for that super punch that would knock him down the last three rounds," Garcia said. "But it wasn't there." —AFP



Alberto Puello

## Cantlay edges clear at BMW Championship

WASHINGTON: Defending champion Patrick Cantlay fired a six under-par 65 to open up a one-shot lead at the PGA Tour's BMW Championship in Delaware on Saturday. Cantlay, bidding to become the first player in FedEx Cup post-season history to successfully defend a tournament title, conjured six birdies and an eagle at Wilmington Country Club for a 54-hole aggregate of 12-under 201.

The 30-year-old world number four started the day two shots adrift of second-round leader Adam Scott but quickly halved that deficit on the opening hole, rolling in a monster 43-foot birdie putt. Birdies on the third and the seventh-after another long birdie putt from 30 feet—took Cantlay to the turn at three-under for the day.

A bogey on the par-four 11th briefly checked his progress but Cantlay responded with back-to-back birdies on the 12th and 13th before a magnificent eagle three on the 14th, the American holing out with a sublime lob wedge from 104 yards. That took Cantlay a shot clear of the field at 12 under but a rare putting blunder on the 17th—missing a

three-footer for bogey—dropped him back to 11-under. Yet once again, Cantlay responded in style, blasting his second shot on the 18th to the back of the green with sharp backspin that left him with just a seven-footer for birdie.

"I hit the ball really well today," Cantlay said afterwards. "Left a few out there but I think today was really about my bounce backs—after the two bogeys I made which were mistakes, I made birdies on the next two holes and got back into the round and kept the momentum to take into tomorrow." Cantlay said he was not thinking about possibly emulating his 2021 FedEx Cup victory, when he won both the BMW and the Tour Championship.

### Zalatoris injury

"My head is not even there right now," he said. "I think the best way to handle this playoff system is to just focus on doing your best in the tournament that you're in and not worry too much about the points. So that's what I'm going to do."

Cantlay's 65 leaves him one clear of close friend Xander Schauffele, who posted a five-under 66 on Saturday to finish the day on 202 alongside fellow American Scott Stallings. Schauffele's bogey-free round included an eagle, three birdies and 14 pars. Stallings advanced up the leaderboard with a 66 that featured six birdies. Australia's second-round leader Scott, meanwhile, is a



WILMINGTON: Patrick Cantlay of the United States plays his shot from the 11th tee during the third round of the BMW Championship at Wilmington Country Club on August 20, 2022. —AFP

shot further back on 10 under after battling to a two-under-par 69 that included four birdies and two bogeys.

Scott was joined by world number one Scottie Scheffler, who had threatened to challenge for the outright lead early in the round after four birdies and six pars over the opening 10 holes. Scheffler's round came unstuck though down the stretch, with back-to-back bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes. Scheffler recovered from that setback with a birdie on the 18th that left him firmly in the hunt heading into Sunday's

final round.

Collin Morikawa will also fancy his chances of making a final-day charge after a 65 propelled him to nine under, three off the pace. Morikawa pocketed seven birdies and only one bogey and shares sixth on the leaderboard alongside Aaron Wise, who shot a 67. But Saturday's third round marked the end of Will Zalatoris's challenge. The in-form American, winner of last week's St. Jude Championship, withdrew from the tournament after suffering a back injury on the third hole. —AFP

## Newgarden charges into 2nd in IndyCar chase with win

WASHINGTON: Josef Newgarden won his third consecutive IndyCar Bommarito 500 on Saturday, climbing to second in the season-points chase after waiting through a rain delay and holding off rookie David Malukas. The 31-year-old American captured his fourth career victory at World Wide Technology Raceway despite a storm delay of two hours and nine minutes before completing 260 laps over the 1.25-mile oval at Madison, Illinois.

Newgarden and New Zealand's Scott McLaughlin, Penske Racing teammates, battled for the lead after a restart with 36 laps remaining after the storm delay. But it was US 20-year-old Malukas who charged in the last two laps, passing McLaughlin on the outside for second to start the final lap and pushing Newgarden to the finish for his fifth victory of the year. "We put ourselves in position. It was time to close," Newgarden said. "It was like a barrier was put in front of us but we got by it this time."

McLaughlin settled for third after exchanging leads with Newgarden. "He had a great restart," Newgarden said. "He could have easily won this race but I'm glad we were able to come back on top." Australian pole sitter Will Power, who finished sixth, clung to a 482-479 season points lead with New Zealand's Scott Dixon third on 468, three points ahead of Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of Sweden. Malukas enjoyed his first IndyCar podium as a runner-up, shocking himself by running with the elite.

"I just said, 'Oh my God, they are Penskes,'" Malukas said. "I decided to do the outside line and it worked so well. If I had done it sooner maybe we could have done something for Newgarden. 'That's a win for us.'" Ericsson was seventh with Dixon eighth in the 15th of 17 races this season. Power won the 2014 season title while Newgarden won the crown in 2017 and 2019 and settled for second in each of the past two seasons. The season concludes with races next month at Portland and Laguna Seca. —AFP

## 'Pinch me': Former refugee Ali becomes boxing trailblazer

JEDDAH: Britain's Ramla Ali said she sometimes felt she was dreaming after her journey from Somali refugee to trailblazing women's boxer took a big leap forward in Saudi Arabia. Ali, fighting the first women's professional bout in the kingdom, put on a show in Jeddah on Saturday evening, knocking out Crystal Garcia Nova with a crunching cross in the first round.

The devastating right hand, which sent the Dominican's gumshield flying, added another chapter in the fairytale of Mogadishu-born Ali, 32, whose family fled war in Somalia when she was a toddler. Having taken up boxing after she was teased in school, Ali became the first Muslim woman to claim an English amateur title in 2016, and appeared on the front cover of British Vogue in 2019.

Now 7-0 in her professional career, with two knock-outs, Ali is moving steadily towards a world title shot that is expected to come next year. "Sometimes it's like pinch-me moments," she told AFP. "But then sometimes you have to go back and think about who's watching or who you're inspiring. For me, the ultimate aim is knowing that a little me is out there in the audience watching me, and will be inspired by me to do these big things as well."



JEDDAH: Somalia's Ramla Ali (right) competes with Dominican Crystal Nova during a super-bantamweight boxing match at the King Abdullah Sports City Arena in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah, on August 20, 2022. —AFP

Ali, who led a boxing class for Saudi women and girls in the build-up to the fight, said she was delighted to "make history" in the conservative kingdom, where women's sport had long been discouraged. "No country is perfect," she said, when asked about criticism of Saudi Arabia's human rights record. "All a country can do is try to be better. 'And it's evident tonight that they're trying to have equality for women by putting on the first female fight and I'm all for that. 'I'm all for a country that's trying to make itself bet-

ter," she continued.

Although the accolades are now piling up for Ali, she said it took years of hard work and rejection before she found success. "It's surreal. A lot of people will think it's like an overnight success, but it's years and years of grafting, years of hard work," she said. "Years of putting myself out there, years of rejection, years of 'no's. But yeah, everything that's happened has brought me to where I am today, so I have no regrets." —AFP

## Wild swimming as European open water races end in chaos

PARIS: The 25km open water races at the European Swimming Championships were abandoned in confusion almost two thirds of the way through as the weather deteriorated on Saturday, with organizers deciding they could not declare a winner. The men's and women's races in the sea at Ostia were originally scheduled for Thursday, but called off because of strong winds and big waves. They were rescheduled for Saturday when thunderstorms were forecast for Friday.

The 5km races were completed on Saturday morning with Sharon Van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands winning the women's race and Italians Gregorio Paltrinieri and Domenico Acerenza the men's gold and silver. The weather had started to worsen by the time the longer races started and the swell then grew worse. After more than three and a half hours of swimming, with the men

having swum 15km and Paltrinieri and Acerenza again one and two, the races were halted.

Italians Barbara Pozzobon and Veronica Santoni had been at the front of the women's race. "Due to a case of emergency because of the weather conditions, both chief referees and the safety delegate decided to stop the races immediately for the safety of the Athletes and Officials on the course," said European Aquatics (LEN) in a statement. But the judges on land had trouble communicating with those at sea on water scooters in the "extreme conditions".

This led to confusion over when the race was actually stopped and in telling swimmers. After a delay of several hours, organizers ruled they could not be sure exactly when racing had stopped and therefore could not determine a final order. "Since the Chief Referees did not have a view of the final rankings for both races, the LEN Technical Open Water Committee decided to cancel the classification for both races," said the statement.

It went on to apologize "to all athletes participating in this race, who devoted themselves to hard work to be ready for this event." Often when a race is abandoned, the swimmers head straight for the finish to determine the winner, and some contestants did that



LIDO DI OSTIA: Italy's Domenico Acerenza (center) reacts after crossing the finish of the Open Water Mixed 10km event, on August 21, 2022 at Lido di Ostia, southwest of Rome, during the LEN European Aquatics Championships. —AFP

on Saturday. "We saw that the race was stopped but we did not have any information," Julien Issoulié, the French swimming team technical director told AFP.

French swimmer Aurelie Muller, a double 10km world champion and the bronze medalist in the 5km in the morning, tweeted her disapproval. "Another great

promotion of our sport," she wrote. The two 10km races and the 5km relays are scheduled for Sunday. They "are planned to be held according to the schedule," said the LEN statement. "However, in case of adverse weather conditions, the races can be postponed or cancelled." —AFP

## Sports

# Pole vault king Duplantis rules supreme; Bol grabs third gold

## Greece's Tzengko wins gold in women's javelin

**MUNICH:** World and Olympic pole vault champion Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis retained his European title in comprehensive fashion in Munich on Saturday while the irrepressible Femke Bol sealed a third gold of the championships. Duplantis, fresh from breaking his own world record in Eugene as he clinched world gold with 6.21 metres last month, set a championship record of 6.06m at the Olympic Stadium. "It was great. The goal going into today was to try to win and breaking my own championship record was the cherry on the top," Duplantis said.

Germany's Bo Kanda Lita Baehre claimed silver with a best of 5.85m, while Norway's Pal Haugen Lillefosse took bronze (5.75). Coming into the continental showpiece, Duplantis was on an 18-competition winning streak and was once again a class apart from a field that struggled throughout in cool, damp conditions. "I felt like I jumped very well. I can't complain," the Swede said, adding a shot at the world record was never likely.

"It didn't seem like it was really on the cards today. Sometimes it's like that, it's not for every day." There was Dutch delight in the women's 4x400m relay, Bol producing an outstanding anchor leg to overtake Britain's Nicole Yeargin and Belgian Camille Laus to seal victory and a third gold. In arguably the most packed schedule of any athlete in Munich, Bol had already sealed an audacious double by winning the 400m flat and her favoured 400m hurdles.

Bol, 22, took hold of the relay baton in third place on the fourth and final leg, bidding her time before smoothly moving into the second lane and motoring away from her rivals. "It was such an amazing race," said Bol. "I really love to run with my girls and

against other runners. "This championship feels special to me." The Dutch quartet also featuring Eveline Saalberg, Lieke Klaver and Lisanne De Witte timed 3min 20.87sec for victory. There was silver for Poland and bronze for Britain, whose male quartet took gold in the men's 4x400m relay.

### Hodgkinson delivers

Individual 400m gold medalist Matthew Hudson-Smith ran a strong opening leg for Britain and the inexperienced pair of Charlie Dobson and Lewis Davey held their own. It was left to 400m bronze medalist Alex Haydock-Wilson to hold off rivals on the anchor leg as Britain won in 2:59.35. Belgium took silver and France bronze. More British gold came thanks to Keely Hodgkinson, following fast in the footsteps of teammate and 1500m winner Laura Muir, by confirming her impressive year with victory in the 800m.

Hodgkinson, still just 20, won silver medals at last year's Tokyo Olympic Games, last month's world championships in Oregon—twice behind stand-out US athlete Athing Mu—and the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The Briton hit the front with 200m to go, tracked by teammate Jemma Reekie. Reekie was reeled in by France's Renelle Lamote as Hodgkinson went through the line, arms raised, in 1:59.04.

The French athlete took silver in 1:59.49, with Poland's Anna Wielgosz claiming bronze. "It's more of a mental thing coming into this being my third championships in four-and-a-half weeks, so it's definitely about picking myself up and focus," Hodgkinson said. "It is still very tough competition out there so I made sure I was on the ball - I am just



**MUNICH:** Sweden's Armand Duplantis competes in the men's Pole Vault final during the European Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium in Munich, southern Germany on August 20, 2022. —AFP

happy I executed very well and managed to come away with a gold medal."

Greece's Elina Tzengko won gold in the women's javelin with a personal best of 65.81m ahead of Serbian teenager Adrianna Vilagos with 62.01. Czech athlete Barbora Spotakova, the world record holder, two-time Olympic and three-time world

champion, sealed bronze with 60.68m at the age of 41. The evening session in Munich finished with another championship record as Albanian Luiza Gega won the women's 3000m steeplechase in 9:11.31. Germany's Lea Meyer took silver, 4sec behind, with Briton Elizabeth Bird rounding out the podium. —AFP



Japan's Kento Momota

## Uneasy Momota eyes 3rd badminton world title in Tokyo

**TOKYO:** Struggling former badminton world number one Kento Momota said Sunday that he still feels "a lot of unease" as he bids to reclaim his world title next week in Tokyo. Japan's Momota, once the sport's undisputed king, has seen his career descend into free fall since a car crash more than two years ago which left him badly hurt. The 27-year-old has been in dismal form this year, losing in the first round of four of the seven singles tournaments he has entered.

But he is hoping that home support in Tokyo can help him upset the odds and claim a third title when the world championships begin on Monday. "I'm not feeling so bad in practice but I'm not managing to perform in games so there is still a lot of unease," Momota told reporters, adding that his confidence is returning "little by little". "It's been a long time since I played in front of Japanese fans and I want to feel their support and enjoy playing in front of them."

Momota's world was turned upside down in January 2020 when the vehicle taking him to Kuala Lumpur airport crashed hours after he won the Malaysia Masters, killing the driver and leaving the player with a fractured eye socket. He has been a shadow of his imperious former self since then and he said Sunday that his goal is to "focus on myself and play my best". "I'm feeling not so bad, although there is still a little bit of tiredness there," he said. "I need to listen to my body when I go into games."

### Axelsen hot favorite

Momota is now ranked number two in the world having been replaced at the top by Denmark's Viktor Axelsen. Olympic champion Axelsen will be the hot favorite to capture a second world title in Tokyo, having lost only one men's singles match on court on tour this season. Axelsen switched coaches on the eve of the competition and he believes he has "a good chance of doing really well here". "When you have won many tournaments, you believe that you can also win this one," said the 28-year-old, who claimed his previous world title in 2017.

"I believe in myself but I also know that there are many strong competitors and every single day I have to be fully focused." Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia is also expected to offer a strong challenge and he would become his country's first-ever badminton world champion if he were to win the title. Reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore will attempt to defend his 2021 title while China's Shi Yuqi is back in action after serving a ban by the Chinese Badminton Association.

Shi, a world finalist in 2018, retired on match point during a 2021 match against Momota and was then banned for making "inappropriate comments" about his withdrawal. Chinese state media said Shi was "very excited to return to the court" after 10 months out. "I have never been out of practice in the past 10 months. —AFP

## Tsitsipas beats Medvedev to book final clash

**CINCINNATI:** Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev committed 11 double-faults in falling to Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-3 in Sunday's semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters. Medvedev helped seal his own fate in the sixth game of the final set as he double-faulted four times to hand his Greek opponent to a 4-2 lead. Tsitsipas will play for the title on Sunday against Croatian Borna Coric, who returned to an ATP Masters final for the first time in four years by defeating Britain's Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4.

Tsitsipas won only his third match against Medvedev after losing seven and also defeated a reigning number one player for only the second time in 12 career attempts. The fourth seed put a winner into the corner on the first of three match points to earn the final. "I knew I would have a difficult task in the third set," Tsitsipas said. "He made it a very physical match, very demanding. "But I took advantage of his missed first serves. They gave me time to think of my next move clearly. I was very calm and concentrated on every single task."

World number 152 Coric, who missed a year of play with shoulder problems and only returned to the tour in March, advanced in 91 minutes in a match delayed for hours by an afternoon of rain. "It was a long day. I didn't expect to be playing in the evening," Coric said. "It was a crazy day but it finished very well." Coric is the second-lowest-rated finalist since the rankings began in 1973, with number 191 Andrei Pavel setting that standard as he played for the Roland Garros title in 2003.

Coric got past a slow start marred by 14 unforced errors in the first six games, settling in to lift the level of his tennis. The Croat, who lost a Masters final at Shanghai in 2018 to Novak Djokovic, limited Norrie to nine winners while sending over 17 along with 24 unforced errors. "I



**OHIO:** Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece plays a forehand against Daniil Medvedev of Russia during the Western & Southern Open on August 20, 2022. —AFP

played extremely well, but in the beginning I was not there," Coric said. "I then found my rhythm and began serving better. That was the key to the match."

### Kvitova to face Garcia

In the women's semi-finals, French qualifier Caroline Garcia survived two rain breaks and advanced to the final by defeating Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. Garcia will play for the title on Sunday against Czech Petra Kvitova, who constructed a 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-3 comeback triumph over American Madison Keys. Garcia is the first qualifier to ever reach the championship match at a Masters tournament.

Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon winner who played the semi-finals in 2012 and 2018, will be aim-

ing for her 30th career title in her first Cincinnati final. Garcia maintained control over sixth seed Sabalenka in their contest, where the weather interruptions totaled four hours. She broke six times in a match comprising two hours of actual play. "What a day it has been," number 35 Garcia said. "Last night I was excited to be in the semi-finals."

"Aryna is a difficult opponent, so fast, so strong. We had a lot of very tough rallies and tough weather. You never knew when you would be coming back to the court—but we managed it." The pair returned after the second interruption and played out three more games as Garcia finished off the victory. "No one would have expected this to happen," she said. "It feels great. I've had a long journey in Cincinnati. I'm proud of what I did and I'm happy to be in the final." —AFP

## Nine-man Rangers held by last-gasp Hibernian leveler

**GLASGOW:** Josh Campbell's brilliant stoppage-time equalizer gave Hibernian a dramatic 2-2 draw against nine-man Rangers in the Scottish Premiership on Saturday. Giovanni van Bronckhorst's side were seconds away from extending their perfect start to the league campaign after goals from James Tavernier and Tom Lawrence put them 2-1 up at Easter Road.

But, weakened by red cards for John Lundstram and Alfredo Morelos, Rangers ran out of steam in the closing moments as Campbell's leveller sparked wild celebrations from the home crowd. Despite having a huge Champions League play-off second leg coming up on Wednesday, Van Bronckhorst made just two changes to the side that started the 2-2 draw with PSV Eindhoven in the first game at Ibrox on Tuesday. Rangers were awarded a penalty in the last minute of the first half when Antonio Colak fell in the area after being needlessly tugged by Rocky Bushiri while Hibs keeper David Marshall was in the process of clearing a passback. The hosts furiously protested but Tavernier kept his cool to slot home the spot-kick.

Hibs hit back five minutes after the break when Martin Boyle nipped in between two Rangers defenders to meet Elie Youan's cross with a close-range finish. Rangers restored their lead in the 58th minute when Lawrence powered home a header from a Borna Barisic cross. But the visitors

### Scottish Premiership Table

Scottish Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Rangers	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Celtic	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Motherwell	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Hearts	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Aberdeen	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
St Mirren	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Livingston	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Hibernian	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Ross County	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
St Johnstone	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
Dundee Utd	4	0	1	3	2	9	1
Kilmarnock	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

were rocked in the 66th minute when Lundstram was shown a red card by referee Willie Collum after cynically chopping down Boyle who was trying to mount a counter-attack midway inside the Rangers half.

It got worse for last season's Europa League finalists in the 75th minute when volatile Colombia striker Morelos, who had only come off the bench 13 minutes previously, was sent off for swinging an arm in the face of Marijan Cabraja. Hibs laid siege to the Rangers goal and got their equalizer in stoppage-time when Campbell volleyed home from the edge of the area. Curtis Main scored twice as St Mirren eased to a 3-0 victory over Dundee United.

Main opened the scoring five minutes before half-time with a close-range finish and doubled the lead early in the second half when he rounded off a

counter-attack. Alex Grieve sealed victory in injury time as the Saints enjoyed a second successive win. Defeat meant Dundee United have lost three of their first four fixtures, after an opening-day draw and European humiliation by AZ Alkmaar. Kevin van Veen's penalty gave Motherwell, now in third place, a 1-0 win over 10-man Livingston.

Van Veen scored from the spot the 68th minute following a handball, with Livingston's hopes of equalising dented when Dylan Bahamboula saw red for a second bookable offence with 10 minutes left. Leighton Clarkson's stunning 30-yard strike early in the second half wrapped up the points for Aberdeen in a 1-0 win away to St Johnstone. Reigning champions Celtic will regain top spot from arch Glasgow rivals Rangers if they avoid defeat against Hearts on Sunday. —AFP

## Sports

# Inter stroll past Spezia on Lukaku's San Siro return

## Berardi fires Sassuolo to 1-0 win over Lecce

**MILAN:** Inter Milan made it two from two in Serie A with Saturday's comfortable 3-0 win over Spezia on Romelu Lukaku's return to the San Siro, while Domenico Berardi fired Sassuolo to a 1-0 win over Lecce. Lautaro Martinez, Hakan Calhanoglu and Joaquin Correa struck in front of a large and enthusiastic home crowd to ensure a perfect six points for Simone Inzaghi's Inter as they bid to reclaim the league title from local rivals AC Milan. Champions Milan make the short trip to Atalanta on Sunday in the weekend's headline match.

Lukaku might not have scored in front of his adoring fans before being substituted in the 68th minute, but he was key to Inter's first two goals. His perfect knock-down from Nicolò Barella's clipped pass allowed Martinez to break the deadlock 10 minutes before half-time, lashing home his opening goal of the season. It was the first sign of the rebirth of a partnership which devastated Serie A during Lukaku's first spell at Inter before his disastrous big-money move to Chelsea last summer.

"We're happy because we played well. We have six points," said Martinez when asked if he was pleased the combo nicknamed 'LuLu' was back in action. Belgium forward Lukaku then began the move which led to Calhanoglu doubling the hosts' lead seven minutes after the break. His charge towards the Spezia area end-

ed with a cool low finish past Bartłomiej Dragowski from Turkey international Calhanoglu.

Also involved in Inter's second was Milan Skriniar, who according to Italian media is no longer for sale after a summer of speculation that the Slovakia defender was on his way to Paris Saint-Germain. Correa completed the scoring in the 82nd minute with a simple strike, brilliantly set up by fellow substitute Edin Dzeko. Italy forward Berardi celebrated his new contract with Sassuolo by crashing home a winner against Lecce which left their promoted opponents on zero points.

The 28-year-old committed his future to the club on Wednesday by signing a three-year extension until 2027. "I have to say that it's been a good week," said Berardi to DAZN. "For me Sassuolo is a big family, I've stayed because they've taken care of me since I was a child and in the end the heart wants what the heart wants." Berardi ensured Alessio Dionisi's side, thumped by Juventus on Monday, got off the mark when he met a clearance from a corner with a volley which arrowed into the net.

It was the 102nd Serie A goal by Berardi, who has played his entire professional career at Sassuolo and was part of the team which got them into the top flight for the first time in 2013. Sassuolo will need Berardi on top form after losing centre-forward Gianluca Scamacca



**MILAN:** Inter Milan's Bosnian forward Edin Dzeko (right) challenges Spezia's Polish goalkeeper Bartłomiej Dragowski (center) during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Spezia on August 20, 2022. —AFP

to West Ham and Giacomo Raspadori, whose move to Napoli was confirmed just after the end of Saturday's matches. The early games

passed off without much incident, with goalless draws between Torino and Lazio, and Udinese against Salernitana. —AFP

## Marseille win; Lens humble Monaco 4-1

**PARIS:** Marseille continued their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season after a late Nicolas Pallois own goal gave them a 2-1 win over Nantes at the Velodrome on Saturday. Alexis Sanchez made his home debut following his recent arrival in Marseille but the Chilean had been substituted by the time the game came to life in the final quarter. An attempted shot by Jonathan Clauss broke to Chancel Mbemba in the box, and the Congolese former Newcastle United defender prodded home to put Marseille ahead 20 minutes from time.

Yet the home side, who had already seen Brazilian international midfielder Gerson hobble off with an apparent calf injury, then had Samuel Gigot sent off for a second yellow card for hauling Mostafa Mohamed to the ground and conceding a penalty. Ludovic Blas smashed in the spot-kick to equalize for Nantes with 12 minutes left, only for Marseille's 10 men to score the winner in the 82nd minute. Sanchez had gone off, but Dimitri Payet had come on and his shot deflected off Pallois and looped up into the air, falling for fellow substitute Luis Suarez to head towards goal.

The ball then went in off the face of Pallois to make it 2-1, and Marseille - whose new coach Igor Tudor has been jeered by supporters before both home matches so far this season - have seven points out of a possible nine. "For sure it was not a boring game," former

Croatia defender Tudor, speaking in English, told broadcaster Canal Plus. "In the end it was a victory of character, of will to win and of our quality."

Lens also have seven points from three games after a stunning 4-1 win in Monaco earlier on Saturday. Belgian international Loïs Openda gave Lens an early lead in the principality and Deiver Machado made it 2-0, with Benoit Badiashile reducing the deficit before half-time. However, Lens restored their two-goal advantage 10 minutes into the second half as Seko Fofana converted a penalty after Florian Sotoca had been brought down by Breel Embolo.

Brazilian full-back Vanderson was then sent off for a second yellow card to leave Monaco to play out the final 18 minutes a man short at the Stade Louis II. Their misery was compounded as substitute Wesley Saïd blasted in a fourth for Lens in the 78th minute. It is third season running in which Lens have won in Monaco. They also denied Monaco second place in the table and automatic qualification for the Champions League group stage when they scored an injury-time equalizer to draw 2-2 on the final night of last season.

Philippe Clement's Monaco side - who had won nine league games in a row before that match - were then dumped out of Europe's elite club competition by PSV Eindhoven in the third qualifying round earlier this month. They have four points from their first three Ligue 1 outings in this campaign. Reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain have the chance to go above Lens and Marseille into top spot when they visit Lille on Sunday. Lyon won 4-1 at home to Troyes on Friday. —AFP



**MARSEILLE:** Nantes' French defender Dennis Appiah fights for the ball with Marseille's Colombian forward Luis Suarez during the French L1 football match between Olympique Marseille (OM) and FC Nantes at Stade Velodrome on August 20, 2022. —AFP

## Sensational Modric strike helps Madrid see off Celta 4-1

**MADRID:** A stunning strike by Luka Modric helped Real Madrid on their way to a 4-1 victory at Celta Vigo on Saturday as the reigning Spanish champions made it two wins from two in La Liga this season. Modric curled home from outside the box just before half-time to put Carlo Ancelotti's side back in front after Karim Benzema's early penalty had been cancelled out by Iago Aspas, who converted a spot-kick at the other end. Vinicius Junior and Federico Valverde added further goals in the second half while Eden Hazard had a late penalty saved as Madrid built on their La Liga season-opening 2-1 win at Almeria and joined Real Betis and Osasuna on six points at the top of the fledgling standings. "He is a fantastic leader for us. He scored the most important goal of the game because he put us back ahead and after that the game was a bit more simple for us," Ancelotti told Onda Cero radio of Modric, who received an ovation from the home crowd in Galicia.

"That is something very special, when fans of other teams acknowledge you and applaud you. It's lovely," the Croatian told Real Madrid TV. Real took the lead inside the opening quarter of an hour at Balaidos, Benzema slotting in a penalty after the referee penalized Celta's Peruvian midfielder Renato Tapia for handball following a VAR review.

Yet Celta won a penalty of their own midway through the first half as Eder Militao blocked a Goncalo Paciencia

header with his arm, and veteran striker Aspas—who scored 18 times last season—made no mistake from the spot. Franco Cervi then crashed a shot just wide as Celta threatened to go in front against a Real side playing their first game since agreeing to sell midfielder Casemiro to Manchester United. However, Modric was back in the starting line-up and made it 2-1 three minutes before the interval, collecting possession in space 25 meters from goal and advancing before curling a tremendous shot high into the net from the edge of the D. Real's class told after the break, as Modric sent Vinicius away to round goalkeeper Agustín Marchesin and slot in the visitors' third goal in the 56th minute.

It was 4-1 before the midway point in the second half, with Vinicius trying to pick out Benzema only for the Frenchman to slip, allowing the arriving Valverde to plant a low first-time shot into the far corner. It could have been worse for Celta as Madrid won another penalty late on when Benzema was fouled in the box by Hugo Mallo. Benzema left the spot-kick for Hazard, who had come on as a substitute, but the Belgian's kick was saved by Marchesin.

### Penalties galore

That, remarkably, was the seventh penalty in three matches in La Liga on Saturday, with Borja Iglesias scoring twice from the spot as Betis won 2-1 at Real Mallorca earlier. Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr was among the crowd watching as Iglesias gave Manuel Pellegrini's Betis a ninth-minute lead in the Balearic Islands after a handball by Mallorca's Rodrigo Kattoglia was penalized following a VAR review.

Kosovo striker Vedat Muriqi headed Mallorca back level early in the second half from a Lee Kang-in cross, only for Betis to win another spot-kick when the unfortunate Battaglia blocked Nabil Fekir on his way into the area. Iglesias, who also scored in last week's season-opening 3-0 defeat of Elche, again made no mistake with

## Sheffield Utd take top spot in Championship

**LONDON:** Sheffield United powered to the top of the Championship as Iliman Ndiaye scored twice in a 3-0 win against Blackburn on Saturday. Ndiaye's brace came after Oliver Norwood bagged the opening goal for the Blades at Bramall Lane. United's third win in their last four league games moved them one point clear of second placed Watford, who drew 0-0 at Preston. Fourth placed Blackburn had won three of their opening four games but have now suffered successive defeats.

Charlie Wyke set up 10-man Wigan's winner on his first appearance since suffering a cardiac arrest last year as the Latics beat Birmingham 1-0. Wyke's last competitive fixture came in November before he suffered a cardiac arrest in training. But the striker made an quick impact at St Andrew's as he set up fellow substitute Nathan Broadhead's 82nd-minute strike as Wigan won for the first time this term. Wigan had been playing with 10 men since Joe Bennett was sent off in the 10th minute.

Blackpool staged a spirited comeback from 3-1 down to secure a 3-3 draw at Lancashire rivals Burnley. Blackpool's Sonny Carey and Burnley's Ian Maatsen were both sent off by referee Keith Stroud in the 85th minute. Carey was dismissed for a cynical late trip on Maatsen, who retaliated by pushing the Blackpool defender in the back. Burnley had to settle for a third successive home draw despite leading thanks to a brace from on-loan Southampton forward Nathan Tella.

Theo Corbeanu, Shane Lavery and Jerry Yates all scored for Blackpool. Third placed Reading secured their third successive victory at home this season with a 1-0 success against Middlesbrough. The Royals went in front just before the half-hour through a 20-yard drive from Tyrese Fornah. Rotherham maintained their unbeaten start with a 1-1 draw at QPR. Chiedozie Ogbene put Rotherham ahead before Chris Willock's equalizer for the west Londoners. West Bromwich Albion thrashed Hull 5-2, Sunderland won 1-0 at Stoke, while Luton beat Swansea 2-0 at the Liberty Stadium. —AFP



**VIGO:** Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder Luka Modric (left) vies with Celta Vigo's Peruvian midfielder Renato Tapia during the Spanish League football match between RC Celta de Vigo and Real Madrid on August 20, 2022. —AFP

his 73rd-minute penalty, and Betis held on for a 2-1 win as Lee hit the woodwork from a late free-kick.

Osasuna beat Cadiz 2-0 in Pamplona thanks to two more penalties, with Chimy Avila converting the first late in the first half and Kike Garcia slotting in the second late on after Cadiz had Tomas Alarcon sent off. After

Osasuna defeated Sevilla last week they have now won their first two matches of the season in La Liga for the first time since 1981. Betis, who won last season's Copa del Rey, host Osasuna next weekend. Barcelona go to Real Sociedad on Sunday evening, while Atletico Madrid entertain Villarreal. —AFP



LEEDS: Chelsea's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (left) fights for the ball with Leeds United's Danish defender Rasmus Kristensen during the English Premier League football match on August 21, 2022. —AFP

## Manchester City stage thrilling fightback, hold Newcastle 3-3

### Mendy howler sends Chelsea crashing to Leeds defeat

LONDON: Manchester City staged a thrilling fightback as the Premier League champions rescued a 3-3 draw against Newcastle, while Edouard Mendy's embarrassing blunder condemned Chelsea to a 3-0 defeat at Leeds on Sunday. Pep Guardiola's side were in danger of a first league defeat since February after falling 3-1 behind in the second half at St James' Park. But Erling Haaland sparked City's revival with his third goal for the club before Bernardo Silva's equalizer completed the escape act.

Second-placed City remain unbeaten with seven points from their first three games, leaving them two points behind leaders Arsenal. While Guardiola will be concerned with the way City were carved open by Newcastle, the spirited comeback underlined why they have won the title four times in the last five seasons. City needed just five minutes to take the lead as Silva cleverly worked space to cross towards the unmarked Ilkay Gundogan, who fired home from eight yards.

Newcastle equalised in the 28th minute when

Allan Saint-Maximin's pin-point cross was bundled in by Miguel Almiron, with the goal awarded by VAR after an initial offside flag. Having conceded for the first time in the league this season, City's defense was breached again in the 39th minute. Saint-Maximin was City's tormentor again with a brilliant run and pass to Callum Wilson, who timed his run perfectly to slot past Ederson.

Kieran Trippier grabbed Newcastle's third goal with a stunning free-kick that whistled into the top corner after 54 minutes. But Haaland reduced the deficit with a close-range strike from Rodri's flick on the hour. From the depths of despair, City had a lifeline and Silva seized it four minutes later with a deft finish from Kevin De Bruyne's pass. Trippier escaped a red card when the right-back was sent off for chopping down De Bruyne, with VAR persuading referee Jarrod Gillett to overturn the decision.

#### Mendy misery

At Elland Road, Mendy's costly 33rd-minute

mistake was the catalyst for Chelsea's shocking implosion as Brenden Aaronson netted after catching the goalkeeper taking too long in possession. Rodrigo's fourth goal in three games this season doubled Leeds' advantage in the 37th minute.

Jack Harrison's 69th-minute goal completed Leeds' first win over Chelsea since 2002 and their biggest against their old rivals since 1995. Adding to Chelsea's misery, their Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly was sent off for a second booking after tripping Joe Gelhardt in the 84th minute. Chelsea find themselves in the unusual position of sitting below their less glamorous west London neighbors Fulham and Brentford in the table.

Thomas Tuchel's side have taken four points from their first three games and the German was alarmed at the way his expensively rebuilt team faded after Mendy's howler. "Everything that can go wrong, did go wrong. It started yesterday. We had no plane to arrive so we came on the bus. The players could fly but for the coaching staff it was a

long ride on the bus. It continued today. We lost the game in the first 20 minutes, where we were clearly better and had huge chances," Tuchel said.

"What do you expect if you present two goals to an opponent in the Premier League? We give goals away from huge individual errors too often." At the London Stadium, Brighton added to West Ham's woes with an impressive 2-0 victory. Alexis Mac Allister put Brighton ahead in the 22nd minute after Danny Welbeck was fouled by West Ham's debutant defender Thilo Kehrer.

Kehrer claimed the foul had taken place outside the penalty area, but a VAR check decided it was just inside and Mac Allister calmly converted the spot-kick. Leandro Trossard raced through to bag Brighton's second goal with a composed finish past Lukasz Fabianski in the 66th minute. Brighton are in fourth place with seven points from their first three games, while West Ham slumped below Manchester United to the bottom of the table. —AFP

### Usyk shatters Joshua by split decision

JEDDAH: Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk won his rematch against Anthony Joshua by split decision in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to set up a potential unification bout with Britain's Tyson Fury. The former cruiserweight world champion, who dismantled the holder in London last year, faced an improved Joshua but outboxed him once again in just his fourth heavyweight bout.

Usyk, now unbeaten at 20-0, immediately called out Fury, who announced his latest retirement earlier this month but has signaled his willingness to resume his career. Victory over the 6ft 9ins (2.06m) Fury would unite all four heavyweight belts and constitute a crowning glory for the sublime Ukrainian, a former outstanding amateur and Olympic heavyweight champion. "I'm sure that Tyson Fury is not retired yet," Usyk told the crowd. "I'm convinced he wants to fight me. I want to fight him. If I'm not fighting Tyson Fury I'm not fighting at all."

The fight was watched on free-to-air TV by millions of Ukrainians living under the Russian invasion. Usyk signed up to fight for his country before accepting the rematch. "I give this victory to my country, to my family, to my team and to all the military who are defending the country," he told the 12,000-seat King Abdullah Sports City Arena in Jeddah. An angered Joshua hurled down Usyk's belts and peppered his post-fight speech with expletives despite the presence of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, de facto ruler of the deeply religious country.

"I just spoke from my heart. It has been so tough," Joshua said afterwards, adding: "It takes real strength and tonight there's a little crack in the armor." The judges scored it 113-115, 115-113 and 116-112 for Usyk as Joshua narrowed the gap but was still found wanting. "It was an incredible performance - he's just too



JEDDAH: Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk (right) and Britain's Anthony Joshua compete during the heavyweight boxing rematch for the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBF titles, at the King Abdullah Sports City Arena in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah, on August 20, 2022. —AFP

good," said Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn. "You saw the reaction from AJ, that was from a human who wanted to win so badly, with so much pressure on his shoulders. I think he just exploded because he lost and he was devastated."

#### Slick Usyk

Joshua, the 6ft 6ins (1.98m) two-time world champion, is left staring at an impasse in his career after his third defeat in his 12th straight title fight left him with figures of 24-3-0. Joshua, accused of hesitancy in their first fight in London, was the early aggressor by round two as he repeatedly landed his big right hand.

A heavy right hook stung Usyk in round three and Joshua was continuing to find the jab as the Ukrainian's busy footwork opened up gaps. A low blow from Joshua left Usyk wincing in the fifth and another backed him onto the ropes in the sixth but the tricky southpaw came firing back with some lightning combinations. A flurry to the body put Usyk back on the ropes in the eighth and Joshua had the Ukrainian hanging on in the ninth after a right-left hook combination as the fight came alive. —AFP

### Bayern rout Bochum 7-0

BERLIN: Sadio Mane scored two goals, including one from the penalty spot, as Bayern Munich routed hapless Bochum 7-0 to extend their perfect start to the Bundesliga season on Sunday. Despite never scoring a penalty during his time in the Premier League, Mane converted from the spot in the 60th minute and looks to have replaced the departed Robert Lewandowski as the Bavarians' designated penalty taker. Bayern have now scored 19 goals in four competitive games since the Pole departed for Barcelona in the summer.

Former Man City forward Leroy Sane, making his first start of the season, opened the scoring after four minutes, nonchalantly curling a strike into the top right of the net from the edge of the penalty area. Bayern's energy and pace continued to trouble Bochum, with Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt celebrating his first goal in Bayern colours after heading in a cross in the 25th minute. Replays showed the ball went in off de Ligt's arm, but after a short VAR review the goal stood.

Kingsley Coman added a third after 33 minutes before laying on Mane's opener in the 42nd minute. After Mane's penalty made it 5-0, Bochum defender Cristian Gamboa scored an own goal while trying to keep the ball away from the feet of Sane with 69 minutes gone. Serge Gnabry added Bayern's seventh in the 76th minute. Bayern, who surprisingly lost 4-2 in the corresponding fixture last season, reclaimed top spot in the table. They are the only Bundesliga team to have won all three of their opening matches.

**Frankfurt remain winless**

Eintracht Frankfurt's winless start to the season continued as the Europa League holders drew 1-1 at home to Cologne. Speaking directly after the match, Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp said the equaliser should have been struck off, complaining that his



BOCHUM: Bayern Munich's Austrian midfielder Marcel Sabitzer (left), Bochum's German forward Philipp Hofmann (center) and Bayern Munich's Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match on August 21, 2022. —AFP

sight had been obstructed by Cologne's Florian Dietz, who was offside.

"I'm sorry, but if there's someone standing there, it's offside... I can't even see the ball." "We were clearly the better team, we should have won the game." Despite the controversial goal, Frankfurt manager Oliver Glasner said he saw signs of progress in his team. "Today we got really close. We're just missing a few small things. I can live with a draw." Glasner brought on Daichi Kamada in the 69th minute and the Japanese midfielder made an immediate impact, scoring from a free-kick just two minutes later.

Replays showed the free-kick was aided on its way by a slight deflection off Cologne captain and Germany defender Jonas Hector. Cologne struck back in the 82nd minute through Jan Thielmann, who superbly latched onto a poor clearance from Ansgar Knauff, hammering the ball into the bottom left corner. Frankfurt, who will play in the Champions League this season for the first time since losing the 1960 European Cup final to Real Madrid, now have two points from their opening three Bundesliga games. —AFP