



**2** Medtalks raises awareness about mental health and medical issues



**5** Tentative calm in Libyan capital after clashes kill 32



**11** UAE's perspiring pooches get air-conditioned workout



**16** Kane fires Spurs, West Ham win piles pressure on Gerrard



# Amiri decree sets National Assembly polls for Sept 29

## Registration of candidates opens today, will continue for 10 days

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** An Amiri decree was issued on Sunday setting Sept 29 as the date for the snap polls that were called after dissolving the National Assembly last month in a bid to end non-stop political disputes between the house and the government. The decree was published in the official gazette Al-Kuwait Al-Youm and accordingly became effective.

The interior ministry immediately said registration of candidates for the parliamentary elections will start from today - Monday - for 10 days, in accordance with the elections law. The last day for

registration will be Sept 7. Withdrawal of candidates from the race also begins from Monday and continues until seven days before the election date on Sept 29. The government has declared election day as a rest day to allow the largest number of eligible voters to cast their votes.

Based on the electoral lists released by the department of elections, there are 796,000 eligible voters in Kuwait, a massive 40 percent jump from the previous polls on Dec 5, 2020, when voters only totaled 568,000. The big increase is attributed mainly to the addition of many new residential areas to existing constituencies that were excluded in the

2020 polls.

According to the lists, there are 408,000 female voters or 51.3 percent of total voters, and 388,000 male voters (48.7 percent). Candidates must be Kuwaiti citizens, male or female, of at least 30 years of age. They must have good conduct and must not have been convicted in a criminal case by court. The country is divided into five electoral constituencies, each electing 10 MPs for the 50-member Assembly. But the distribution of voters among the electoral districts varies to a large degree.

The first constituency has 100,000 voters, the second just 73,000 voters while the third has

144,000. The remaining two constituencies, with mostly tribal population, together have over 58 percent of voters. The fourth constituency boasts 222,000 voters and the fifth has 243,000 voters. Many candidates and rights activists have repeatedly criticized the unfair distribution of voters, but nothing has been done to achieve equality.

A large number of former MPs, both in the former Assembly and previous ones, have announced they will run in the crucial polls. They are led by opposition figure and former three-time Assembly speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun, who has received

Continued on Page 6

## Uniforms, set work hours for cabbies; taxis must be clean



**KUWAIT:** Taxis are seen in this illustrative file photo. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

**KUWAIT:** New rules were announced on Sunday setting working hours for taxi drivers in line with Kuwait's labor law, and mandating that cabbies wear uniforms and carry valid health certificates, which will be renewed yearly in coordination with the ministry of health. The orders were issued by Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Acting Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to organize the work of roaming and call taxis in Kuwait.

According to the new rules, the vehicle must be in good shape and clean from the inside and outside. Drivers who commit repeated major traffic offenses will be deported and owners of the taxi company will be cited, the ministry warned in a statement. The new measures go into effect on October 1, combined with police crackdowns to ensure compliance with the regulations, the ministry added.

Last week, the General Directorate of Traffic issued instructions to roaming and call taxi companies and offices to affix a taxi permit in Arabic and English in a clear place behind the driver's seat (on both sides) with the company's information and the driver's phone number. Taxis should operate the meter and light the taxi sign in the absence of passengers.

Call taxi drivers cannot pick up passengers from the street, while both roaming and call taxis cannot pick up passengers from Kuwait International Airport. Taxis also cannot pick up passengers from highways or main roads. Taxis can only transport passengers and it is not permissible to transport goods or food. The General Directorate of Traffic stressed the need for taxi drivers to comply with these instructions, warning any taxi driver who violates the instructions and the traffic law will be held accountable.

## Pakistan braces for deluge from swollen rivers

**SUKKUR, Pakistan:** Pakistan's flooded southern Sindh province braced Sunday for a fresh deluge from swollen rivers in the north as the death toll from this year's monsoon topped 1,000. The mighty Indus River that courses through Pakistan's second-most populous region is fed by dozens of mountain tributaries to the north, but many have burst their banks following record rains and glacier melt.

Officials warned torrents of water are expected to reach Sindh in the next few days, adding misery to millions already affected by the floods. "Right now, Indus is in high flood," said Aziz Soomro, the supervisor of Sukkur Barrage - a massive

Continued on Page 6



**JAFFARABAD, Pakistan:** A flood-affected man walks over his collapsed mud house after heavy monsoon rains in this district in Balochistan province on Aug 28, 2022. — AFP

## India destroys illegal 100-m 'twin towers'

**NEW DELHI:** India demolished two residential high-rise buildings outside New Delhi on Sunday, in a dramatic spectacle carried live on television channels after days of excited media build-up. The destruction of the 100-metre-high "Twin Towers" in Noida, home to a concrete forest of similar structures, was also a rare example of India getting tough on corrupt developers and officials.

The 32 floors of "Apex" and the 29 of "Ceyane", containing between them nearly 1,000 apartments that were never inhabited in nine years of legal

disputes, were brought down in seconds, creating an immense cloud of dust and debris. The controlled implosions using 3,700 kg of explosives were India's biggest demolition to date, local media reported.

Thousands of people, as well as stray dogs, had to be evacuated before the blast, including from neighboring high-rises, one of which was reportedly just nine meters away. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage to nearby buildings, but a local official told reporters that the operation had gone "largely as planned".

Indian media reported minute details of the demolition, including the number of holes drilled for the charges (9,642) and the volume of debris created (80,000 tons). TV news channel Times Now, which like

Continued on Page 6



**NOIDA, India:** This combination of pictures created on Aug 28, 2022 shows a controlled implosion demolishing the 100-m-high residential "Twin Towers" on the outskirts of New Delhi. — AFP

## Egypt dimming lights to boost foreign reserves

**CAIRO:** An economic crisis spurred by the Ukraine war is casting darkness upon Egypt's streets, as the government dims lights to free up energy for export and bolster hard currency reserves. Russia's invasion of Ukraine had an immediate impact on Egypt, the world's biggest wheat importer which has relied on the ex-Soviet states for over 80 percent of its grain. Egypt, which turned to the

International Monetary Fund for a loan after the war erupted, is pumping more natural gas abroad to increase its foreign currency reserves - a move that has come in for criticism.

And while the government announced electricity rationing this month, signs of wastage elicit scorn. "I see streetlights still working during daylight hours... and we're suffering from high electricity bills," said a disgruntled Cairo resident in his 30s who spoke on condition of anonymity. The country's vital tourism sector has also been hit by the Ukraine conflict, cutting the flow of holidaymakers to a country still hurting from the 2011 revolution and Covid-19 pandemic.

Continued on Page 6



**CAIRO:** This picture taken on Aug 24, 2022 from the landmark Cairo Tower shows a night-time view of vehicles driving past lit-up billboards along the October 6 highway running through the center of the capital. — AFP

## Local

Legalese

## Privacy policies in Kuwait



By Fajer Ahmed

fajer@kuwaittimes.net

A privacy policy is usually a legal document that explains how a company or organization gathers or discloses customer information or data. Privacy policies are becoming more and more important as we keep using more and more services virtually. Internationally, countries are heading towards stricter laws, ensuring that the storage of your private information is secure, especially European countries that now have General Data Protection Regulation, referred to as GDPR. It's a general law for data privacy across the European union.

In April 2021, Kuwait's Communication & Information Technology Authority (CITRA) released the data privacy protection regulation (no. 42 of 2021). It is only applicable to telecommunication companies, but discusses important points that many international laws discuss, such as maintaining privacy of data, informing clients of the purpose of the collection of data, to whom it may be disclosed to and many more details that are up to the global standard. But some important clauses are missing, such as how to use the information to market to clients, or the security of the data.

Today I will be answering the most common questions I receive from companies, especially small business owners of tech companies.

**Question: As a business owner, how do I make sure that I am following the laws and protecting my customers?**

**Fajer:** The law states a few important things, but more importantly, you need to be clear in your privacy policy what information you are collecting, why are you collecting it, and if you are sharing any information, you need to mention who are the third parties you are sharing the info with.

**Question: I know that the new data law only applies to communication companies - does that mean it does not apply to my company, a tech company specialized in selling products?**

**Fajer:** In Kuwait, we also have law no. 20 of 2014 concerning electronic transactions that applies in general to companies, and states that certain data needs to be protected. With that said, it is always important to make your customers feel protected, and protect the data yourself.

# Medtalks raises awareness about mental health and medical issues

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn and work well, and contribute to their community. Mental health is a basic human right, but some people often don't get the mental health support they need because they don't know where to start, or due to the high costs of therapists. Kuwait Times spoke with Mosaab Dhari, a Kuwaiti medical student who is interested in raising awareness about mental health and medical issues through his social media account 'Medtalks'. Some excerpts:

**Kuwait Times: What is Medtalks? When did you start it?**

**Dhari:** Medtalks is a group of medical doctors, pharmacists and students that aim to bring you their shared experiences. They want to expand their horizon of interests shared by healthcare students worldwide.

Our vision: First, we believe that being a healthcare student is not strictly reserved for top students. One has to be a motivated person with a holistic vision, sense of reflection and a better understanding of others. Second, we would like, with your help, to connect medical students and give them a platform to express their interests. Finally, we firmly believe that mental health is as important as physical health.

**KT: Why did you choose the mental health topic?**

**Dhari:** Because I wish to break the stigma around mental health in the Middle East.

**KT: What inspired you to launch this idea?**

## Narrowing the government size top priority

**KUWAIT:** We could not gather all of the authorities, institutions, councils and permanent committees, but we managed to count what we could conclude (about 50 entities). Most of these have no real need, and their presence and continuity are not associated with achieving any goal. Still, instead it was accompanied by a sustained lower achievement. The justifications for establishing most of them came to create leading positions without real need for their loyalty. In addition, their creation faced the blatant unemployment problem in an economy without a development project to create real jobs.

Despite their abundant numbers, their performance is lagging. For example, though there are 12



Mosaab Dhari

**Dhari:** In addition to my interest in psychology and self-development, I noticed that people who are diagnosed with depression or mental health problems suffer in silence, which made me feel there is a necessity to talk more about mental health.

**KT: Did people react to the Medtalks account?**

**Dhari:** Yes! They support us!

**KT: What kind of awareness do you share?**

**Dhari:** Mental/physical health and community healthcare.

**KT: How many volunteer experts participated**

supervisory bodies to control corruption, yet corruption is increasing. Likewise, there are quality control bodies for education, yet education is getting worse. The same applies to the entities aimed to manage the environment, roads and oil. In his television program, Ali Khaja mentioned that the Supreme Council for Governorate Affairs employs about 2,000 persons to monitor 300 employees' performance at a cost that is 10 times the cost of implementation, and no one knows the need for the governorates.

Kuwait has the largest government in the world, employing about 80 percent of the national workforce, or one citizen working in it for every two others. The number of its aforementioned authorities is three times the number of its ministries, yet the productivity of the public sector is constantly declining. It is okay if this is sustainable, yet this system is very fragile and linked to the conditions of the oil market. If it rebounded, these bodies began to spawn, and if collapsed the inability to pay salaries began, and the influence of the local decision maker is non-existent

in Medtalks?

**Dhari:** We are more than 10 and we are happy for anyone else who is a medical practitioner/student to join us and be a member.

**KT: How did they help people suffering from mental health issues?**

**Dhari:** By normalizing mental health issues, which can affect anyone, and that it is okay to ask for help. Through our platforms, we have spread awareness about various mental disorders, chronic diseases and public health issues. Also, we have connected people to free psychotherapy sessions in cooperation with many volunteer therapists.

**KT: Have you spread awareness somewhere else other than social media?**

**Dhari:** Due to our recent start, we haven't got the opportunity to do so yet, but we look forward to expanding our means of awareness as the Medtalks family grows.

**KT: What is your next plan?**

**Dhari:** The next steps we hope to achieve are launching a podcast and setting up social events.

**KT: Your message to people with mental health conditions.**

**Dhari:** I have a message for the people who know someone with a mental condition: Mental conditions appear in different forms. Just because someone suffers in silence doesn't mean they aren't suffering at all. Thus, check on your family and friends and give them the support they need. It is real. Believe them.

on the variables of the oil market.

All expectations, without any exception, confirm the inevitability of a related weakness in the oil market conditions in the future, and all the oil-less countries that are less dependent on oil have plans for a more gradual reduction in dependence on it, and the size of the Kuwaiti government works in the opposite direction. We reiterate in this article what we have repeatedly stated because there are declared intentions to bring about change with a new era.

We, of course, assume that the preceding is an old legacy and the next administration has no role in its making. Accordingly, confronting it and substantially reducing the government's size becomes a top priority because not only it is impossible to endure its expansion and the related costs, but also because of the conflict between the work of one entity and another. In addition, a large part of the bureaucracy of the sterile work environment is the result of the need of obtaining countless approvals from those parties and because their management, control and follow-up are an impossible mission. — Al-Shall



# BUY NOW AND WIN

## WITH OUR SPECIAL SUMMER MEALS



**3.500kd**  
Wrap Sandwich



**3.500kd**  
2 Pcs Bone-in



**3.500kd**  
Original Chicken Fillet

**1800016**  
CHICSTERKW.COM  
@CHICSTERKW

Local

# Crown Prince receives letter addressed to the Amir from Palestinian President



KUWAIT: (Left) HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a letter addressed to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas from Abbas' envoy Yasser Abbas. (Right) HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Palestinian presidential envoy Abbas. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday a letter addressed to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on bilateral rela-

tions, issues of common interest and the latest regional and international developments. The president's personal envoy Yasser Abbas handed the letter to HH the Crown Prince, with the attendance of Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad

Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and a number of senior officials of the Amiri Diwan, the Crown Prince's Diwan and the accompanying Palestinian delegation.

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received Palestinian presidential envoy Abbas and his accompanying delegation. The meeting took place at Seif Palace on Sunday, with the attendance of several senior officials. — KUNA

## Kuwait voices concern over Libya clashes

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Sunday expressed concern and regret over armed clashes in the Libyan capital Tripoli. The foreign ministry, in a statement, voiced alarm over the clashes that threaten the safety and security of the brotherly Libyan people and undermine the country's stability. It affirmed Kuwait's support for the brotherly Libyan state, the political process and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions designed to safeguard Libya's

stability and sovereignty.

The ministry also called upon all Libyan parties to cease the clashes, escalation and bloodshed, adopt political dialogue to resolve disputes for the sake of preserving Libya's higher interests and attain the brotherly people's aspirations for development and prosperity.

The Arab Parliament on Sunday also expressed deep concern about the developments in Tripoli. In a statement, the parliament urged all parties and



national forces to stop violence and escalation, exercise restraint in order to prevent bloodshed, return to dialogue, preserve the capabilities of the Libyan people and reach a solution that achieves stability in Libya. It expressed full solidarity with Libya, offering condolences to the families of the victims and wishing speedy recovery to the injured.

Clashes between backers of Libya's rival governments killed at least 32 people, the health ministry said Sunday in a new toll, after a battle that sparked fears of major new conflict. Armed groups had exchanged fire that damaged several hospitals and set buildings on fire starting Friday evening, the worst fighting in the Libyan capital since a landmark 2020 ceasefire.

The fighting came after months of mounting tensions between backers of Abdulhamid Dbeibah and

Fathi Bashagha, whose rival administrations are vying for control of the North African country which has seen more than a decade of violence since a 2011 uprising. Dbeibah's administration, installed in the capital as part of a United Nations-led peace process after the end of the last major battle in 2020, has so far prevented Bashagha from taking office there, arguing that the next administration should be the product of elections.

Bashagha was appointed by Libya's eastern-based parliament earlier this year and is backed by powerful eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar, whose 2019 attempt to seize the capital by force turned into a year-long civil war. Bashagha, a former interior minister, had initially ruled out the use of violence to take power in Tripoli but had since hinted that he could resort to force.

## KRCS provides urgent relief assistance to Pakistan amid floods



KUWAIT: Secretary General of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Maha Al-Barjas meets Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Farooq. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Sunday that it will provide urgent relief assistance to Pakistan due to floods in several provinces that resulted in deaths, injuries and large-scale displacement of residents of affected areas. Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas confirmed to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after meeting Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Malik Farooq the solidarity of Kuwait with the government and people of Pakistan in the face of the repercussions of the difficult climatic conditions and providing all possible support to them.

She said the society will provide all necessary humanitarian and health relief services to the displaced from the affected areas to help them overcome this difficult period, indicating that the field team of the society will ensure the safety of the displaced people and provide food, medical and

logistical assistance. She expressed her condolences over the victims of the flood disaster, especially as the current flooding of Pakistani provinces has turned into one of the worst disasters in the country's history.

Ambassador Farooq praised in a similar statement to KUNA the efforts of the society in providing urgent humanitarian assistance to afflicted countries, responding to humanitarian appeals and extending a helping hand to those affected. He stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and discussed how to provide urgent relief assistance in light of the difficult and exceptional circumstances his country is going through. Floods in Pakistan have affected more than 30 million people across the country and resulted in deaths and injuries and widespread displacement of residents of affected areas. — KUNA



SWAT, Pakistan: People gather in front of a road damaged by floodwaters following heavy monsoon rains in Madian in the northern Swat Valley on Aug 27, 2022. — AFP

On the occasion of the



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

For individuals only

Tel: 24833199 ext: 353-355-356



kuwaittimes.com

## News in brief

Chances of light rain with  
visibility to improve

KUWAIT: Visibility is expected to improve gradually with a chance of light rainfall in some areas of the country, station supervisor at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Dherar Al-Alyan said. "The weather will be partly cloudy with dust, after a decrease in visibility in northern and northwestern areas due to the light rain that fell in northern parts of Kuwait," Alyan told KUNA. In the coming days, Alyan forecast "the weather will be hot and relatively humid, especially in coastal areas in Kuwait with southeasterly winds carrying water vapor, which could lead to an increase in humidity with a slight chance of fog during the night". "Maximum temperature will range from 43 to 45 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperature will range from 26 to 28 degrees Celsius," he added. —KUNA

Electricity supervisor  
assaulted in Ahmadi

KUWAIT: An electricity supervisor in Ahmadi governorate was assaulted by an investment real estate owner after water was cut off because of not paying the bills. "The ministry employee went to a hospital after the assault and received medical reports describing his injuries, which he took to file a complaint at a police station against the perpetrator," sources told Kuwait Times. "This is not the first incident of its kind, as there have been assaults on other employees in the sector while performing their duties, which includes cutting off electricity of anyone who does not pay their bills," the ministry of electricity and water explained. The customer service sector must collect all bills to pay off ministry debts, which is considered public money.

Screen allowance for teachers  
who taught through Teams

KUWAIT: A KD 20 screen allowance has been approved by Education Ministry Undersecretary Osama Al-Sultan. "An agreement was reached for Kuwaiti teachers to receive an allowance as an incentive," Sultan said in a memo to educational zones. "Please provide us within three days all the names of teachers who taught through the Teams' application so the managerial sectors can accommodate their allowance," Sultan's memo added.

Jahra Corniche listed for  
development by private firms

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has affirmed the development of Jahra Corniche by private companies through a public auction. "The project aims to provide opportunities to young nationals and support urban development, which will provide an entertainment zone while preserving the Kuwaiti identity," sources explained. The Cabinet requested Kuwait Municipality to prepare to submit the project to the private sector through an auction in coordination with the necessary ministries. The project's plans have been almost finalized, as all environmental and financial aspects have been studied and are ready for the ministry of commerce to take over and enlist it for investment. The project is included in the 2023-24 development plan that was prepared by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.

EPA finds violations in  
Shuaiba industrial area

KUWAIT: The official spokesperson of the Environment Public Authority and Director of Public Relations and Media Department Sheikha Al-Ibrahim said the authority's teams on Saturday discovered several violations in factories in the western industrial area of Shuaiba and citations were issued against violators of the environmental protection law. Ibrahim explained to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that article 18 stipulates that "all establishments shall comply with all engineering and environmental requirements determined by the executive regulations of this law", indicating that the penalty for violating this article is a fine of not less than KD 5,000 and not more than KD 50,000.

Article 31 stipulates that "the sources from which hazardous waste, healthcare waste or sludge are generated, in addition to the competent authorities in charge of collecting, transporting and disposing of waste of all kinds, shall be obliged to provide the authority with the details of these wastes while maintaining a special

## Photo of the day



KUWAIT: The Salmiya skyline is seen from Arabian Gulf Road. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Firemen extinguish blaze at  
Mina Abdullah warehouse

KUWAIT: Firemen battle a blaze at a warehouse in Mina Abdullah.



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) said on Sunday that its teams put out a fire that erupted in a warehouse in Mina Abdullah late Saturday. In a press release, the KFF media department indicated the fire, which occurred at 8:46 pm

local time in a 5,000 sq m warehouse, saw fire teams from the force and the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) partaking in firefighting duties.

The fire did not cause any casualties, added the media department. Senior officials from the

interior ministry - including Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Sabah - and the KFF visited the site of the incident. —KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Sabah visits the site of the incident.



KUWAIT: The inspection team from EPA.

record, and the executive regulations of this law shall specify the required data and the mechanism for their transport and management."

The penalty for violating article 31 is imprisonment of a period of not less than one year and not more than three years and a fine of not less than KD 10,000 and not more than KD 50,000 or one of these two penalties. Article 73 states that "all industrial, commercial, tourist, private housing and other establishments, whether governmental or non-governmental, are prohibited from discharging any materials, wastes or liquids that would cause pollution to the beaches or waters adjacent to them, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly."

The penalty of article 73 is imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine of not less than KD 50,000 and not more than KD 200,000, or one of these two penalties, for anyone who intentionally causes pollution in marine areas mentioned in article 68 of this law in violation of the provisions of articles 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 76.

Ibrahim explained the penalty of article 73 is a fine of not less than KD 30,000 and not more than KD 150,000 for anyone who inadvertently pollutes marine areas mentioned in article 68 of

this law in violation of the provisions of articles 72, 73, 74, 75 and 76. Ibrahim called on everyone to abide by the environmental protection law and its executive regulations so as not to be

subjected to legal accountability, stressing the continuation of the authority teams' inspection campaigns on factories and facilities in all regions of Kuwait. —KUNA



US Navy warships transit through Taiwan Strait

## Bolsonaro, Lula set to face off in election debate

Page 6

Page 7



TRIPOLI: Damaged vehicles are pictured in a street in the Libyan capital on Aug 27, 2022, following clashes between rival Libyan groups. — AFP

# Tentative calm in Libyan capital after clashes kill 32

## Dbeibah defiant • Pro-Bashagha militias turn back • World powers appeal for calm

**TRIPOLI:** Flights resumed and shops re-opened in Libya's capital Tripoli on Sunday after clashes between backers of rival governments killed at least 32 people and sparked fears of major new conflict. Armed groups had exchanged fire that damaged several hospitals and set buildings on fire starting overnight Friday into Saturday, the worst fighting in the Libyan capital since a landmark 2020 ceasefire.

A cautious calm had set in by Saturday evening, an AFP correspondent reported, and the health ministry said Sunday morning that 32 people had been killed and 159 wounded during the clashes. The fighting came after months of mounting tensions between backers of Abdulhamid Dbeibah and Fathi Bashagha, whose rival administrations are vying for control of the oil-rich North African country, which has seen more than a decade of violence since a 2011 uprising.

Rockets "were flying over our heads, in the middle of residential buildings," said Mohammed Abaya, 38, who lives in one of the areas of the capital that saw fighting. "We were terrified," said another resident, retiree Lotfi Ben Rajab. "A rocket

fell in my neighbor's living room but didn't explode, thank God".

### Calls for calm

Dbeibah's administration was installed in Tripoli in the country's west as part of a United Nations-led peace process last year. He has so far prevented Bashagha from taking office there, arguing that the next administration should be the product of elections. Bashagha was appointed by Libya's eastern-based parliament earlier this year.

He is backed by powerful eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar, whose 2019 attempt to seize the capital by force turned into a year-long conflict. Bashagha, a former interior minister, had initially ruled out the use of violence to take power in Tripoli but subsequently hinted that he could resort to force.

Libya plunged into chaos following the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising, with myriad armed groups and foreign powers moving to fill the power vacuum. Certain armed groups, seen as neutral in

the latest crisis, returned to support Dbeibah this weekend to push back Bashagha's second attempt to enter the capital.

Both sides exchanged blame on Saturday while world powers appealed for calm. The UN's Libya mission called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", deploring "indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-populated neighborhoods". On Saturday evening, Dbeibah posted a video of himself surrounded by bodyguards and greeting fighters supporting his administration.

"We won't leave this country to the scoundrels," he said in the video posted on his Twitter account under the title "end of the aggression". He said on Sunday he would create two committees to survey the damage from the fighting.

### 'Never-ending story'

Dbeibah's Government of National Unity said fighting had broken out after negotiations to avoid bloodshed in Tripoli collapsed. Bashagha denied such talks had taken place, and accused Dbeibah's "illegitimate" administration of "clinging to power".

Local media reported late Saturday that a group of pro-Bashagha militias that had been making their way to the capital from Misrata later turned back.

The fighting had prompted several airlines to cancel flights to and from the capital. But flights resumed and shops reopened on Sunday morning, and educational institutions said student exams would go ahead on Monday.

On Saturday evening, Dbeibah ordered the arrest of anyone involved in the "attack on Tripoli", both civilian and military. A pro-GNU force from Misrata - the hometown of both Dbeibah and Bashagha - said Sunday it had arrested several "assailants".

But analysts said the crisis was far from resolved, with the capital controlled by a multitude of armed groups with shifting alliances. Analyst Wolfram Lacher called it "a never-ending story" on Twitter. "The armed groups that found themselves on the same side in yesterday's Tripoli fighting will tomorrow clash over turf, positions and budgets," he wrote. "The factions that were pro-Dbeibah yesterday will challenge him tomorrow." — AFP

## Flood fate lies with colonial-era Pakistan barrage

**SUKKUR, Pakistan:** The fate of hundreds of thousands of people in Pakistan's southern Sindh province lies with a 90-year-old barrage that directs the flow of water from the mighty Indus River into one of the world's largest irrigation systems. The government has declared an emergency to deal with floods caused by record monsoon rains that have affected nearly 33 million people - many whose livelihoods depend on the Indus.

But just as the river provides during times of plenty, it can also take away. Sindh has been pounded by weeks of torrential rain that have flooded farmlands across the province, but now torrents from swollen tributaries in the mountainous north are coursing down the Indus, due to arrive in coming days. The river rises in Tibet and bisects Pakistan as it meanders more than 3,000 km south to the Arabian Sea near Karachi.

"That water coming into the river is scaring us," Irshad Ali, a 42-year-old farmer near the city of Sukkur, told AFP as he lamented the date palms and vegetable patches he lost to the monsoon. "A big storm is about to come." Water from the Indus is already lapping over its banks in several places, and unless the Sukkur Barrage can control the flow, catastrophe will result.

Originally known as Lloyd Barrage, it was consid-

ered an engineering marvel when completed in 1932, capable of discharging 1.4 million cu m of water per second through 19 steel gates hinged between stone pillars. It is the centerpiece of the city, a favorite site for tourists to photograph, and also provides a key bridge across the river. "It has completed 90 years, whereas it had a 50-year guarantee," Syed Khurshid Shah, Pakistan's Minister for Water Resources, told AFP. "So we are 40 years beyond its guaranteed life."

### Fortunate forecast

Water is redirected by the barrage to a series of canals totaling nearly 10,000 km that thread through farmlands, but years of neglect mean they are not capable of dealing with today's record volumes. "Silt has been piling up and it is not being removed," said Shah, adding a lack of equipment meant the canals hadn't been dredged since 2010.

Meters-thick layers of silt leave less room for the water to flow, causing a backlog and likely flooding at the Indus. Water is already flowing into the streets of Sukkur, seeping through the walls of buildings along Bandar Road, which leads to the barrage. "The city is already four feet below the river levels," minister Shah said. Engineers were scrambling Sunday to reinforce Ali Wahab levee, a crucial curve of the river Indus in the city that is threatened by the swollen river.

Optimism, and a bit of time, are the only relieving factors. "This embankment is strong, machinery is available and the staff on alert," said overseer Shahid Hussain. "The good thing is the timing," he added, explaining that flooding caused by local rain should have receded by the time the water from the north courses through. — AFP

## Six killed as truck hits Dutch village barbecue

**NIEUW-BEIJERLAND, Netherlands:** Dutch police on Sunday said six people were killed and seven others hurt after a truck ran off the top of a dike road and ploughed into revelers at a neighborhood barbecue. The accident happened around 6 pm (1600 GMT) on Saturday when the Spanish-registered lorry went off the road in the village of Nieuw-Beijerland, 30 km south of Rotterdam.

The victims were three women aged 28, 32 and 75, and three men aged 41, 50 and 62, all from the local area, police said. One of the injured was in a critical condition in hospital. Police had first confirmed at least two dead after the vehicle drove into the crowded community barbecue, which Dutch news reports said was being hosted by an ice-skating club.

"We now have six people killed and seven injured, one seriously after yesterday's accident," police spokeswoman Mirjam Boers told AFP. "We are still investigating what exactly happened," she said. Photographs from the scene identified the truck as belonging to the El Mosca company, based in Spain.

Boers confirmed the 46-year-old driver from Spain had been arrested "and was not under the influence of alcohol" at the time of the accident. "He was arrested for causing a fatal accident and serious



NIEUW-BEIJERLAND, Netherlands: A photograph shows the location on Aug 28, 2022, where a truck crashed into a group of people dining near Rotterdam on Aug 27, 2022. — AFP

bodily injury. His role in the incident is under investigation. For the time being, we are keeping all scenarios about the facts open," police said in a statement. Residents were laying flowers at the location of the accident on Sunday, an AFP journalist at the site said. A police car stood guard at the scene.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima said they were "shocked" by the tragedy. "We are shocked and moved by the terrible accident in Nieuw-Beijerland last night in which so many people were killed. An unimaginable sadness within this close-knit community," the king and queen said in an official message. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also sent condolences. — AFP

## International

## Peru's president Castillo shakes up police leadership after raid of govt headquarters

Castillo seems to want a police force that accommodates his interests

LIMA: Leftist Peruvian President Pedro Castillo replaced the leadership of the country's national police Saturday, two weeks after anticorruption officials searched government headquarters in search of the leader's wanted sister-in-law.

During the raid earlier this month, which Castillo has called "illegal," investigators looked for Yenifer Paredes, who is accused of taking part in a corruption ring which prosecutors allege is run by the president and his wife, Lilia Paredes.

Among others, Castillo is now seeking to dismiss the head of that operation, Harvey Colchado, whom he says violated presidential immunity. Deputy Internal Order Minister Abel Gamarra Saturday the turnover is a "natural change" as part of regular personnel switch-ups at the Interior Ministry.

"Norms (on appointment requirements) have not been violated," Gamarra told RPP radio, adding that the "police command is not being crushed." Nevertheless, right-wing opposition lawmaker Jorge Montoya, who sits on the Internal Order parliamentary committee, on Twitter called the changes an "indiscriminate abuse of authority" by Castillo.

According to human rights lawyer Carlos Rivera Paz, Castillo "seems to want a police force that accommodates his interests," which could include obstructing any investigations of which he is a target.

The ordeal is the second scandal Castillo has faced in regards to personnel changes at the top of

Peru's security forces. In January, he was forced to name a new cabinet head after controversy over promotions in the Peruvian National Police (PNP) and the armed forces.

Those promotions are under investigation by prosecutors, which alleges that Castillo and former secretary of the presidency Bruno Pacheco engaged in influence peddling. Castillo is current-



Family also faces legal trouble

ly the subject of an unprecedented six investigations for offenses including organized crime, obstruction of justice and plagiarism, though he carries presidential immunity through the end of his term in July 2026.

And Castillo's family also faces legal trouble-his daughter risks three years of preliminary detention for her role in the corruption plot, while his wife

work," the far-right leader said in an interview with Jovem Pan radio on Friday.

The debate is the first in the campaign calendar ahead of the October 2 elections. Organizers have also invited four other candidates, including former finance minister Ciro Gomes and Senator Simone Tebet. Polls have put Lula in the lead as the race heats up, with one published by the Datafolha Institute earlier this month showing the leftist leader taking 47 percent of the vote compared to Bolsonaro's 32 percent.

In 2018, when Bolsonaro won the election, he participated in the first two presidential debates-but was then stabbed during a campaign rally, and after undergoing surgery he did not return for later debates.

Neither Lula nor another former Brazilian president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, participated in debates before the first round when they sought reelection in 2006 and 1998, respectively.

On the eve of the debate, Bolsonaro and Lula both released campaign ads mainly focusing on the

istry sources said.

That was "incompatible with the spirit of (NATO) alliance" and amounted to "hostile acts" under the NATO rules of engagement, the sources added. "Despite this hostile action, (Turkish) jets completed their planned missions and returned to their base safely."

Greek defence ministry sources dismissed the allegations. "Greece's S-300 missile system has never put a lock on Turkish F-16 jets", the sources said, according to state-run Ert television. Turkey has in recent months complained of what it calls provocative actions by Greece, saying such moves undermine peace efforts.

The two uneasy NATO neighbours have longstanding sea and air boundary disputes which lead

day of the election or maximum by the morning of the next day. Counting of votes is still manual in oil-rich Kuwait. Minister of State for Housing and Minister of National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, a former MP, resigned on Sunday from the Cabinet because he plans to run in the election.

Former opposition MP Bader Al-Dahoum, who was stripped off his seat by the constitutional court last year, filed an appeal on Sunday before the court of cassation to get his name listed in the electoral lists to be able to run in polls. The interior ministry refused to include his name because he was convicted by court. The administrative court later rejected his case, so he took his appeal to the court of cassation, which is expected to rule on his case in a few days.

"People were informed around three or four o'clock in the morning to evacuate their houses," rescue worker Umar Rafiq told AFP. "When the flood water hit the area we had to rescue children and women." Many rivers in the area - a picturesque tourist destination of rugged mountains and valleys - have burst their banks, demolishing scores of buildings including a 150-room hotel that crumbled into a raging torrent.

Guest house owner Nasir Khan, whose business was badly hit by the 2010 flooding, said he had lost everything. "It has washed away the remaining part of the hotel," he told AFP. The flood-swollen rivers were also yielding unlikely riches. Locals scrambled to snag thousands of valuable cedar, pine and oak logs that had likely been illegally harvested in the mountains but were being washed downstream.

Officials blame the devastation on human-driven climate change, saying Pakistan is unfairly bearing the consequences of irresponsible environmental practices elsewhere in the world. Pakistan is eighth on NGO Germanwatch's Global Climate Risk Index, a list of countries deemed most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change. Exacerbating the situation, corruption, poor planning and the flouting of local regulations mean thousands of buildings have been erected in areas prone to seasonal flooding.

The government has declared an emergency and mobilized the military to deal with what Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman has called "a catastrophe of epic scale". —AFP



LIMA: A supporter of Yenifer Paredes, the sister-in-law of Peru's President Pedro Castillo, rallies outside the courthouse in Lima, after the prosecution requested she was sent to preventive detention for 36 months, for her alleged participation in a corruption network. —AFP

could be banned from leaving the country. Castillo, who has faced two impeachment attempts in his 13 months in office and currently has a disapproval

rate around 70 percent; he has denied involvement in any crimes and claims he is a victim of a campaign trying to remove him from power. —AFP

## Bolsonaro, Lula set to face off in election debate

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is expected to face his biggest rival for the presidency, popular leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, on Sunday for a debate ahead of October elections, after days of uncertainty over whether they would participate.

"See you at Band (broadcaster Rede Bandeirantes) tomorrow," Lula, who was president of Brazil from 2003-2010, tweeted on Saturday.

Bolsonaro has not officially confirmed his participation, but is also expected to appear, according to campaign sources quoted by local media on Saturday. "At one point I thought I shouldn't go, now I think I should... I think my strategy is going to

economy. Lula criticized inflation and the spread of

hunger, which affects more than 33 million Brazilians.

Bolsonaro attributed inflation to the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and drought; while promising to maintain a welfare program which transfers money each month to 20 million families. —AFP

to near-daily air force patrols and interception mis-

sions mostly around Greek islands near Turkey's coastline.

Athens accuses Ankara of overflying Greek islands, Turkey says Greece is stationing troops on islands in the Aegean Sea in violation of peace treaties signed after World Wars I and II. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cut off dialogue with Greece after charging that Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis lobbied against US arms sales to his country.

Washington has sanctioned Ankara for taking delivery of an advanced Russian missile defence system in 2019. The purchase saw the United States drop Turkey from the F-35 joint strike fighter programme. —AFP

## Turkey accuses Greece of 'hostile action'

ISTANBUL, Turkey: Turkey on Sunday said fellow NATO member Greece had used a Russian-made air defence system to harass Turkish jets on a reconnaissance mission in what it termed a "hostile action". The incident took place on August 23 when Greece's S-300 missile system on the island of Crete put a lock on Turkish F-16 jets flying at 10,000 feet west of Rhodes, Turkish defence min-

## Amiri decree sets National Assembly...

Continued from Page 1

strong backing for the speaker's post. Other main former MPs who are running include Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, Hasan Jowhar, Abdullah Al-Mudhaf, Muhallal Al-Mudhaf, Osama Al-Munawer, Obaid Al-Wasmi, Osama Al-Shaheen, Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi and many others.

Results are expected to be announced the same

## Pakistan braces for deluge from...

Continued from Page 1

colonial-era construction that regulates the river's flow and redirects water to a vast system of canals. The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but it also brings destruction.

Officials say this year's monsoon flooding has affected more than 33 million people - one in seven Pakistanis - destroying or badly damaging nearly a million homes. On Sunday, the country's National Disaster Management Authority said the death toll from the monsoon rains had reached 1,033, with 119 killed in the previous 24 hours. It said this year's floods were comparable to 2010 - the worst on record - when over 2,000 people died and nearly a fifth of the country was under water.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who cancelled a trip to Britain to oversee relief operations, said he had never seen anything like it before. "Village after village has been wiped out. Millions of houses have been destroyed. There has been immense destruction," he said after flying over Sindh by helicopter. Thousands of people living near flood-swollen rivers in Pakistan's north were ordered to evacuate from danger zones, but army helicopters and rescuers are still plucking laggards to safety.



SAO PAULO, Brazil: Combination of file pictures shows Brazilian presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L), and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro during the Brazilian Steel Conference, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. —AFP

to near-daily air force patrols and interception mis-

sions mostly around Greek islands near Turkey's coastline.

Athens accuses Ankara of overflying Greek islands, Turkey says Greece is stationing troops on islands in the Aegean Sea in violation of peace treaties signed after World Wars I and II. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cut off dialogue with Greece after charging that Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis lobbied against US arms sales to his country.

Washington has sanctioned Ankara for taking delivery of an advanced Russian missile defence system in 2019. The purchase saw the United States drop Turkey from the F-35 joint strike fighter programme. —AFP

to near-daily air force patrols and interception mis-

sions mostly around Greek islands near Turkey's coastline.

Athens accuses Ankara of overflying Greek islands, Turkey says Greece is stationing troops on islands in the Aegean Sea in violation of peace treaties signed after World Wars I and II. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cut off dialogue with Greece after charging that Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis lobbied against US arms sales to his country.

Washington has sanctioned Ankara for taking delivery of an advanced Russian missile defence system in 2019. The purchase saw the United States drop Turkey from the F-35 joint strike fighter programme. —AFP

## India destroys illegal 100-m...

Continued from Page 1

others ran a countdown timer and showed little else on Sunday morning, called it the "mother of all demolitions" of the "towers of shame". Police shut a busy adjacent expressway, where on Saturday motorists stopped to take final selfies with the towers in the backdrop.

The legal dispute over the towers went all the way to India's Supreme Court, which ruled last year that the buildings breached safety regulations and that the developers colluded with corrupt authorities. The world's fastest-growing major economy has seen a construction boom in the last two decades, which has also given rise to a nexus of corruption involving politicians, bureaucrats and powerful builders.

Developers often sidestep many construction, urban-planning and environmental regulations, usually with impunity. The outskirts of major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore have

## Egypt dimming lights to boost...

Continued from Page 1

Economic growth slowed to 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22 against 7.7 percent last year, although annual expansion was 6.6 percent. Despite the better-than-expected annual figure, the government said growth had tapered off in the wake of "global political and economic developments". Egypt's monetary policy has been caught between a rock and a hard place since Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Inflation hit a three-year high of 14.6 percent in July after Egypt devalued the pound, pushing up the price of imports and depleting forex reserves by \$7.8 billion since February to \$33.1 billion in July.

Egypt is negotiating an IMF loan to help mitigate fallout from the Ukraine war on the country, where 30

## News in brief

## Pope urges aid for Pakistan

L'AQUILA, Italy: Pope Francis on Sunday called on the international community to help Pakistan, where deadly floods have killed more than 1,000 people. The Argentine pontiff appealed for "prompt and generous international solidarity", and said he was praying for the victims. His comments came as he visited the city of L'Aquila in central Italy, which was hit by an earthquake that killed more than 300 people in 2009. The 85-year-old pope praised the people of L'Aquila's "resilience" and "dignity". Pope Francis, who used a wheelchair during the visit, was due to return to the Vatican early this afternoon.

## Thousands support Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES: Supporters of Argentine Vice President Cristina Kirchner — on trial for alleged corruption — gathered across the country on Saturday, with police using tear gas and water cannon in the capital Buenos Aires. Kirchner, 69, is accused of fraudulently awarding public works contracts in her stronghold in Patagonia, and prosecutors have asked that she face 12 years in jail and a lifetime ban from politics. Thousands responded to a social media campaign and gathered peacefully in town squares across Argentina, though in Buenos Aires some supporters breached police barricades to reach Kirchner's home. —AFP

become traps for middle-class buyers who invest in projects that are never completed or get drawn into similar legal sagas. In Delhi's suburbs of Noida and Greater Noida - where the towers were demolished on Sunday - it is estimated that more than 100 residential towers have been abandoned by builders, making these areas look like ghost cities.

Uday Bhan Singh Teotia, one of a group of residents whose case against private developer Supertech led to the demolition order, said before the event that it would be a vindication of his legal battle. "The two new towers that they constructed were blocking everything - our air and sunlight," Teotia, who lives close to the structures, told AFP. Demolitions of residential buildings are rare in India, with builders often escaping with penalties or abandoning projects midway if they fall foul of the law.

Four luxury high-rises in the southern state of Kerala were demolished for breaking environmental rules in 2020. Lawyer Jayant Bhushan, who represented the complainants in the case against Supertech, said builders must clean up their act to win back home-buyers' trust. "Unless builders follow rules, it will be hapless buyers who will end up burning their fingers again and again," he told said. —AFP

percent of the 103 million population lives in poverty. But the talks have stretched out for six months, raising eyebrows among analysts. "The fact that talks with the IMF have dragged is probably a sign that some officials are reluctant to follow through on the Fund's demands and would prefer to rely on support from the oil-rich Gulf economies," London's Capital Economics said.

"We need to speed up negotiations with the IMF," said Hany Genena, an economist and lecturer at American University in Cairo. "Since last week, there has been a severe shortage of dollars provided to importers by banks in various sectors." Cairo had previously secured a \$12-billion IMF loan in 2016 that required it to slash subsidies and devalue the pound. In 2020, Egypt received two more loans, including \$5.4 billion tied to reforms and \$2.8 billion to tackle Covid.

Genena said Egypt needed to undertake more "drastic" reforms to restore its forex reserves, including a full float of the pound. Last week, as the currency plunged to a near all-time low of 19.1 to the dollar, central bank governor Tarek Amer resigned. —AFP

## International

# Angola bids solemn farewell to ex-strongman dos Santos

Dos Santos was referred by many, particularly MPLA members, as architect of peace

**LUANDA, Angola:** Angolans and world leaders gathered on Sunday for the state funeral of former strongman president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, whose nearly four-decade rule of the oil-rich nation was marred by allegations of plunder and nepotism.

The memorial service was held at the historic palm tree lined Praça da Republica in the seaside capital Luanda on what would have been dos Santos's 80th birthday. It comes days after his party, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) — which has ruled the country for nearly half a century — saw its worst results at the polls in the most hotly contested elections since independence.

Dos Santos—who died last month following a cardiac arrest—will be remembered as a “statesman and devoted pan-Africanist,” former Namibian president Sam Nujoma, 93, told the hundreds of mourners in attendance.

A choir sang dirges while flags flew at half-mast around the square, which houses an imposing concrete mausoleum where the country's founding president Agostinho Neto is interred. Dignitaries including South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi and Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa filled rows of white and gold seats.

Josiane dos Santos, the late leader's daughter, sobbed while recalling her father's love for music. During Angola's war for independence, the young “Zedu”, as he was called, began his career as a revolutionary by recording LPs that encouraged the fight against coloniser Portugal while he took refuge in the neighbouring DRC, she said.



**'Statesman and devoted pan-Africanist'**

**'Architect of peace'**  
Dos Santos was referred to by many, particularly MPLA members, as the “architect of peace” who brought democracy and multiparty politics to the country. On the streets of Luanda, some people were more critical of his legacy. “He left a high rate of youth unemployment... extreme poverty and one of the most unequal societies,” said Mariana Quissanga, 42, a businesswoman selling furniture and clothes. Dos Santos led the country from 1979 to 2017 under the MPLA banner. His party notched up its worst electoral performance in this week's polls.

After 97 percent of the results were tallied, an initial count showed the MPLA had won 51.07 percent of the vote, with 44.05 percent for the party's main rival, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

UNITA—which fought a bitter 27-year civil war against the MPLA government—has rejected the results. Five members of the 16-strong election commission have threatened not to sign off the results. “Let's hope that... a solution can be found to what is happening in the country”, commissioner Francisco Vieira told a press conference on Saturday.

Dos Santos died at a clinic in Barcelona, and some of his children were at loggerheads with the government and his estranged wife over where and when he was to be buried. But a Spanish court last week ruled that the body be returned to his wife in Angola.

His eldest daughter Isabel dos Santos, who has faced a slew of investigations into her multinational business dealings, last week wrote on social media that she would not be able to attend the funeral.



**LUANDA, Angola:** The cortege carrying the remains of former Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos arrives at the Praça da Republica in Luanda. —AFP

But as the ceremony was under way, Isabel posted a picture of herself and her father on Instagram, captioned in Portuguese “Happy birthday papa”. Under dos Santos's tenure, Angola became one of Africa's top oil producers. While dos Santos and his family reaped vast wealth from Angola's resources, most of the country's 33 million people remain among the poorest in the world.

As one of the longest-ruling African leaders, he established himself as a political heavyweight beyond

the country's borders. Weakened by age and illness, he stepped down in 2017, appointing Joao Lourenco as his successor, who now stands to gain a second term in office. Dos Santos passed a series of laws before his departure from government, granting himself broad judicial immunity. Manuel Kalunga, a 57-year-old public servant, will miss dos Santos. “His death leaves a great vacuum in the political, social and cultural landscape,” Kalunga said. —AFP

## US Navy warships transit through Taiwan Strait

**WASHINGTON:** Two United States warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, the American navy said, the first such transit since China staged unprecedented military drills around the island. In a statement, the US Navy said the transit “demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

Tensions in the Taiwan Strait soared to their highest level in years this month after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei. Beijing reacted furiously, staging days of air and sea exercises around Taiwan. Taipei condemned the drills and missile tests as preparation for an invasion.

Taiwan lives under constant threat of an invasion by China, which claims the self-ruled, democratic island as part of its territory to be seized one day—by force if necessary. Washington diplomatically recognizes Beijing over Taipei, but maintains de facto relations with Taiwan and supports the island's right to decide its own future.

The US Seventh Fleet said the pair of Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers—the USS Antietam and the USS

Chancellorsville—conducted the “routine” transit on Sunday “through waters where high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law.”

“These ships transited through a corridor in the Strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal State,” a statement said. “The United States military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows.”

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) said the US had “openly hyped up” the ships' passage through the Strait. “The PLA Eastern Theatre Command is following and warning the US vessels throughout their entire journey, and is aware of all movements,” spokesman Senior Colonel Shi Yi said.

“Troops in the (eastern) theatre remain on high alert and are prepared at all times to foil any provocations,” Taiwan's defense ministry confirmed a pair of warships sailed from north to south through the channel.

“During their southward journey through the Taiwan Strait, the military is fully monitoring relevant movements in our surrounding sea and airspace, and the situation is normal.”

### 'Freedom of navigation'

The Seventh Fleet is based in Japan and is a core part of Washington's navy presence in the Pacific. The US and Western allies have increased “freedom



**AT SEA:** Handout image shows the Arleigh-burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) transits the Taiwan Strait during a routine transit. —AFP

of navigation” crossings by naval vessels of both the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea to reinforce the concept that those seas are international waterways, sparking anger from Beijing.

Washington has said its position on Taiwan remains unchanged and has accused China of threatening peace in the Taiwan Strait and using the visit by Pelosi as a pretext for military exercises. China's drills included firing multiple ballistic missiles into waters off Taiwan—some of the

world's busiest shipping routes—which was the first time Beijing has taken such a step since the mid-1990s.

Taiwan staged its own drills, simulating a defense against invasion and displaying its most advanced fighter jet in a rare nighttime demonstration. Under President Xi Jinping, China's tone on Taiwan has grown more aggressive, with increased military activity and more combative messaging in recent years. —AFP

## UN condemns Ethiopia air raid on school

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia:** The UN on Saturday condemned a deadly Ethiopian air strike on a kindergarten in war-torn Tigray as fighting between rebels and government forces intensified along the region's border.

The air raid on the city of Mekele came just days after fighting returned to Ethiopia's north, shattering a five-month truce and dimming hopes of peace talks to end the brutal war. On Saturday, the government said federal forces had withdrawn from Kobo, a city just south of rebel-held Tigray, in a border region where combat erupted in recent days.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has been fighting forces allied to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for 21 months, said it had captured a number of towns and cities in a counter-offensive. The tit-for-tat claims could not be independ-

ently verified, as access to northern Ethiopia is severely restricted.

On Friday, as conflict on the ground escalated, an air strike on Mekele killed at least four people including two children, an official at the city's biggest hospital told AFP. Tigray TV, a local network, put the death toll at seven, including three children.

The broadcaster aired graphic footage of mangled playground equipment and a compound brightly painted with cartoons in ruins at the apparent scene of the strike. Addis Ababa said only military sites were targeted and accused the TPLF of “dumping fake body bags in civilian areas” to manufacture outrage.

But the UN children's agency UNICEF said the strike “hit a kindergarten, killing several children, and injuring others”. “UNICEF strongly condemns the air strike,” said UNICEF chief Catherine Russell. “Yet again, an escalation of violence in northern Ethiopia has caused children to pay the heaviest price. For almost two years, children and their families in the region have endured the agony of this conflict. It must end.”



**MEHONI, Ethiopia:** File photo shows a woman carrying crops walks next to an abandoned tank belonging to Tigrayan forces south of the town of Mehoni, Ethiopia. —AFP

Vicky Ford, the UK's Africa minister, said on Twitter: “Reports of civilian casualties following airstrikes on #Tigray are appalling.” The EU commissioner for crisis management, Janez Lenarcic, called for international humanitarian law to be respected. “Civilians are #NotATarget,” he

said on Twitter. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, himself from Tigray, described the air strike as “barbaric” and “horrifying”. In March, the UN said at least 304 civilians had been killed in the three months prior to airstrikes “apparently carried out by the Ethiopian Air Force”. —AFP

## 18 killed in western DR Congo clashes

**KIKWIT, DR Congo:** Eighteen people were killed in clashes between two communities in western Democratic Republic of Congo earlier this month, according to a government report seen by AFP Sunday.

Fighting broke out between the Yaka and

Teke people following a dispute over taxes and land, people in Mai-Ndombe province told AFP. Members of the Teke community consider themselves the original inhabitants of villages spread over 200 kilometres (124 miles) along the Congo River.

In early August there was knife-point fighting with the Yaka community, who settled afterwards, in the town of Kwamouth, about 100 kilometres from the capital Kinshasa.

“In the conflict between the Yaka and Teke in the province of Mai-Ndombe, 18 people were killed, including nine on the side of Yaka of Masia, including the chief of the land and his

wife,” said Culture Minister Catherine Kathungu in the minutes of the Council of Ministers.

She added: “175 houses were burnt down and an AK47 weapon belonging to an element of the Congolese National Police was taken away by the Teke assailants”. Rita Bola, the governor of Mai-Ndombe province, said Kwamouth was “calm now”.

“The army is now deployed all around to secure the population”, Bola said. Members of the Yaka community had refused to pay a “customary royalty” to traditional Teke chiefs, said Abbe Felicien Boduka, president of the Justice

and Peace Commission of the diocese of Inongo in Mai-Ndombe.

“We Yaka no longer wanted to pay this tax because the Constitution allows Congolese to settle freely anywhere on the national territory,” Gregoire Losoto, a development worker who abandoned his cassava fields and fish ponds in Kwamouth told AFP.

“The situation worsened in August because the Yaka installed their customary chief to replace a former Teke customary chief,” he said. The Yaka chief and his wife were killed “by assailants”, according to several witnesses interviewed by AFP. —AFP

## Pakistan providing airspace for US drones: Mujahid

**KABUL:** Afghan defence minister Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid accused Pakistan on Sunday of providing airspace for US drones to enter his country, characterising the incursions as a continuation of Washington's “invasion”.

Mujahid's comments came less than a month after US President Joe Biden announced the killing of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike in Kabul. US drones continued to be seen flying over Kabul even now, Mujahid said.

“Our information shows that they (US drones) are entering into Afghanistan from Pakistan, using the airspace of Pakistan,” Mujahid told reporters when asked where the drones were coming from. “We demand that Pakistan should not allow its airspace to be used against us.”

There was no immediate response to Mujahid's comments from the Pakistani military, but it has previously denied allowing the country's airspace to be used, most recently over the Zawahiri case.

Deploying these drones into Afghanistan is “still a clear invasion of Afghanistan and its airspace by the Americans”, Mujahid said. “They are doing this shamelessly. We condemn this illegal act and demand that the Americans put an end to it.”

The United States led an invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 that toppled the first Taliban government, after the hardline Islamist group refused to hand over the late Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden following the 9/11 attacks.

The drone attack in July that killed Zawahiri, bin Laden's successor, was the first known strike by the US on a target in Afghanistan since Washington withdrew its forces from the country on August 31 last year. Mujahid said the authorities were investigating Biden's claims of killing Zawahiri. “We will share the details when it is complete,” he said.

Officials have neither confirmed Zawahiri's presence in Afghanistan nor acknowledged his death. Border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have risen since the Taliban seized power on August 15 last year, with Islamabad claiming militant groups are carrying out regular attacks from the neighbouring country.

The Taliban government deny harbouring Pakistani militants, but are also infuriated by a fence Islamabad is erecting along their 2,700-kilometre (1,600-mile) border known as the Durand line, which was drawn up in colonial times. Ties between the two countries were further strained when Pakistani military air strikes in eastern Afghanistan killed and wounded dozens of people in April. —AFP

# Business

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022

## China's jobless youth left in the lurch

### Nearly 11 million graduates entered China's bleak job market this summer

BEIJING: China's slowing economy has left millions of young people fiercely competing for an ever-slimming raft of jobs and facing an increasingly uncertain future. Official data released this month showed one in five young people in Chinese cities was out of work in July—more than three times the national average and the highest recorded since January 2018.

Nearly 11 million graduates entered China's bleak job market this summer with the economy growing at 0.4 percent in the second quarter, the weakest in two years.

Zhao Yuting, 22, told AFP companies were reluctant to hire as the economy cools—and that experienced workers were now jostling for entry-level jobs, elbowing out green hands such as her.

Since graduating in July, she submitted her CV to dozens of companies. Only a handful called her back for an interview, only to turn her down saying she lacked experience.

Armed with a degree in English, Zhao thought she could earn a living as a tutor until she found full-time work. But recent crackdowns on the tech and education sectors, which usually absorb fresh talent, have evaporated such jobs. "I've been job hunting for two or three months but the prospects of being hired look slim," said Zhao, who has been forced to move back in with her parents while she hunts for work. "The longer it takes, the greater the pressure."

#### Slim prospects

Analysts blame a slowing economy crippled by Covid lockdowns, as well as the large cohort entering the labor force during the graduating season in

July and August, for the slim prospects facing China's youth. Official data does not track unemployment among rural youth, and the real jobless population could be more than double the official number, estimated Zhuang Bo, an economist at research group TS Lombard.

Blue-collar workers, too, are struggling to find work as growth in the manufacturing and construction sectors cools. "The reality is more serious than what the data shows," said Ho-fung Hung, who specializes in China's political economy at Johns Hopkins University.

"If the problem continues without remedy, it will easily spread social disorders."

At a job fair in the tech hub Shenzhen, long lines of anxious parents and young graduates waited for a chance to chat with recruiters. But headhunters at the fair said they were cherry-picking graduates from top universities, because only a few positions were available.

"My goal was to work in Shenzhen, in China's Silicon Valley," Luo Wen, a computer science graduate, told AFP. "But after more than four months of searching, I'm ready to work even in a smaller city, for less pay."

#### 'I can't see the future'

Graduates who managed to find work this year were offered salaries that were on average 12 percent less than last year, data from online recruitment firm Zhaopin showed. And while some job seekers were lowering their ambitions, others were biding their time pursuing further studies.

Experts warned that this may lead to "degree inflation", where employers demand higher and



BEIJING: The photo taken on August 26, 2022 shows young people attending a job fair in Beijing. —AFP

higher qualifications for jobs that do not necessarily require them.

Analysts blamed government policies that saw a rapid rise in college students over the past decade as the economy failed to accommodate more knowledge workers. "The pandemic and lockdowns simply aggravated the problem," Hung said. The government has pledged to shore up employment by offering tax relief for small businesses and more

start-up funding.

Premier Li Keqiang has said China's employment crisis is "complex and grave" and called on state-owned companies to step up to stabilize the economy. And as growth in the private sector slows, job seekers have flocked to cram schools to prepare for highly competitive civil service exams. A record-breaking two million people signed up for the national civil service exam last fall. —AFP

## Tourists flock to Florida for Moon rocket launch

MERRITT ISLAND, US: Seeing a rocket blast off to the Moon is "a once-in-a-lifetime thing to experience," says Joanne Bostandji. The 45-year-old has traveled all the way from northern England to Florida with her husband and two children for a space-themed vacation, and they're prepared to make sure they don't miss a second of the action as NASA's newest and most powerful rocket is scheduled to launch for the first time Monday.

"The plan is to drive very early in the morning and get a spot" on Cocoa Beach, she said, not far from the Kennedy Space Center. "I know it's going to be from a far distance, but I still think it's going to be a sight to behold," Bostandji told AFP as the family waited to enter a park dedicated to space exploration.

Between 100,000 and 200,000 visitors are expected to attend the launch of the mission, called Artemis 1, which will propel an empty capsule to the Moon as part of a test for future crewed flights.

The "historic nature" of Monday's flight, the first of several as the United States returns to the Moon, "certainly has increased public interest," Meagan Hoppel of Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism told AFP. Traffic jams are expected to start by 4 am, with the launch scheduled at 8:33 am (12:33 GMT).

And even more people might show up if the launch faces a weather delay, as the make-up date falls on a weekend. Sabrina Morley was able to find an apartment to rent not far from the beach, and plans to bring her two children and a few dozen other people on a boat chartered for the occasion by a company called Star Fleet Tours. For \$95 a ticket, "we'll go out into the



CAPE CANAVERAL: The Artemis I rocket sits on the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 26, 2022, ahead of its expected launch on August 29. —AFP

ocean as close as they can get to the launch and we'll watch the launch from the boat," she said.

"I've never been this close to a launch before," said the 43-year-old, who grew up in Orlando, less than an hour away. As a child, she could see space shuttles taking off from her backyard, like "an orange ball of smoke" rising into the sky.

"We would hear the sonic booms," she remembered. Morley likes that NASA's Artemis program aims to land a woman on the Moon for the first time, with a crew to head up in 2025 at the earliest. "Representation matters," she said, glancing at her two-year-old daughter, who is already wearing an imitation astronaut helmet on her head.

#### Good for business

The return of prestigious space launches is an

economic boon for the region. A family of three will spend an average of \$1,300 over four or five days, according to the tourism office. On the main road to Merritt Island, the peninsula where the Kennedy Space Center is located, Brenda Mulberry's space memorabilia shop is packed with tourists. As soon as they enter, visitors are greeted with Artemis T-shirts for sale, printed in-house—there were 1,000 copies made Saturday alone.

The last few days has seen an influx of customers, Mulberry, who founded "Space Shirts" in 1984, told AFP. "They're just excited I think to see a NASA launch because the private space business is not so motivating to the people," she said. This rocket, called the SLS—a large model of which is displayed in front of her shop—"belongs to the people," Mulberry said. —AFP

## Wizz Air tops list of worst airlines in UK for flight delays

LONDON: As the scorching summer comes to an end, a new report has revealed the worst airlines in the UK for flight delays in 2021. Topping the rankings for tardy flight departures last year is Wizz Air.

The Hungarian airline recorded an average delay of 14 minutes and 24 seconds on flights from UK airports, according to an analysis of data from the Civil Aviation Authority by the PA news agency.

The low-cost airline operates an A320 fleet to 10 airports in the UK, including London Gatwick, Edinburgh and Birmingham. The report shows that flights typically departed five minutes later than the average delay time for UK flights, which was eight and a half minutes.

Tui Airways had the second-highest UK flight delays in 2021. Aircraft operated by the British charter airline departed an average of 13 minutes and 18 seconds behind schedule. Rounding out the top three worst offenders is British Airways, the UK's flag carrier, which recorded an average flight delay of 12 minutes and 42 seconds last year.

At the other end of the scale, Aer Lingus came out on top with the shortest average delay per flight. Travellers flying with the Irish airline faced a typical delay of only three minutes and 12 seconds. —Agencies

## Strike at Spain's Iberia Express grounds flights

MADRID: Iberia Express, the low-cost arm of Spain's national carrier, cancelled eight domestic flights Sunday as cabin crew launched a 10-day strike for higher wages amid soaring inflation. The walkout, which will run from August 28 to September 6, is expected to involve a total of 92 cancellations affecting more than 17,000 passengers, a spokeswoman for the USO union said.

The stoppage comes as Spain's airline sector struggles with rolling strikes by staff at budget rivals EasyJet and Ryanair. By midday (1000 GMT), eight flights had been cancelled but there were no delays, a USO statement said, indicating 1,500 passengers had been affected.

Iberia Express confirmed eight "preventative cancellations", saying in a statement it had arranged alternative flights or transport for 84 percent of affected passengers, with the rest opting for a refund or vouchers. On Friday, the airline had announced it would cancel 24 domestic flights during the first three days of the walkout, affecting some 3,000 passengers. It did not immediately say how many more flights would be axed beyond those initial dates. USO and the SITCPLA union are calling for a salary increase to compensate for inflation, which in July hit 10.8 percent. Iberia Express connects Madrid with about 40 cities across Europe. —AFP

## Powell's short speech erases \$78bn from richest Americans

WASHINGTON: Several billionaires saw a sharp decline in their fortunes after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell gave an eight-minute speech on Friday. Powell's address caused a \$78 billion drop in the fortunes of the world's wealthiest after an ensuing market rout, according to Bloomberg.

Amazon owner Jeff Bezos was worst affected out of those on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, losing \$6.8 billion. Tesla chief Elon Musk's wealth saw a \$5.5 billion dip, with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates losing \$2.2 billion. Investor Warren Buffett lost \$2.7 billion and Google co-founder Sergey Brin's fortune was knocked below \$100 billion.

Wall Street tumbled on Friday after Federal Reserve Chief Jerome Powell signaled the central bank would keep raising interest rates to tame inflation, dashing investors' hopes that the Fed's aggressive approach to hikes might be modified soon. The US economy will need tight monetary policy "for

some time" before inflation is under control, Powell said. That means slower growth, a weaker job market and "some pain" for households and businesses, he added.

Powell used his speech at the Kansas City Fed's annual policy forum in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to reiterate that the US central bank will keep raising interest rates and probably leave them there for a while to reduce inflation. Taming high US inflation will inflict "pain" on American families and businesses, but failure to wrestle prices down from their current 40-year high would be even more harmful, Powell said Friday in a hotly-anticipated speech to global policymakers.

Addressing the annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell did not hold back or leave room for doubt about the central bank's course, pledging to act "forcefully." He warned the world's largest economy is likely to slow for a sustained period, and the strong US



(From left) Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett

job market will suffer in order to get prices down—which he called the "unfortunate costs of reducing inflation." He was seen as pushing back on a recent rally in US stocks that was fuelled by speculation that policy makers would soon reverse course from their tightening.

The S&P 500 tumbled 3.4 percent, its worst day since mid-June. The tech-heavy Nasdaq 100, which counts Microsoft, Amazon, Tesla and

Alphabet among its biggest components, fell more than 4 per cent. Few billionaire fortunes have been spared this year. The world's 500 richest people lost \$1.4 trillion in the first half of 2022, the steepest six-month drop yet for the wealthiest people on the planet. But US stocks in July posted their strongest monthly advance since November 2020, leading investors to wager that the worst of the market rout was over. —Agencies

Business

# Plenty of roadblocks for world's automakers seeking EV success

Corporate ambitions boost efforts by national and local governments to go green

**NEW YORK:** The world's top automakers—motivated either by governmental regulations or pure profit—have made a sharp turn away from fossil fuel vehicles. But there are plenty of obstacles on the road to a future full of eco-friendly cars.

Will there be enough lithium and other vital raw materials to make electric car batteries? Will there be sufficient charging stations? How will carmakers ensure that their offerings are affordable for the average driver? Following the success of Elon Musk's Tesla, built solely on electric vehicles, most of the biggest names in the sector are planning to invest tens of billions of dollars to reorient their businesses toward clean energy.

Stellantis, the world's fifth-largest automaker, plans to sell only electric cars in Europe by 2030. Toyota expects to release about 30 electric models in that same timeframe. GM hopes to stop making cars with combustion engines by 2035. These corporate ambitions have dovetailed with efforts by national and local governments to go green.

On Thursday, California announced that from 2035, all new cars sold in the Golden State—the most populous in America—must be zero-emission. The European Union also has taken steps to ban the sale of gas- or diesel-fueled cars—and even hybrids—by 2035, while China wants at least half of all new cars to be electric, plug-in hybrid or hydrogen-powered by that time.

**Built-in demand**

Automakers are on notice that “they are going to have to figure out how to put cars on the market,” said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights for the automotive research firm Edmunds. “We used to say that the challenges for electric vehicles would be consumer acceptance and price,” she added. With car buyers increasingly attuned to the environment and the woes of climate change, selling the concept of electric vehicles is no longer an issue.

In the United States, General Motors says it has more than 150,000 pre-orders for the electric version of its Silverado pickup truck, which will be available next year. The wait time for a Tesla these days is several months. For Caldwell, the bigger issue now is whether automakers “can get the raw materials” they need to make the cars.

**Scarce raw materials**

Karl Brauer, an executive analyst for used car



LOS ANGELES: Cars, trucks, SUVs, and other vehicles drive in traffic on the 405 freeway through the Sepulveda Pass in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

search engine isecars.com, agrees, saying that no matter what government incentives are offered for would-be buyers of electric vehicles, the rare elements needed may simply be unavailable. “Right now, we have a lack of palladium, and nickel, and lithium. Everything you need to build an electric car is harder to get than it was six or 12 months ago,” he told AFP. The supply issue is linked partly to Russia's invasion of Ukraine six months ago.

But Brauer said that “nobody, a year ago, would have predicted the kind of price escalation for those raw materials, and the difficulty of getting them.” The situation “can change drastically” at any given moment, he added. Automakers are determined to leave as little as possible to chance.

They are building their own factories to produce car batteries, setting up joint ventures with specialized parts makers and sealing partnerships with mining firms.

German auto manufacturers Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz on Monday signed memorandums of understanding with the Canadian government to ensure their access to rare metals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt. But, as with oil, the market for these raw materials is a global one, and the normal rules of economics apply, noted Brauer.

“If there is a certain amount of global demand for raw materials, if there is a certain amount of global

supply for them, someone will always pay the price,” he said.

For Brauer, shifting production lines to accommodate electric vehicle components is, by comparison, quite easy, as the automakers “have control over that.”

**Help, but with conditions**

Local regulations could make things more complicated for automakers. In the United States, new legislation championed by the administration of President Joe Biden allots up to \$7,500 in tax credits to every American who buys an electric vehicle. But there are conditions: for example, final assembly of those cars must take place within US borders.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a US lobbying group, estimates that about 70 percent of the 72 electric, plug-in hybrid or hydrogen-powered cars now on the market would not qualify for the tax credit. For Garrett Nelson, an analyst for the CFRA research firm, the new law will clearly give Tesla, GM and Ford an advantage in the United States over their European and Asian rivals.

Following California's announcement, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation said it would be “extremely challenging” to meet the sales requirements due to external factors such as inflation, supply chains and charging infrastructure. —AFP

## Facebook agrees to settle Cambridge Analytica privacy suit

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook has reached a preliminary agreement in a long-running lawsuit seeking damages from the social network for allowing third parties, including the company Cambridge Analytica, to access users' private data. According to a document filed Friday in a San Francisco court, Facebook says it is submitting a draft “agreement in principle” and has requested a stay of proceedings for 60 days to finalize it.

The social network did not indicate the amount or terms of the agreement in the class action. When asked by AFP, Facebook said late Saturday night they had “no comment to share at this time.” The deal comes as Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg and former chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, who announced her resignation in June, were due to testify in court in September as part of the scandal.

In a lawsuit initiated in 2018, Facebook users accused the social network of violating privacy rules by sharing their data with third parties including the firm Cambridge Analytica, which was linked to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Cambridge Analytica — which has since shut down — had collected and exploited, without their consent, the personal data of 87 million Facebook users, to which the platform had given it access. This information was allegedly used to develop software steering US voters in favor of Trump.

In 2019, federal authorities fined Facebook \$5 billion for misleading its users and imposed independent oversight of its personal data management. Since the Cambridge Analytica scandal broke, Facebook has removed access to its data from thousands of apps suspected of abusing it, restricted the amount of information available to developers, and made it easier for users to calibrate restrictions on personal data sharing. —AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 25 AUG 2022

(965) 22 675 140  
Al-Safat Tower, Hawalli, Beirut St.  
alsafatinvest.com  
research@alsafatinvest.com  
alsafatinvestment  
al-safat-investment-company

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	36,631	8,705.91	1.5%	1.2%	14.0%	425,699,565	241,426,818	34,623	28.0	2.7	77.7%
Main Market	10,543	5,863.16	0.7%	-0.2%	-0.4%	893,063,948	66,461,276	29,145	18.4	1.4	22.3%
All Share	47,174	7,785.95	1.3%	0.9%	10.5%	1,318,763,513	307,888,094	63,768	25.9	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	28,045	1,880.00	1.7%	1.2%	15.8%	273,843,397	170,833,573	19,876	27.3	2.6	59.45%
BASIC MATERIALS	901	1,011.00	-0.5%	0.4%	-1.4%	4,239,411	1,980,737	779	10.9	1.4	1.91%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	1,040	1,554.00	0.0%	1.7%	16.2%	180,779,800	17,358,908	7,276	39.4	12.3	2.21%
CONSUMER STAPLES	160	525.00	1.1%	-3.3%	-28.2%	3,075,121	1,231,999	261	34.5	1.2	0.34%
ENERGY	247	1,189.00	1.1%	3.7%	-16.7%	163,958,713	3,473,389	2,379	12.5	1.2	0.52%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,684	1,435.00	0.4%	-0.2%	0.8%	457,973,223	52,493,148	15,687	19.2	2.1	9.93%
HEALTH CARE	217	437.00	0.0%	-5.4%	-45.2%	18,275	9,323	8	11.8	3.4	0.46%
INDUSTRIALS	4,373	1,233.00	0.7%	-1.4%	8.0%	53,636,249	33,632,895	7,215	42.1	1.7	9.27%
INSURANCE	653	1,569.00	2.9%	3.8%	2.3%	1,168,201	237,901	173	9.2	1.0	1.38%
REAL ESTATE	2,720	1,269.00	1.7%	1.1%	-4.3%	157,823,859	15,959,593	6,852	25.9	1.3	5.77%
TECHNOLOGY	8	614.00	-3.9%	-13.9%	-10.2%	619,796	50,476	63	0.0	0.7	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,907	1,274.00	0.8%	2.4%	16.9%	15,431,905	9,406,119	2,828	14.9	2.2	8.28%
UTILITIES	218	521.00	1.0%	-1.0%	-13.2%	6,195,563	1,220,032	371	15.2	2.2	0.46%

**Top Gainers**

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
EKTTITAB	12.4	0.32	73,448,912	859,426	1,557
JIYAD	30.7	0.23	72,534,313	2,116,895	2,022
KSHC	39.9	0.21	2,131,789	76,631	165
GPI	19.5	0.16	163,516,738	3,413,788	2,301
NCCI	140	0.10	69,641,806	9,535,006	1,886

**Top Losers**

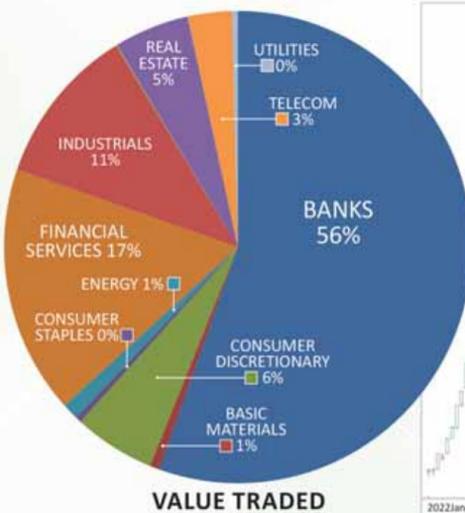
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KCPC	308	-0.10	389,007	124,818	180
HAYATCOMM	67	-0.09	738,145	50,128	108
RKWC	138	-0.08	443,308	64,161	20
KMEFIC	140	-0.05	238,845	33,983	31
SECH	80.8	-0.04	7,752,172	634,508	382

**Top Volume**

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GPI	19.5	0.16	163,516,738	3,413,788	2,301
KFH	904	0.02	120,193,842	110,596,745	11,191
IFAHR	45.8	-0.04	91,881,983	4,249,632	2,172
EKTTITAB	12	0.32	73,448,912	859,426	1,557
JIYAD	31	0.23	72,534,313	2,116,895	2,022

**Top Value**

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	904	0.02	120,193,842	110,596,745	11,191
AGLTY	865	0.02	29,564,814	25,652,256	3,997
NBK	1,070	0.01	16,435,993	17,567,210	2,163
GBK	358	0.03	46,797,045	16,598,808	948
BURG	248	0.06	40,991,396	9,987,433	1,170



**Market Summary:**

- Premier Market M. Cap increased to 36.63 billion KD (%77.7), while Main Market increased to 10.54 billion KD (%22.3).
- Premier and Main indices managed to overcome the resistance level. Both indices retreated when they hit the next resistance level.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7785, with support levels at 7726, 7677, and 7635, while resistance at 7810. Premier index closed at 8705, support levels at 8687, 8599, and 8527, while resistance at 8846. The Main index closed at 5863, with support levels at 5845, 5813, and 5780, while resistance at 5880.

## Business

# In Germany, the stuttering bid to jumpstart coal plants

## Russia curtails gas exports, forcing Berlin to make radical decision

**Berlin HAMBURG, Germany:** A year after the last wisps of smoke disappeared into the skies from the imposing chimneys of the Moorburg coal plant, hopes had grown that the mothballed site would see new life as Germany scrambles to secure energy supplies. Russia's curtailing of gas exports to Germany in the wake of the Ukraine war has forced Berlin to make the radical decision to restart coal power stations, at least temporarily.

But infrastructure issues, manpower shortages and logistical problems are proving to be major obstacles for the restart. At Moorburg, operator Vattenfall has dashed hopes of new operations, saying simply that "restarting it would be neither technically, economically nor legally feasible".

"Many parts have been dismantled and sold," said Robert Wacker, director of the site.

Even power plants that had not been completely shut, but put in reserve to generate power only occasionally, are struggling with a complete reboot. Further south from Moorburg, energy group Uniper will on Monday fire up its Heyden 4 site, which had been a reserve plant since mid-2021.

But the company warned that its output would be affected by railway capacity limits in ferrying hard coal to the site.

### Dismantled

Germany began winding down its coal-fired power plants in the last few years, in view of meeting a target to end usage of the fossil fuel by 2030. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended plans as Moscow reduced energy exports to Germany in what Berlin believes is retaliation for its support for Kyiv. Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has said it would stick to the 2030 coal exit timetable, but in the meantime, it authorized the restart of 27 mothballed plants or those put in reserve to help fill the energy gap until March 2024.

### Retired

With winter round the corner, the race is getting tighter for Germany to ramp up its power generation capacity. But so far, only one—the Mehrum plant with a capacity of 690 MW, has restarted.

Besides technical issues, power suppliers are struggling with an acute worker shortage. In Moorburg, "most of those who left have found a job, or are retired," said Wacker. Energy giant RWE told AFP it is seeking several hundreds of workers as it prepares to reopen three plants with a capacity each of 300 MW. Logistics was also

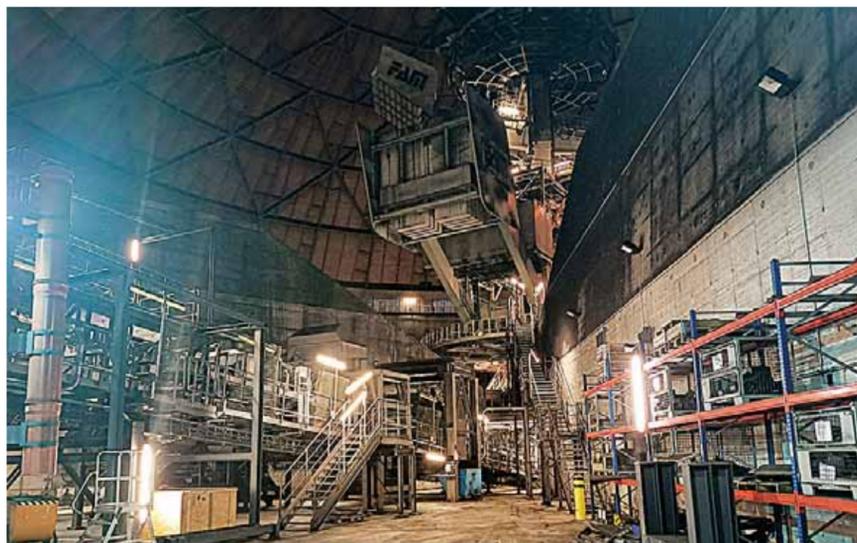
With a capacity of 875 megawatts (MW), Uniper's Heyden 4 figures as the largest on the list.

But the Moorburg plant, located in the suburb of Hamburg, had been one of the most modern in the world. It was shut down in the summer of 2021, just six years after it was put into service, in exchange for a public subsidy program aimed at cutting coal from Germany's energy mix.

Since then, the operator has started dismantling and selling the parts that are not necessary for hydrogen—a priority for Germany's future energy sources. Before it closed, the plant churned out around 11 billion kilowatts per year—the equivalent of the electricity consumption for the city of Hamburg.

But now, the installation is no longer complete. In the turbines hall, thousands of small components have been packed away into boxes. A rotor, an element that allows the turbine to turn, is packed in aluminum, ready to be sent off. The transformer is also no longer functioning.

"Without the transformer, the power plant is no longer linked to the network and cannot produce any electricity," said Vattenfall. Pointing at rust that has accumulated on the components over the last year, the operator's spokesman Gudrun Bode said: "We can't restart a plant just like that."



**HAMBURG:** This picture taken on August 25, 2022 shows the coal warehouse at the Moorburg coal power plant in Hamburg, northern Germany. —AFP

turning out to be tricky, with a drought further putting pressure on the distribution network.

The river Rhine has been a key route for coal transport to power plants in the west of the country.

But record low water levels over the last week have limited shipments and forced suppliers to turn to rail transport—putting further pressure on strained cargo trains.

Uniper has said Heyden 4's operation will be "limited partly by limits of rail transport capacity

bringing coal to the site." Energy supplier STEAG has also said that it would bring into operation two coal-fire plants from its reserve.

It has targeted November as a possible restart date, but it also noted that current rules require sites to have coal supplies for 30 days—something that would be unachievable "given the current tight logistics situation on rail transport".

In a bid to unblock the jam, Berlin decided Wednesday to prioritize coal and oil cargo over passenger travel this winter. —AFP

## Haiti pushes back school year start as economic crisis bites

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti:** Haitian authorities are postponing the start of the school year by one month, as the Caribbean nation grapples with an economic crisis that has caused a fuel shortage and soaring prices. The Ministry of National Education released a statement on Friday announcing that "the start of the school year for the 2022-2023 academic year is now set for Monday, October 3, 2022" instead of September 5.

The text did not give a reason for the postponement, and the ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment by AFP. The impoverished island nation has been struggling to deal with insecurity, inflation and fuel shortages, all of which have made travel difficult and cast doubts over the start of school for weeks now.

In July the inflation rate reached 29 percent, according to data from the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (IHSI). As a result, the prices of basic necessities continue to rise, as do those of school supplies. The coordinator of the National Union of Normalists and Educators of Haiti, Kenson Delice, pointed out that authorities have not announced any measures to allow a return to school in better conditions within a month. "The government is content to announce the postponement of the start of the school year without saying what it intends to do to alleviate the misery of the population, resolve the problem of insecurity and make fuel available," he said.

Haiti has also been mired in a political crisis for several years, and the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021 has made the situation much worse. Gangs also enjoy widespread impunity and violence has increased in recent years. —AFP

## Al-Muzaini wraps up 'Transfer and Win' contest

**KUWAIT:** Al-Muzaini Company successfully completed its "Transfer and Win" contest. Each and every customer that transferred money by visiting any one of Al-Muzaini's 123 branches was considered eligible to participate and stand a chance to win one of the many prizes being offered.

The grand contest organized by Al-Muzaini offered daily winners \$100, weekly winners \$1,000 and a mega prize of \$30,000 to one lucky winner.

Al-Muzaini organized an impressive event at Fahad Al-Salem to announce the winners of the

Transfer and Win Contest. More than 30 lucky winners were awarded a cash prize during the fun-filled event that witnessed a huge turn-out. Maricel Samson, a customer that has been using Al-Muzaini for money transfers for several years from the Philippines was announced as the lucky winner of the Grand prize of \$30,000. On receiving the grand prize, Maricel was filled with emotions of joy and happiness and couldn't believe that she had won. She thanked Al-Muzaini for changing her life.

The General Manager of Al-Muzaini, Hugh Fernandes congratulated our lucky winner and all the other winners of the huge contest that lasted over a month and was extremely pleased to present our lucky winner, Maricel with her grand prize. Hugh said, "We look forward to conducting more of such events in the future and want to reward our customers for their loyalty and the trust that they place in us." Al-Muzaini is always near you.



## Ethereum crypto overhaul targets environmental impact

**LONDON:** The world's second biggest cryptocurrency after bitcoin, ethereum, will soon overhaul its blockchain technology to curb the network's much-criticized environmental impact. Ethereum, whose digital unit ether tumbled in a crypto crash earlier this year, will in September undergo a major technical revolution. So what is the backdrop for the looming reset—known as the Merge—and how will it calm prices and cut electricity usage?

### Why does crypto use so much energy?

Bitcoin, ethereum and other such currencies are "mined" by solving complex puzzles using powerful computers that consume enormous amounts of energy in vast warehouses, often near cheap electricity sources. A blockchain is the decentralized and secure ledger for recording those transactions, which occur when encrypted codes are passed across a computer network.

Users validate their success via a so-called "proof of work" mechanism that rewards them with cyber currency—but only after they have proved their participation in such energy-intensive mining.

The lucrative crypto industry is worth about \$1.0 trillion, despite crashing in the first half of 2022.

However, ethereum is still down by a hefty 55 percent in value so far this year. Why is ethereum popular? Ethereum is nevertheless regarded as vital because it is where most virtual assets, including headline-grabbing non-fungible tokens

(NFTs), are bought and sold.

That is partly because users can create "smart contracts" or algorithmic computer code, which carry out customized transactions for different functions.

"The ethereum blockchain is the base layer infrastructure of the majority of the whole crypto ecosystem," summarized Lennart Ante, CEO and co-founder of the Blockchain Research Lab. "Everything relies on ethereum," he told AFP.

"In the last few years, there have been other similar platforms such as Solana or Cadano, but none of these have this huge network and this huge amount of developers and projects, and historical success."

### Why is it changing?

Ethereum's broad adoption makes it even more important to address environmental concerns and change tack, as those worries had sparked a partial boycott. "Proof-of-work mining is environmentally destructive, expensive, and inefficient," summarized digital currency specialist Eswar Prasad, a professor at Cornell University. Yet the carbon footprint of a decentralized blockchain system is difficult to assess because electricity sources are not always identified.

### What is the switch?

Ethereum creator Vitalik Buterin has planned for a switch to a so-called "proof of stake" mechanism from the middle of September. This means that participation no longer requires proof of electricity usage, and instead relies on staking blocks of ether. Users will then validate, or effectively bet their currency, in order to try and win more ether.

Ethereum currently consumes about 45 terawatt



**DORTMUND, Germany:** This file photo taken on January 26, 2020 shows a physical imitation of an Ethereum cryptocurrency in Dortmund, western Germany. —AFP

hours of power per year.

Bitcoin in contrast is estimated to use 95 terawatt hours of power per year, equivalent to Pakistan's annual consumption.

### What are pros and cons?

Experts estimates the upgrade will use 99 percent less energy than the current set-up. It would therefore allow users to execute quicker and more efficient transactions. "The energy consumption would be close to zero," Ante told AFP. "You do not need any of the hardware anymore, only the software."

At the same time, the new approach is not without risks. Some users might decide to switch to rival networks where they can still able to use enormous amounts of energy to mine currency. Prasad also cautioned that the proof-of-stake method was "not perfect" owing to liquidity and governance concerns. —AFP

## To the Moon and beyond: NASA's Artemis program

**CAPE CANAVERAL:** The Artemis program is NASA's plan to return humans to the Moon as a stepping stone for an eventual voyage to Mars. Twelve men walked on the Moon between 1969 and 1972 and one of the goals of Artemis is to put the first woman and person of color on the lunar surface. The first test flight of an uncrewed Artemis rocket is to take place on Monday. The name Artemis was chosen to echo that of the Apollo program. Artemis, in Greek mythology, was the twin sister of Apollo and a goddess associated with the Moon.

Here is an overview of the Artemis program:

### Artemis 1: Test flight

Artemis 1 is a test flight of the 322-foot (98-meter)

Space Launch System rocket and the Orion crew capsule that sits on top. Blastoff is scheduled for 8:33 am (1233 GMT) on Monday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Mannequins equipped with sensors will take the place of crew members on the flight, recording vibration, acceleration and radiation levels. Orion will orbit the Moon before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

### Artemis 2: first crew

Planned for 2024, Artemis 2 will be a crewed flight that will orbit the Moon but not land on the surface, similar to what Apollo 8 did. The four members of the crew will be named before the end of the year. A Canadian is expected to be among them.

### Artemis 3: Moon landing

The third Artemis mission will be the first to put astronauts on the Moon since Apollo 17 in December 1972. NASA, for the first time, will land a crewed spacecraft on the southern pole of the Moon, where water in the form of ice has been detected.

Previous Moon landings took place near the equator. Artemis 3 is scheduled for 2025 but may not take place

until 2026 at the earliest, according to an independent audit of the program.

Starting with Artemis 3, NASA plans to launch crewed missions about once a year.

### SpaceX Moon lander

NASA has selected Elon Musk's SpaceX to build the Moon lander for Artemis 3. SpaceX's Starship, which is still under development, will serve as a shuttle from the Orion crew capsule to the lunar surface and back.

### Gateway space station

The Artemis program also calls for the construction of a space station called Gateway that will orbit the Moon. The launch of the first two elements—the living quarters module and power and propulsion system—is planned for late 2024 at the earliest by a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

Orion crews would be responsible for assembly of Gateway. Astronauts would spend between 30 to 60 days in Gateway and would eventually have access to a lander that would allow them to travel to the Moon and back. Gateway would also serve as a stopping point for any future trip to Mars.



**The sky begins to clear before dawn, highlighting the Artemis-1 moon rocket at Launch Pad 39 at the Kennedy Space Center, in this view from Titusville, Florida. —AFP**

### Destination Mars

The ultimate objective of the Artemis program is what NASA calls the "next giant leap—human exploration of Mars." NASA will use knowledge gained from Artemis about next generation spacesuits, vehicles, propulsion, resupply and other areas to prepare for a trip to Mars. —AFP

Lifestyle | Features



A dog runs on a treadmill at the 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa in Abu Dhabi.—AFP photos



A dog runs on a treadmill at the 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa in Abu Dhabi.



Dogs run on a treadmill at the 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa in Abu Dhabi.

# Hot dogs: UAE's perspiring pooches get air-conditioned workout

Oscar beats the summer heat of the United Arab Emirates by working out in a gym, hitting the treadmill twice or three times a week. Nothing unusual in that—except that Oscar is a dog. As the Gulf's increasingly fierce temperatures become dangerous to health amid fears over the pace of climate change, those who can afford to work outside in the blazing sun stay inside in air-conditioning. And for owners of pampered pets able to splash the cash, an air-conditioned gym for dogs has become an attractive option.

"During the winters I used to take him outside, but (in) summers he used to stay isolated," says Oscar's owner Mozalifa Khan, a Pakistani expat. "Because whenever I take him outside he's sick because of the heat." The resource-rich Gulf is among the regions most at risk from global warming, with some cities facing the prospect of becoming uninhabitable by the end of the century.

Temperatures often soar above 45

degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in the UAE, and can remain above 40C (104 Fahrenheit) even after midnight. The UAE, like other Gulf countries, goes into partial hibernation during its long, hot summers, with those who can afford it staying cloistered in air-conditioned homes and workplaces.

### Heat threat to health

Oscar, a Welsh Corgi, now works out at Posh Pets Boutique and Spa in Abu Dhabi, a shop and grooming salon that offers what's billed as the UAE's first gym for dogs. Staff carefully secure him with a harness on one of two adapted running machines before he begins to run, with glass barriers on either side to stop him falling off. Rather than being set to specific speeds, the treadmills automatically adjust themselves to the pace of each dog.

Oscar's owner started bringing him to the gym in the Emirati capital after a vet advised against walking him outside in summer because of the risk of heat stroke.



Mansour Hammadi, the owner of 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa, speaks during an interview at the establishment in Abu Dhabi.

"Last summer it was really difficult for me because there was no place like this," says Khan. With the high heat and humidity, "we walk for only two, three minutes and he's done, he doesn't want to walk".

Mansour Al-Hammadi, the dog-loving owner of Posh Pets, charges a dirham (25 US cents) a minute for use of the treadmills, or \$7.5 for a half-hour run. Dogs should exercise at least 30 minutes a day, experts say. "So imagine when you can only walk them one or two minutes a day," Hammadi tells AFP. "We've closely studied the project to make it 100 percent safe. Everything was chosen with care and not at random, to avoid any future problems and so as not to harm the dogs," he adds. Destiny, a seven-month-old German Shepherd, is another regular, bursting into the gym and playing with the other dogs.

"For the dog's health, it's better that she does some exercise and tires herself out," says Destiny's owner Fahed Al-Monjed. "Using an indoor running machine is the best solution." Destiny may indeed take some tiring out. In a recent competition on the treadmills, she set the fastest speed. — AFP



Dogs interrupt an interview with Mansour Hammadi, the owner of 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa, in Abu Dhabi.



Dogs run on a treadmill at the 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa in Abu Dhabi.



A boy and his dog browse the shelves at 'Posh Pets' boutique and spa in Abu Dhabi.

## Princess Diana's sporty Ford Escort sells for £737,000

A sporty Ford Escort that was once princess Diana's run-about sold at auction for £737,000 on Saturday, a few days before the 25th anniversary of her death. The modest car, with just 24,961 miles (40,000 km) on the clock, went under the hammer at Silverstone Auctions in

Warwickshire in central England. Bidders from Dubai, the United States and Britain held a heated bidding war for the one-of-a-kind model, resulting in a sale to a buyer from Alderley Edge, an upmarket village in northern England that is home to many Premier League footballers.

The sale price equivalent to around \$866,000 comes as interest in Diana's life remains huge, a quarter-century after her death, fuelled by the success of "The Crown" Netflix series. The auctioneers said the sale attracted "a supreme amount of global press and publicity interest". The car was sold without a reserve price, with bids starting at £100,000. It sold for £650,000 plus buyer's premium.

The black Ford Escort RS Turbo S1 with a blue stripe was driven by Diana between 1985 and 1988, as she preferred to have her own car instead of the royal family's stately Rolls-Royces and Daimlers, according to the lot description. The auctioneers said the unique Ford Escort remains the "most daring choice" of car by any member of the Royal Family.

The Escort was no luxury vehicle but one of UK's best-selling cars of the era, totalling more than 4.1 million sales, according to Auto Express website. Similar cars with a less illustrious provenance can be found in classified ads in the UK for around £10,000.

This car, however, was made by Ford according to Diana's speci-

fications and it is believed to be the only black-painted version of this model, according to the auctioneers. Diana was frequently photographed at the wheel visiting shops and restaurants in London. Prince William was also photographed sitting in the back. The princess drove the car with a royal detective in the passenger seat and it was adapted with features such as a second rear view mirror and a radio in the glove box. The vehicle was previously owned by a collector of Ford cars.

Last year another Ford Escort previously owned by Diana, a 1981 silver 1.6L Ghia saloon that was an engagement present from Prince Charles, sold in London for £52,640 including sales tax and buyer's premium. The car's buyer was said to be a museum in South America. It was previously owned by a US museum. Saturday's sale comes ahead of Wednesday's anniversary of Diana's death at 36 after a car crash in Paris. —AFP



The 1985 Ford Escort RS Turbo previously owned by Princess Diana on display at the Silverstone Race Circuit near Towcester, Northamptonshire, England, before it was auctioned.

# Churchgoers, researchers celebrate Tunisia's Sicilian past

Worshippers crying "Hail Mary" walk alongside their Muslim neighbors in the Tunisian port district of La Goulette, harking back to a time when Sicilians were at the heart of neighborhood life. The Madonna of Trapani procession, marking the Catholic Feast of the Assumption, is an echo of a "forgotten history" researchers of Italian origin say offers a model for coexistence with migrants, among faiths and ethnicities.

The annual procession was born in the mid-19th century when La Goulette was home to tens of thousands of Sicilians, as well as Sephardic Jews, Maltese, Greeks and Spaniards. "They shared each other's celebrations and sadnesses, and took part in each other's events," said Silvia Finzi, editor of Italian-language Tunisian newspaper *Corriere di Tunisi*—one of some 120 Italian publications founded between 1838 and 1956, the year Tunisia gained independence from France. There were some red lines—for example, there were few marriages across religious divides. But for centuries, Tunisia has been able to peacefully host a mosaic of migrant communities "without forcing them to forget their roots", Finzi said.

The Madonna of Trapani procession started after Tunisia's Muslim ruler Ahmed Bey—whose mother was a Sardinian Christian—gave a piece of land for the building of a church in 1848. It was Sicilian fishermen from La Goulette, a port district on the edge of Tunis, who started the annual procession from the church to the sea to mark the Feast of the Assumption on August 15 and pray for a good catch and protection on the high seas. The mariners lived among Muslims and Jews in a part of La Goulette nicknamed "Little Sicily". Trapani is a city in the northwest of the Italian island. The procession was suspended in 1964 following Tunisia's independence from France, but was relaunched in 2017. This year it attracted hundreds of Christians, Muslims and the mayors of Tunis and La Goulette.

**'Example of respect'**  
The Catholic Archbishop of Tunis, Ilario Antoniazzi, said such a procession would be "impossible" in other parts of the Maghreb region. The 74-year-old, who has spent some 50 years in the region,

Italian territory, the Mediterranean's biggest island. Alfonso Campisi, a professor of Italian civilization descended from Sicilian settlers, has spent two decades researching the "forgotten history" of some 130,000 Italians in the North African country, mostly

this summer, also examines the fate of those who left after independence and ended up in refugee camps in northern Italy.



Catholics and Muslims attend the procession of the Madonna of Trapani during the annual Christian Roman Catholic feast day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary at the Saint-Augustin and Saint-Fidele church in La Goulette suburb of Tunisia's capital Tunis. —AFP

said Muslim-majority Tunisia's "respect" for those of other faiths is "an example for many Arab countries". That is partly due to the long history of Sicilians in La Goulette, just 220 kilometers (135 miles) from the

Sicilians. He wrote a book and produced a documentary to "give a voice" to those who have continued to live in La Goulette. His film on the "Sicilians of Africa", which was shown in France, Italy and Tunis

**'Missing link'**

Italians had headed to Tunisia in waves over the 19th and 20th century, and they were to leave a lasting mark on Tunisian architecture, cuisine (lots of pasta plates) and even the local dialect of Arabic. Many were craft workers, masons, mechanics or farm workers who fled Italy to escape poverty or Cosa Nostra, the Sicilian mafia. Most left Tunisia after independence, when Tunisians were given priority in public jobs and land ownership.

Nadia Naji, a Tunisian lecturer in Italian, said that Tunisians themselves "don't know this period of history, there is a missing link". Italian heritage is everywhere from the colonial-era buildings of Tunis to words that have infiltrated the local dialect of Arabic—such as the names of fish (triglia for red mullet) and expressions such as "d'accordo" (OK). "My grandparents used to tell me about their Jewish, Italian and Sicilian friends," said Atef Chedli, a radiologist aged 65, after seeing Campisi's documentary.

"It wasn't Tunisians and the others". The Jews were very well integrated, so were the Italians and the Maltese." Under French rule from 1881 to 1956, "Italians were close to the Tunisian population (partly) because they had the same inferior status" and because of a shared, Mediterranean culture, Finzi said. Both Campisi and Finzi think this Tunisian model can serve as an example nowadays for integration of migrants in Italy, France and in the rest of the world.

Tunisia "was able to welcome a mass of poor people, from Sicily but also from Greece, Corsica and Spain," said Campisi. Those who remember that period, Tunisian Sicilians and Tunisians, have a mix "of nostalgia and a desire for Tunisia to remain an open and tolerant country" that welcomes migrants, Finzi added. —AFP



This picture shows members of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group posing for a photograph before practicing sword-fighting techniques known as Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) at a park in Jakarta. —AFP photos



This picture shows members of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group practicing sword-fighting techniques known as Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) at a park in Jakarta.

## Indonesian knights keep medieval sword-fighting alive

Armed with blunt swords, a dozen would-be chevaliers are put through their paces in a gallant effort to keep alive European medieval martial arts taught hundreds of years ago. But this is not a scene from *Game of Thrones* or the *Adventures of Robin Hood* — it's a breezy Sunday afternoon in the middle of Jakarta, one of the world's biggest megacities. The fighters are practicing sword-fighting techniques that were honed across Europe from the 14th to 18th centuries—known as Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA).

After a quick warm-up, members of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group take turns to show off their swordsmanship outside the massive Gelora Bung Karno stadium. "The training is beyond my expectation. As we spar using weapons, the adrenaline rush from attacking and defending is more keenly felt compared to hand-to-hand combat," said Gede Indra Krisega, a 23-year-old civil servant.

**'Fellowship of Swordsmen'**

The Gwaith-i-Megyr was established in 2016 after several members of a local fan club of English author JRR Tolkien—who wrote the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy—showed an interest in HEMA. Nearly 50 people have recently joined the group in Jakarta and its sister



This picture shows members of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group practicing sword-fighting techniques known as Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) at a park in Jakarta.

branch in the Javan city of Bandung. The group's name means "Fellowship of Swordsmen" and comes from the Sindarin language, one of the fictional languages created by Tolkien in his novels, said Ahmad Rizal Souliisa, one of the founding members of the group.

HEMA enthusiasts usually pore over manuals left behind by past masters as they learn, train and revive the moves, Souliisa said. But it is not only the fighting and fandom of films that inspire the duellists—they



This picture shows members of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group practicing sword-fighting techniques known as Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) at a park in Jakarta.

also love studying the history of European sword-fighting.

**'World tournaments'**

Sekar Widya Putri did not have high hopes when she was invited by her friend to join the Gwaith-i-Megyr in 2017, but she said she has come to appreciate the education associated with HEMA. "I love learning about such details from the arts—why we



This picture shows a member of the Gwaith-i-Megyr group practicing sword-fighting techniques.

need to parry this way, which body parts that are open [to attack]," she said.

After years of training, the 30-year-old copywriter wants to see her name on the international HEMA rankings, which track tournaments around the world. There is currently just one Indonesian on that list of 9,000 competitors—a man who took part in a Taiwan tournament in 2019. "I would like to add one more Indonesian to the list," said Putri. —AFP

## Dry summer puts squeeze on French Alps cheese

France's record heat and drought have not spared the majestic pastures under the snow-capped Alps, where cows are struggling to find enough grass to produce milk for reblochon and other prized cheeses. "Everything's yellow and parched, so we'll have to bring them down from the pastures a month early," said Theo Bargetzy, 28, as cowbells rang out in a field some 1,600 meters (5,250 feet) above sea level. Crowds of tourists in search of cooler climes have flocked to the Alps this summer where buying local raw-milk reblochon and other

hand-made cheeses directly from local producers is a cherished ritual.

But this year, some heading to Bargetzy's Lorettes farm perched above La Clusaz are coming away empty-handed—cows are not getting their usual fill of fresh grass, and their milk is less rich as a result. July was the driest month on record for France overall since 1961, and heat waves pushed temperatures near La Clusaz above 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) on several days, unheard-of on the steep slopes.

"We're losing one reblochon per cow per day, so in a week that's 300 fewer cheeses," Bargetzy says later, while molding fresh curds into discs that will be carefully aged on wooden planks in a cellar until the distinctive orange-gold rind forms. It takes four liters of milk (just over a gallon) to make each cheese that weighs some 450 grams (just under a pound) — within the guidelines set by the National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO), the guardian of France's strict food and wine appellations. "The worst thing is that this is

when we have lots of tourists wanting to buy, and we don't have enough for everyone—we run out, and can't sell to all the people coming to visit," he said.

Dozens of farmers have already dipped into their winter feed stocks, but overall dairy production in the region is down 15 percent from last year's levels, according to the AFTA cheese producers' association. "The situation is difficult—we've had droughts in the past but this is going on everywhere in France, Italy and elsewhere in Europe," said the association's president Jean-Luc Duclos.

Duclos and his family manage a farm with more than 200 cows for making emmental as well as meat near Frangy, with an app-controlled milking system that would astonish his grandfather, who had "four cows and four hectares to feed 11 children." He worries that rising costs of feed, gas and electricity since the outbreak of the Ukraine war will create a vicious circle of price speculation and hoarding that could hurt farmers for months to come. —AFP



A cheese producer makes cheese from milking milk in an alpine farm above La Clusaz.

Lifestyle



In this file photo taken on June 29, 2021 US player Serena Williams arrives on court to play against Belarus's Aliaksandra Sasnovich. —AFP photos



In this file photo taken on September 08, 2018 Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball during her Women's Singles finals match against Naomi Osaka of Japan.

# Serena Williams—dressed for success



In this file photo taken on September 07, 2014 Serena Williams of the United States returns a shot against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.



In this file photo taken on July 01, 2008 Serena Williams of USA prepares to play against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland.



In this file photo taken on February 18, 2021 Serena Williams of the US hits a return against Japan's Naomi Osaka.

Over a career which has stretched to more than a quarter of a century, Serena Williams's on-court outfits were often as eye-catching as her tennis. AFP Sport looks at 10 of the best worn by the 23-time Grand Slam title winner:

**2002 - Catsuit, not wet suit**

When Williams won her second US Open in 2002, she did it dressed in a Lycra catsuit. It dominated large parts of her opening round press conference where some reporters were bemused. "Great outfit. Does it come with flippers, mask and snorkel?"

"Of course not," fired back the American. "This is more of a cat suit. It's not a wet suit. A wet suit has long sleeves and it's usually longer and thicker material. This is made of Lycra. It's supposed to have the illusion of looking a little bit like leather from a distance. But it's made of Lycra because it kind of sticks to the body. It kind of really sticks to what type of shape you have. If you don't have a decent shape, this isn't the best outfit to have."

**2004 - In the Paris pink**

Williams appeared at Roland Garros in a bright pink two-piece outfit designed by Nike. Her headband was emblazoned with the letter 'S' while her crop-top revealed a belly button stud.

**2004 - Biker girl in black leather**

Williams's initial dilemma was whether or not she would be allowed to play at the US Open in knee-high boots rather than tennis shoes. "You can wear them while you're playing, I'm sure," she said before removing them. "It's like a rebel-look, when I'm being really rebellious. I'm just doing things different with the black and the studs. I'm just being a rebel. So maybe I would start out with something like, 'Serena's going rebel without a cause.'"

**2005 - Green machine**

An outfit described as "neon green", Williams also wore multi-colored knee-high socks at the Australian Open in Melbourne. But it was her dress which left the biggest impression. "It's so flowy and it's very sheer, very see through. Any shorter wouldn't be appropriate, so we definitely went with a longer length. I love how it just pops up and down."

**2008 - Game, set, mac!**

Serena lost the 2008 Wimbledon final to sister Venus but made a statement when she arrived on Centre Court at the start of the tournament wearing a white trench coat. "I don't think it's going to keep the rain away but we can always hope. I absolutely

love trench coats," she explained. Britain's Daily Express captioned the moment: 'Game, Set and Mac, Miss Williams.'

**2014 - Leopard print curve ball**

Pink leopard print for day matches, black for the night at the 2008 US Open. Nike called it: "The fierce Nike Serena Dress." Fellow player Elena Vesnina told USA Today: "She's trying to show her curves. That's a good thing—you're showing the best part of your body and you're covering some kind of things that you don't want to show. Serena looks really good in it."

**2018 - Superhero and a warrior?**

One of her most controversial outfits was her black catsuit unveiled at Roland Garros. "I feel like a warrior in it, a warrior princess from Wakanda," said Serena, in reference to the hit movie, Black Panther. "I've always wanted to be a superhero." The French Open, however, took a dim view and banned it at future events with French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli insisting: "One must respect the game and the place."

**2018 - Tennis in a tutu**

After the French Open ban, the American

appeared at Flushing Meadows in a black tutu dress. The top of the costume had one long sleeve while the right-hand side was sleeveless. "It's easy to play in. Kind of aerodynamic with the one arm free. It feels really good. Yeah, the tutu is easy to play in because I practiced in it before. That was fun," she said.

**2021 - Salute to Flo Jo**

At Melbourne Park, the American wore a brightly-coloured red, pink and black one-piece outfit with just the right leg covered. It was, she said, a tribute to late US sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner. "FloJo was a wonderful track athlete, amazing athlete when I was growing up. Well, watching her fashion, just always changing, her outfits were always amazing," explained Williams.

**2021 - Train of thought at Wimbledon**

Williams appeared on court with a removable white train. Her fashion statement, however, was quickly forgotten when she was forced to retire from her first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich with a right leg injury after just six games. "Feeling the extraordinary warmth and support of the crowd today when I walked on-and off-the court meant the world to me," she said in a statement. —AFP

## 'The cultural front': Ukraine theatre goes underground

It's an opening night like no other at Mykolaiv's theatre, with the audience ushered down into an underground shelter this week for the first performance since war broke out. "We need this place to fight on the cultural front too," says artistic director Artiom Svytsoun. The tiny underground stage and the minimalist set provides "a form of 'art therapy'" for the people who have stayed in Mykolaiv and need something other than the grinding fear of war.

Welcoming audience members, giving tours of the subterranean theatre and taking care of the myriad technical details, 41-year-old Svytsoun is the beating heart of the operation. He is the one who worked to get the theatre reopened in the relative safety of an underground bunker. With the help of a European aid fund, his team took two months to transform a shelter four meters below ground into the 35-seat venue, its irregular white walls covered with a fresco reminiscent of classical theatres. The strategic port city of Mykolaiv had a population of half a million souls before Russia invaded on February 24. Now it bears the scars of the many bombardments it has endured almost daily for the past six months. Three hundred meters (yards) from the elegant neo-classical building that houses the theatre stands the twisted concrete shell of the regional administration, which was hit by a missile on March 29 that killed 37 people.

**Name change**

According to the local town hall, the city has enjoyed just 25 attack-free days since February 24. President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that, along with Kharkiv in the north and the eastern Donbas region, Mykolaiv is the most heavily bombed



Actresses perform at the Mykolaiv Drama Theatre for the first time since the start of the war in Mykolaiv. —AFP photos

city in Ukraine, despite the fact that the front line is about 20 kilometers away.

The destruction has not been limited to military targets. Three universities were recently bombed and, according to regional authorities, 123 cultural institutions have been destroyed in the region since the fighting began. Another effect of the invasion on the Mykolaiv theatre has been a name change. The former Mykolaiv Russian Drama Theatre is now the Mykolaiv Theatre of Dramatic Arts.

In the tiny dressing room, its walls covered with photos of Soviet, Ukrainian and Hollywood actors, Kateryna Chermolishenko, 43, receives the final touches to her stage make-up and is in a good mood.

"I'm very happy to be back on our stage, back home, and I think it's important that art can be a support for people," says the actress, who like her fellow thespians volunteered to take part in this premiere. Her colleague Marina Vassyleva, who is about to don a wedding dress, adds emphatically: "Actors, in these circumstances, are the doctors of the human soul." "I see my mission and the meaning of my life right now. I am needed here in Mykolaiv," she says.



An actress waits to go on stage to perform at the Mykolaiv Drama Theatre in Mykolaiv.

**'Makes our lives easier'**

Since the start of the war, three of the theatre's actors have joined the army and another 20 percent of the troupe have taken refuge elsewhere in Ukraine, or abroad - a modest proportion in a town that has lost more than half its population, according to the town hall. The company is used to playing in a 450-seater theatre. Now the plays are being adapted and squeezed into the "stage in the shelter", as it is called.

But despite the war, it is not just about performing patriotic works. After a curtain-raiser paying tribute to Ukraine, the first play of the new season, by a contemporary national author, is an absurdist play about "the realisation of our desires", says Svytsoun. The bunker theatre will put on two shows a day, from Thursday to Sunday, much to the delight of theatregoer Olga Kroutchok. "I hope to come back every weekend. Theatre brings emotions to people in these times of war, and it makes our lives easier," said the 55-year-old. Fellow audience member Oleksander Skotnikov, 42, agrees. "When we are under the bombs, as we are now, the theatre gives us a big smile and inspires people to keep on living". —AFP



Actresses perform at the Mykolaiv Drama Theatre for the first time since the start of the war in Mykolaiv.



This photograph shows the hall of Mykolaiv Drama Theatre.

## Sports

# Japan's Yamaguchi retains badminton women's title

## Imperious Axelsen wins second badminton world title

### News in brief

#### Lens defeat Rennes 2-1

PARIS: Seko Fofana scored a superb goal as unbeaten Lens continued their strong start to the Ligue 1 season by defeating Rennes 2-1 on Saturday to move top. The Ivorian midfielder curled in a powerful 20-yard strike midway through the second half before Lois Openda sealed a third win in four games for Lens. Ghana international Kamaldeen Sulemana rattled the crossbar for Rennes, who grabbed a consolation in stoppage time through Gaetan Laborde. Lens climbed one point clear of Paris Saint-Germain, who host Monaco on Sunday.

#### Kasatkina wins Granby title

MONTREAL: World number 10 Daria Kasatkina beat Australia's Daria Saville 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday to win a WTA title at Granby, Canada, in a US Open tuneup tournament. Kasatkina captured her sixth career WTA crown after claiming another hardcourt title earlier this month at San Jose. Saville swatted a forehand volley wide to surrender a break in the eighth game of the second set, slamming her racquet against the court in frustration. The Aussie broke back in the ninth game and saved four match points in the 10th game before Kasatkina broke to claim the title when Saville sent a forehand wide. World number 73 Saville was in her first WTA final since Hong Kong in October 2017 and her fifth in all. Saville's only WTA title came at another event the week before the US Open, in 2017 at New Haven. Kasatkina, 25, is from Russia but cannot represent her homeland under rules imposed by the tour following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

#### Samsonova grabs Cleveland title

WASHINGTON: Liudmila Samsonova stretched her WTA win streak to 10 matches on Saturday by defeating Aliaksandra Sasnovich to capture the Tennis in the Land title ahead of next week's US Open. World number 45 Samsonova downed 36th-ranked Sasnovich 6-1, 6-3 in 72 minutes to make the Cleveland crown her third in as many WTA finals appearances. "I was feeling so good here," said Samsonova after extending her career-best win streak. Samsonova, who didn't drop a set in her championship run, also captured last year's German Open title and three weeks ago took the Washington Open trophy. "She's a great player already," Sasnovich said of Samsonova. "For me, top 10. I tried to do my best but Liudmila was better."

#### Mannarino captures ATP title

WINSTON-SALEM: France's Adrian Mannarino won his second career ATP title and first since 2019 on Saturday, defeating Serbia's Laslo Djere 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 to capture the Winston-Salem Open. The 34-year-old left-hander had lost nine of his 10 prior ATP finals, dropping three in a row since capturing his first tour title in 2019 on Rosmalen grass. World number 65 Mannarino, who saved four match points in a first-round triumph, won 83% of his first-serve points to hoist the trophy in his first ATP final since losing the Astana Open final to Australian John Millman in November 2020. Mannarino won the last six points of the tie-breaker to capture the first set after 75 minutes, taking the final point on a service winner.

#### Australia beat Zimbabwe

TOWNSVILLE: Glenn Maxwell smashed an unbeaten 32 off nine balls to take Australia to an easy five-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first of three one-day internationals at Townsville's Riverway Stadium on Sunday. Chasing 201 for victory, the Australians reached their target with more than 16 overs to spare to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. All-rounder Cameron Green ripped out the Zimbabwe tail with 5-33 as the visitors collapsed from 185-4 to 200 all out, a total that was never going to be enough against a full-strength Australia. Australia captain Aaron Finch and David Warner started the run chase positively, scoring at six runs an over until Finch played on to Richard Ngarava for 15, with the score on 43, continuing his recent run of poor form.

#### Canadian Women's Open

OTTAWA: Choi Hye-jin fired a five-under par 66 to match South Korean compatriot An Na-rin for the lead after Saturday's third round of the LPGA Canadian Women's Open. The LPGA rookies, standouts on the Korean tour each chasing her first LPGA crown, shared the top spot on 16-under 197 after 54 holes at Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club. South African Paula Reto, chasing her first LPGA victory as well, was on 198 with Americans Nelly Korda and Sarah Schmelzel sharing fourth on 201. An held a two-stroke lead after Saturday morning's completion of the rain-interrupted second round and stretched her advantage with an early run that saw her birdie the par-4 second, the par-3 fifth and par-5 sixth. — From AFP

TOKYO: Japan's Akane Yamaguchi retained her badminton women's world title in front of her home crowd in Tokyo on Sunday, beating China's Chen Yufei 21-12, 10-21, 21-14. The top-seeded Yamaguchi, who won her first world title last year in the Spanish city of Huelva, had to dig deep to see off the challenge of Olympic champion Chen. Chen was bidding to become the first player from badminton powerhouse China to win a women's singles world title since 2011.

China has won a total of 15 women's singles world titles-five times more than any other country-but number four seed Chen was the nation's first women's world finalist since 2014.

The 25-year-old Yamaguchi cruised through to the final without dropping a game this week in Tokyo. She steadily turned the screw on Chen in the first game before sealing the deal with a non-sense smash.

Chen came roaring back in the second game and leveled the match when Yamaguchi swatted a return into the net. Yamaguchi regained the upper hand with a big early lead in the third game and she made it stick, closing out the match when Chen hit a return into the net. The win gave Yamaguchi her

second title of the year, after lifting the trophy at the All England Open in March. The women's singles competition at this year's worlds was hit by injury, with 2019 champion PV Sindhu of India and Japan's 2017 winner Nozomi Okuhara both pulling out on the eve of the tournament.

#### Axelsen wins

In the men's final, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen won his second badminton world title on Sunday, beating Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-5, 21-16 in the final in Tokyo. World number one Axelsen has lost only one singles match this season and was too much for 21-year-old rising star Vitidsarn, who was blown away in the first game. Axelsen, who won Olympic gold last year, also claimed the world title in Glasgow in 2017. The 28-year-old Dane has been in imperious form this week in Tokyo, reaching the final without losing a single game. He took control right from the start against a shell-shocked Vitidsarn and clinched the first game with a commanding smash.

Vitidsarn made more of a contest of the second game but it was still not enough to stop Axelsen, who raised both arms and lay on his back after Vitidsarn's



TOKYO: Akane Yamaguchi of Japan hits a return against Chen Yufei of China during their women's singles final match at the World Badminton Championships in Tokyo on August 28, 2022. — AFP

final shot went long. The win gave Axelsen his sixth title of the season. World number 17 Vitidsarn was playing in his first world championships final, having knocked out Singapore's defend-

ing champion Loh Kean Yew in the quarter-finals. Vitidsarn, a three-time junior world champion, was bidding to become Thailand's first-ever senior men's singles world champion. — AFP

## LIV Golf joins anti-trust suit against PGA

SAN FRANCISCO: The Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series has joined an anti-trust lawsuit against the US PGA Tour brought by players who defected to the rebel circuit and received indefinite PGA suspensions. An amended complaint filed Friday in US District Court at San Jose contends the PGA has used a monopoly position to restrict competition and unfairly banned those who left for LIV Golf.

The suit was originally filed by 11 LIV Golf players but four players were not in the updated filing-Mexico's Abraham Ancer and Carlos Ortiz and Americans Pat Perez and Jason Kokrak. Seven still on the lawsuit include Phil Mickelson, Bryson DeChambeau, Ian Poulter, Matt Jones, Talor Gooch, Peter Uihlein and Hudson Swafford.

LIV Golf seeks punitive damages from the PGA for what it calls "egregious interference" with contract and potential business relationships. Swafford, Gooch and Jones were denied a chance to participate in the PGA's FedEx Cup playoffs when a judge rejected a legal appeal. A hearing on the matter is set for next July while a trial date for the lawsuit is set for January 2024. LIV Golf has attracted several big name players, including Dustin Johnson and Patrick Reed, with record purses of \$25 million and guaranteed contracts for some talent.

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan announced on Wednesday several changes for the 2023 season that will see top players appear in 12 "elevated" events with average prize money of \$20 million and guaranteed income of \$500,000 for all fully exempt PGA players in moves to combat the LIV Golf threat. LIV Golf reportedly will announce more PGA players have joined the series following this weekend's PGA season-ending Tour Championship. The next LIV Golf events, which feature only 54 holes instead of 72 and shotgun starts on every hole on a course, are next week in Boston and two weeks later in Chicago.

Meanwhile, British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia is among several US PGA Tour



BEDMINSTER: Henrik Stenson of Majesticks GC lines up a putt for birdie on the 15th green during day one of the LIV Golf Invitational - Bedminster at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in Bedminster, New Jersey. — AFP

players who will defect to the Saudi-backed rival LIV Golf Series, according to multiple reports Saturday. World number two Smith had been the subject of several reports about joining LIV Golf shortly after lifting the Claret Jug last month, but has avoided discussion of the subject while playing in this month's PGA FedEx Cup playoffs.

PGA Channel, ESPN and Sports Illustrated cited unnamed sources in reporting that several big-name PGA players were waiting until after Sunday's completion of the PGA's Tour Championship in Atlanta to announce their plans to join LIV Golf. Smith will play in next week's LIV Golf event in Boston along with compatriot Marc Leishman, India's Anirban Lahiri, Chile's Joaquin Niemann and Americans Harold Varner and Cameron Tringale, according to Sports Illustrated and ESPN; while Golf Channel named all but Lahiri. Chilean Mito Pereira will also leave for LIV Golf but was uncertain for Boston, leaving his status up in the air for next month's Presidents Cup in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

## Verstappen fastest as Sainz claims pole

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Ferrari's Carlos Sainz claimed pole for the Belgian Grand Prix despite finishing behind Red Bull's world champion Max Verstappen in qualifying at Spa-Francorchamps on Saturday. Verstappen stamped his authority on the session with a scintillating lap, but due to penalties for taking new power-unit components he and six other drivers will start from back of the grid positions.

Verstappen will start in 15th with another of the 'sanctioned-seven' Charles Leclerc a place behind. The 24-year-old Dutchman, whose Belgian mother was watching from the pits, was quickest ahead of Sainz, Sergio Perez and title rival Leclerc in the second Ferrari. Esteban Ocon and his Alpine team-mate Fernando Alonso were fifth and sixth.

The two Mercedes men seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and George Russell were seventh and eighth, ahead of Alex Albon of Williams and Lando Norris of McLaren. But the qualifying result had little bearing on the shape of the grid with Ocon and Norris also facing penalties. As a result, the radically-affected grid is set to be: Sainz, Perez, Alonso, Hamilton, Russell, Alex Albon, Daniel Ricciardo, Pierre Gasly, Lance Stroll and Sebastian Vettel.

"It was an amazing qualifying, but I think all weekend we've been on it," said Verstappen. "The car has been working well and we've been just trying to fine-tune it - we need to move forward at the start, of course, and it would be a shame not to be on the podium." Sainz said: "It was ok and I am happy to start from pole, but obviously not happy to see the gap to



SPA: Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (front) leads the race ahead of Red Bull Racing's Mexican driver Sergio Perez during the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps race-track at Spa, on August 28, 2022. — AFP

Max this weekend and the gap Red Bull has on us." This was Spaniard Sainz's second career pole after July's British Grand Prix where he went on to claim his maiden win.

Verstappen clocked a fastest lap in one minute and 43.665 seconds to outpace the Spaniard by six-tenths of a second, delighting his vast 'orange army' of fans packed into the circuit. The session was delayed by 25 minutes for barriers following an incident during an earlier supporting Porsche Supercup qualifying session. Eventually, in cool conditions under and overcast sky, the field was slow to emerge from the pits with Haas's Mick Schumacher clocking the first lap time in 1:47.929. — AFP

## Foster: All Blacks to rein in all-out attacking 'DNA'

CHRISTCHURCH: Struggling New Zealand must defy the "All Blacks DNA" of all-out attacking rugby and play a more conservative game, coach Ian Foster declared Sunday, saying the team can no longer rely on a ball-in-hand style. Saturday's 25-18 Rugby Championship loss to a belligerent Argentina in Christchurch was the All Blacks' sixth defeat in eight Tests and a historic first win on New Zealand soil for the Pumas. It came just 10 days after New Zealand Rugby's board unanimously voted to retain the under-fire Foster as coach until the end of the 2023 World Cup.

Foster said it was apparent that under the current rules teams had become adept at shutting down expansive rugby, contributing to New Zealand's slide. The Pumas won despite playing with less than 40 percent possession and territory, content to slow down New Zealand's ruck ball and erect a defensive wall that made 195 tackles - more than double that of the home side.

For all their opportunities, New Zealand crossed just twice while Argentina wing Emiliano Boffelli slotted six penalties and converted his team's try. "We've done a lot of research on games we've lost over the last 10 years and there's a similar pattern that we like to hold on to the ball and try to run our way out of trouble," Foster told journalists on Sunday.

"Argentina stayed in the game and we sort of stuck to an All Blacks DNA, we tried to play, and carry our way through a really strong defensive line. We need to look at our response to teams that want to stifle us." New Zealand have been ranked the world's number one side for much of the last 20 years, mainly due to an expansive game, instinctive try-scoring and a willingness to keep the ball alive. Foster said it will be difficult for players to change lifelong habits.

"We don't want to. We want to play a game that suits us but ... we've got to be more respectful of the opposition," he said. "It's clearly not that easy to fix, it's natural that you want to go there (to running rugby) under pressure but we've got to balance that with a little more wisdom." Foster confirmed he had spoken to New Zealand Rugby chief executive Mark Robinson after the latest defeat and anticipated another week of heated public scrutiny before Saturday's second Test against Argentina in Hamilton. — AFP

Sports

# 'World-class' Sommer helps Gladbach hold on for draw

## Moenchengladbach maintain strong record

**BERLIN:** Borussia Moenchengladbach maintained their strong recent record against Bayern Munich as a record-breaking performance from 'keeper Yann Sommer helped secure a 1-1 away draw on Saturday. After the game, Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann quipped to Sommer: "you know, you could take a week off sometime" on Sky Germany's post-match interview panel. Sommer's 19 saves in one game is the most in the Bundesliga since record-keeping started in 1993-94, easily eclipsing the previous record of 14.

Nagelsmann expressed his "annoyance" with the refereeing of Daniel Schlager, saying "he called every 50-50 situation for Gladbach." Nagelsmann quipped up a yellow card late in the match for asking an assistant referee if his headset was working. Gladbach coach Daniel Farke lauded Sommer's "world-class performance" and his side's "show of will". "Normally you are disappointed when you get a late equalizer. It's different today." Bayern began in dominant fashion, pinning Gladbach in their own penalty area.

Former Liverpool striker Sadio Mane had the ball in the net twice in two minutes in the first half, but both efforts were pulled back for offside. With Bayern launching wave after wave of relentless pressure, a goal seemed a mere formality, but it was the visitors who took the lead when French striker Marcus Thuram took advantage of an error from countryman Dayot Upamecano to put his side up 1-0 in the shadows of halftime.

Bayern continued to dominate and almost equalized in the 61st minute through Mane, but Sommer somehow stopped the Senegalese twice in quick

succession from close range, before pulling off a one-on-one stop against Leroy Sane. As the game wore on, frustration began to creep into the home side's game, with Joshua Kimmich, Marcel Sabitzer, Sane and Nagelsmann all picking up avoidable second-half yellow cards.

Jamal Musiala, brought on by Nagelsmann with 67 minutes gone, set up the equaliser in the 82nd minute, sliding a pass through for Sane to curl the ball past Sommer into the net. Bayern went close several times in the closing stages, but Sommer ensured his side remain unbeaten this season. Alongside Bayern in top spot sit Union Berlin, who won 6-1 away at Schalke earlier on Saturday.

Union, who welcome Bayern to the German capital next weekend, won through braces from Sheraldo Becker and Sven Michel, along with strikes from Morten Thorsby and Janik Haberer. The Berlin club, who will begin their first ever Europa League campaign in September, are unbeaten after five competitive games in 2022-23. Berlin coach Urs Fischer did not want his team to get carried away with the "lucky" win. "Our 3-1 half-time lead was lucky. Schalke were better, more aggressive and more agile than us," the Swiss manager told Germany's SID.

### Modeste scores

French striker Anthony Modeste thanked Dortmund manager Edin Terzic after his first-half goal gave his side a narrow 1-0 win away at Hertha Berlin on Saturday. Modeste headed in a cross from former Cologne teammate Salih Ozcan in the 32nd minute to put Dortmund 1-0 up.

Modeste, who is known for his theatrical celebra-



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's French forward Kingsley Coman (left) and Moenchengladbach's French forward Marcus Thuram vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match on August 27, 2022. —AFP

tions which often involve dancing and even props, ran to Terzic and embraced him after scoring his first for Dortmund. "I've copped so much (since arriving at Dortmund), but the manager was always there for me." Elsewhere, RB Leipzig gained their first

Bundesliga win of the season with a 2-0 home victory over Wolfsburg. Leipzig's French forward Christopher Nkunku converted a penalty after five minutes and tapped in a cross from Timo Werner late in the second half. —AFP



MILAN: AC Milan's Algerian defender Ismael Bennacer (left) outflanks Bologna's Italian defender Andrea Cambiaso during the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and Bologna on August 27, 2022. —AFP

## Milan brush aside Bologna; Juventus, Roma draw 1-1

**MILAN:** AC Milan continued their unbeaten start to their Serie A title defense with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Saturday as Tammy Abraham earned Roma a 1-1 draw at Juventus on Paulo Dybala's return to his old stomping ground. Champions Milan eased to a routine win at the San Siro with goals either side of half-time from Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud to go top on goal difference.

Stefano Pioli's side took full advantage of Inter Milan's loss at Lazio on Friday night to move a point above their local rivals. "We're more concentrated and have more self-belief than in the past, we played with a real commitment to attacking and defending as a unit," Pioli told Sky Sport Italia. "I'm happy with our performance but I know we can still get better."

Milan are one of four teams locked on seven points, with Roma, Lazio and Torino - 2-1 winners over promoted Cremonese. Napoli will reclaim the summit should they win at Fiorentina on Sunday night. Luciano Spalletti's flamboyant side on a perfect six points after two stunning displays in their opening fixtures.

Leao gave the hosts the lead in front of over 60,000 fans with his first goal of the season, the Portugal winger fortunate to see his duffed shot squirm past Lukasz Skorupski in the 21st minute after good play by debutant Charles De Ketelaere. The 23-year-old Leao, who has been linked with Chelsea, should have added to Milan's

lead before the break, missing a one-on-one with Skorupski in first half stoppage time.

However, he set up Giroud's opening strike of the campaign in the 58th minute with a perfectly clipped pass which the France international guided home with a beautifully-placed volleyed finish. Nicola Sansone smashed the upright 10 minutes later for Bologna who are hovering above the drop zone with a single point. Andrea Pinamonti scored his first goal for Sassuolo after moving from Inter, rolling home following a defensive mix-up to give his new team a 2-2 draw at Spezia.

### Mourinho blasts Roma

Jose Mourinho said he was "ashamed" of his Roma players' performances before they fought back to draw through Abraham's first goal of the season. England international Abraham headed home from Dybala's knock-down in the 69th minute at the Allianz Stadium to maintain Roma's unbeaten record. Mourinho used the vulgar Italian expression "culo" to describe their good fortune at being only a goal down at the break after being given a lesson by Juve.

Roma escaped Turin with a point despite being second best for long periods. Dusan Vlahovic put Juve ahead with a stunning free-kick after barely a minute. "I told my players at half-time that I was ashamed of them... We can't come here and play like this," he said. "We did absolutely nothing, it was pure luck. It was a very different team in the second half." Massimiliano Allegri's side stay unbeaten on five points but will be disappointed to not have taken all three on Saturday. The good result at a place Roma have an awful record also masks a poor display from Dybala, who appeared overwhelmed on his first appearance at Juve since leaving as a free agent in the summer. —AFP

## Alexis Sanchez scores double in Marseille win

**PARIS:** Alexis Sanchez scored his first goals in a Marseille shirt on Sunday, netting a brace in a 3-0 Mediterranean derby win for his new club away at Nice in Ligue 1. The Chilean former Arsenal star scored both his goals in the first half on the Cote d'Azur, with on-loan Arsenal wing-back Nuno Tavares on target in between. The win put Marseille provisionally on top of the early Ligue 1 table with 10 points from four games, ahead of Lens on goal difference.

However, reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain are just a point behind and can reclaim top spot when they host Monaco later on Sunday. Sanchez made his first start for Marseille last weekend after signing a one-year contract with the former Champions League winners following his departure from Inter Milan. Against Nice, he opened the scoring in the 10th minute, taking a touch in the penalty box and firing into the roof of the net past goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

Portuguese Under-21 international Tavares made it 2-0 in the 37th minute, his low strike from outside the area

beating Schmeichel at the goalkeeper's near post. It was his third goal in four games since arriving on loan from the Gunners, for whom he made 28 appearances last season after signing from Benfica. Sanchez then followed in to make it 3-0 before the interval after a Tavares shot had been parried.

The result leaves ambitious Nice still without a league win this season. Ivory Coast international Nicolas Pepe failed to make an impact for Nice on his debut after also signing on loan from Arsenal. Juma Ito became just the third Japanese player ever to score a Ligue 1 goal as Reims drew 1-1 with Lyon. Ito, who was signed from Belgian club Genk last month, headed Reims into the lead in the first half to follow in the footsteps of compatriots Daisuke Matsui and Hiroki Sakai in scoring in Ligue 1.

Reims had Dion Lopy sent off in the second half and could not hold on as Moussa Dembele headed Lyon level late on. Meanwhile, Montpellier recorded their biggest ever away win in France's top flight as they hammered Brest 7-0 in Brittany. Elye Wahi and Valere Germain both scored twice, while Pierre Lees-Melou was sent off for Brest, whose coach Michel Der Zakarian was formerly in charge of Montpellier. "I've already taken two paracetamol and I am going to take two more," said Der Zakarian. "We were bad defensively and going forward. We did nothing at all in the game." Egypt striker Mostafa Mohamed and Nigeria's Moses Simon were among the goals as French Cup holders Nantes came from behind to beat Toulouse 3-1. —AFP

## Celtic hit nine in Dundee Utd demolition

**GLASGOW:** Celtic thrashed Dundee United 9-0 as hat-tricks from Kyogo Furuhashi and Liel Abada helped set a new Scottish Premiership record for the biggest away win on Sunday. Ange Postecoglou's side ran riot at Tannadice thanks to the trebles from Furuhashi and Abada, as well as goals from Jota, Josip Juranovic and Carl Starfelt. The Scottish champions' biggest win since defeating Aberdeen by the same score in 2010 broke the previous record for the largest away margin of victory in the Premiership era. Celtic moved back to the top of table above Rangers after their fifth win from five games.

"We knew Dundee United were going through a rough spell and they were probably a bit vulnerable today. We got on top of them early which allowed us to play our football," Celtic manager Postecoglou told Sky Sports. Turning to his hat-trick heroes, he added: "Kyogo is such an important part of what we do. It's not just his goals, it's the way he harassed the opponents... Liel is a fantastic young player and everything we've asked of him in the last 12-14 months he's just taken every challenge."

Dismal United's worst home defeat means they have now conceded 23 goals in their last four matches, including a 7-0 loss against AZ Alkmaar in the Europa Conference League third qualifying round second leg.

"Humiliating and embarrassing, that's the only way to describe it," said United manager Jack Ross. "You shouldn't lose a game by that many goals, you shouldn't lose a game in that manner of performance. Every ounce of criticism that falls on my shoulders is deserved because, from a personal pride perspective, it's really sore."

"In terms of that humiliation and embarrassment the players should feel that way, because that's the way I feel." Celtic started the demolition job in the 15th minute as Furuhashi slotted home from Jota's pass. The floodgates were well and truly open from the 40th minute when Japan forward Furuhashi swept into the top corner from 22 yards.

Celtic went for the kill and scored a brilliant third in first-half stoppage time. Abada squared for Furuhashi to tap in after a flurry of passes cut through hapless United. Celtic weren't finished by any means and the fourth goal arrived just before the half-time whistle as Abada got in behind and crossed for Jota to net from close range despite United appeals for offside. Half-time brought no respite for Ross's side and Matt O'Riley squared for Abada to knock home in the 50th minute.

Juranovic drilled home five minutes later after O'Riley's free-kick had hit the wall. Celtic's seventh goal came just before the hour when Jota found Reo Hatate and the Japanese midfielder squared for Abada to knock home. Postecoglou brought on four substitutes and Abada dinked the ball home after Daizen Maeda had helped on Aaron Mooy's lofted ball in the 77th minute. Starfelt headed David Turnbull's corner in off the post four minutes later and the Celtic fans chanted: "We want 10". —AFP

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733

Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764

### CHANGE OF NAME

this name change in all mu documents.  
(C# 2047-29/8-31/8/22)

**NIHAL BALLUR** holder of Passport No. V7423854 do hereby change my name to NIHAL (as given name) KAMAL (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name NIHAL KAMAL and I also undertake to carry out

this name change in all mu documents.  
(C# 2047-29/8-31/8/22)

### SITUATION WANTED

**An Indian national** having experience of HR and accountant, cashier/store-keeper, logistics seeking an immediate placement. Visa 18. Ph: 65925929. (C# 2043) — 25-08-2022

## Kane fires Spurs; Wolves and Newcastle draw 1-1

### West Ham win piles pressure on Gerrard



NOTTINGHAM: Nottingham Forest's English defender Steve Cook (2nd left) handles the ball under pressure from Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (center) - giving away a penalty during the English Premier League football match between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur on August 28, 2022. — AFP

LONDON: Harry Kane's double earned a 2-0 win at Nottingham Forest that lifted Tottenham to third in the Premier League, while Aston Villa boss Steven Gerrard is under intense pressure after a 1-0 defeat against West Ham on Sunday. Antonio Conte's side have made an encouraging start to the campaign. Kane ensured they maintained that momentum at the City Ground. The England captain put Tottenham ahead with a clinical finish after collecting Dejan Kulusevski's pass just outside the Forest area in the fifth minute.

It was Kane's 200th league goal, including his Tottenham career and loan spells at Millwall, Leicester and Leyton Orient. Kane wasted a chance to increase Tottenham's lead 11 minutes after half-time when Steve Cook handled Ivan Perisic's cross. Dean Henderson saved Kane's penalty as he missed from the spot in the league for the first time since 2018. Kane made amends with his fourth goal this season in the 81st minute.

Richardson won the ball back and crossed for the striker to head into the empty net. With three wins from four games, Tottenham are level on points with second placed Manchester City and two points behind leaders Arsenal as the two north London rivals set the early pace. West Ham arrived at Villa

Park bottom of the table after losing their first three games without scoring. Pablo Fornals' goal late in the second half ended West Ham's wait to get off the mark as they climbed out of the relegation zone.

Fornals' shot deflected off Villa defender Ezri Konsa and looped over keeper Emiliano Martinez to break the deadlock with 15 minutes left. The Hammers, beaten by Manchester City, Nottingham Forest and Brighton, are now level on points with Villa, who have lost three of their first four matches. Villa's latest setback will only add to the scrutiny on Gerrard amid talk of dressing room unrest with the former Liverpool and England midfielder. A mid-week League Cup second round win at third-tier Bolton had given Gerrard a little breathing space.

But Villa fans are growing increasingly restless with Gerrard, who has struggled to make a sustained impact since leaving Rangers to succeed Dean Smith last season. "I have got two ears and I hear a lot of things. I heard the fans' frustration and last time I checked my ears were still working so, yeah, I pick up on everything," Gerrard said. "I've been in the game long enough. If you lose three games out of four it is not the start the supporters wanted and certainly not the start that I wanted, so of course I understand. "We certainly share our

supporters' frustration and there is no one more frustrated than me."

#### 'Try to put it right'

With matches against Premier League leaders Arsenal and champions Manchester City looming as their next two fixtures, Villa could be deeper in trouble by early September. "The only thing we can do now is act and try to put it right. I am all in to make that happen and my staff are but it has to come from within the players as well," Gerrard said. West Ham boss David Moyes added: "The performance was really in truth not the most important thing today, the result was."

At Molineux, Wolves midfielder Ruben Neves gave his side the lead seven minutes before half-time when he drilled a superb strike into the bottom corner from 25 yards. But Allan Saint-Maximin matched Neves' goal as he blasted a brilliant volleyed equalizer from 20 yards in stoppage-time to rescue a 1-1 draw. Newcastle are up to seventh after an unbeaten start which has extended to four matches, a sequence that includes three successive draws. Second-bottom Wolves remain without a win in the league after two draws and two losses.— AFP

### English Premier League Table

English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	4	4	0	0	11	3	12
Man City	4	3	1	0	13	5	10
Tottenham	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Brighton	4	3	1	0	5	1	10
Leeds	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Chelsea	4	2	1	1	5	6	7
Newcastle	4	1	3	0	6	4	6
Man Utd	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
Liverpool	4	1	2	1	13	5	5
Brentford	4	1	2	1	9	6	5
Fulham	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Crystal Palace	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Southampton	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Nottm Forest	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Aston Villa	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
West Ham	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
Bournemouth	4	1	0	3	2	16	3
Everton	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Wolves	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Leicester	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

### Serena prepares for final curtain call at US Open

NEW YORK: After a glittering 27-year professional career in which she became one of the greatest players of all time, Serena Williams is preparing to bid farewell to tennis at the major where it all began. The 40-year-old sporting icon ended the guessing game surrounding her future earlier this month by revealing that the "countdown" to her retirement had started, with her final Grand Slam appearance expected at the US Open in New York starting on Monday. "There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction," Williams wrote. "That time is always hard when you love something so much."

The announcement sets the stage for what will be an emotional farewell for Williams, who faces unheralded world number 80 Danka Kovinic in Monday's first round at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. Williams won the first of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles as a 17-year-old at the 1999 US Open, beating Martina Hingis in the final. That breakthrough victory confirmed what had become apparent ever since her professional debut four years earlier: that Williams, alongside sister Venus, was a rising force in women's tennis.

While 1999 marked her first singles Slam, by then Williams had already won mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon and the US Open in 1998. Her win in the



MELBOURNE: In this file photo, Serena Williams of the US waves as she walks off the court in Melbourne. — AFP

1999 singles final would light the touchpaper for the most dominant career of any female player in the Open era, her 23 Grand Slam titles second only to Margaret Court's 24. While a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title is likely to remain beyond her next week, Williams has nevertheless produced a col-

lection of records that in all probability will never be broken.

With seven Australian Open singles titles, seven Wimbledon titles and six US Open titles, Williams is the only player, male or female to win three different Grand Slams six times or more. In total, she has won 39 Grand Slam titles—with 14 women's doubles crowns and two mixed doubles titles to go alongside her 23 singles victories. Her longevity is also unmatched.

She was first ranked world number one in 2002, and last held the position in 2017 - an interval of just under 15 years. Williams also holds the record for the longest gap between her first and last Grand Slam wins: 17 years and 139 days between her 1999 US Open win and the 2017 Australian Open in Melbourne, when she was pregnant with daughter Olympia.

Williams has also collected four Olympic gold medals—three as a doubles partner with sister Venus in 2000, 2008 and 2012, and one singles gold at the 2012 London Games, staged at Wimbledon. Only three other players—Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal—have completed the career "Golden Slam" of all four major championships with an Olympic gold.

Williams' farewell to tennis in New York has become the hottest ticket in town. Her retirement announcement triggered a stampede among fans, with the first three nights of the tournament sold out. Secondary ticket markets have reported a surge in ticket prices, up 34% since early August. Whether or not Williams is able to extend her Grand Slam career much further than Monday's first round remains to be seen. — AFP

### Goetze scores as Frankfurt beat Bremen 4-3

BERLIN: Former Bayern and Dortmund forward Mario Goetze scored the opener as Eintracht Frankfurt picked up their first win of the season with a 4-3 victory away at Bremen. The goal was the 2014 World Cup winner's first since he moved to Frankfurt from Dutch side PSV Eindhoven in the summer. Goetze's goal was the first of five in a seesawing first half. Bremen regained the lead, before the visitors snatched it back again to go into the break 3-2 up.

Frankfurt's Djibril Sow drilled in a shot after 48 minutes to put his side 4-2 up and on track for what looked like a comfortable victory, before Bremen's Niclas Füllkrug converted a penalty in second-half injury time. Bremen's Scottish striker Oliver Burke, who secured the home side a win and a draw in their past two fixtures with injury-time goals, was unable to conjure another late Werder escape. The loss was Bremen's first since being promoted back to the Bundesliga this season.

Stuttgart managed a 0-0 draw away at Cologne on Sunday despite second-half red cards for Luca Pfeiffer, in his first start for the club, and American manager Pellegrino Matarazzo. Both sides had chances to score in a fiery encounter dominated by acrobatic goalkeeping performances.—AFP