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Kuwait's boxers shine at boxing tournament





Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf named Kuwait new PM

Fifth head of government since 2003



By B Izzak

KUWAIT: An Amiri order was issued yesterday naming the Interior Minister in the outgoing Cabinet Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah as Kuwait's new prime minister, replacing Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. Sheikh Ahmad is the son of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and will be the country's fifth head of government since 2003.

The appointment of Sheikh Ahmad comes after a series of political disputes rocked Kuwait since the December 5, 2020 general elections between the government and the opposition which won a majority in the 50-seat Assembly. After Sheikh Ahmad forms the new cabinet, the

Amir is expected to dissolve the National Assembly and call for fresh polls. The new prime minister is expected to put the rich country back on track.

Sheikh Sabah submitted his Cabinet's resignation in early April after 26 opposition MPs, two more than the required quorum, said they will back a non-cooperation motion against him following a grilling in the National Assembly. The outgoing prime minister was appointed to the post just three years ago after ex-prime minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah resigned after allegations linking him to a high-profile corruption case. But he has been acquitted by the court and the Public Prosecution has challenged the verdict.

Proposed law will save KD 100 million per year

KUWAIT: Ministerial Economic Committee has prepared an executive plan to cut the inflated salaries and wages which takes more than KD 13 billion out of the total budget which is KD 22 billion. These inflated wages affect the country's development plans and hinder progress. Salaries will be rationalized - they will neither be slashed nor increased.

The basic work will be on approving the salaries' alternative proposed law which will make all allowances

equal among most government entities as long as they have the same academic qualification instead of the current system. In this current system, employees' allowances differ according to their places of work. An engineer in the oil sector receives incentives and allowances more than his/her counterpart in the Electricity and Public Works ministries even though they all have the same academic qualifications.

Continued on Page 6

Gaza's women see no escape from violence

ABASSAN: Seventeen-year-old Istabraq Baraka fell pregnant soon after her wedding in the Gaza Strip. Three months later her husband killed her. "She died from a severe beating, which caused bleeding on the brain and lungs and broken ribs," said her mother Nazmiya. Sitting with her husband Suleiman in a garden in Abassan, near the city of Khan Yunis in the south of the Palestinian territory, the 53-year-old talks at lightning speed about last year's killing of one of her two daughters, as well as the loss of an unborn grandchild.



GAZA: Palestinians Suleiman and Nazmiya Baraka show a picture of their slain daughter Istabraq Baraka, who was killed by her husband last year.— AFP

3 killed in Philippine university shooting

MANILA: Three people were killed Sunday in a rare shooting at a university in the Philippine capital Manila, officials said, in what appears to have been a targeted assassination. The incident happened at Ateneo de Manila University as law students and their families arrived for a graduation ceremony that was to be attended by the Supreme Court chief justice. Rose Furigay, a former city mayor in the restive southern province of Basilan and whose daughter was among the graduates, was killed, authorities said.

Furigay's executive assistant and a university security guard were also killed. Her daughter was wounded and is in a "stable condition" in hospital, police said. "We are quite distraught and bereaved by this occurrence," Joy Belmonte, the mayor of a local government unit where the shooting happened, told AFP. The alleged gunman fled the

scene by forcing a driver out of their vehicle, before abandoning it and continuing his getaway in a jeepney, police said. He was eventually detained near a church.

Police recovered two handguns and a silencer allegedly used by the suspect, who they identified as Chao Tiao Yumul and said had a "long history" of legal disputes with Furigay. Yumul was on a bail for a cyberlibel charge. "This looks to be a determined assassin," said Police Brigadier General Remus Medina told reporters, describing the incident as "isolated". Yumul, with abrasions on his face, was presented by police to reporters. He accused Furigay of being a "drug lord" and that her family had ordered three attacks on him.

A political family

School and university shootings are rare in the Philippines despite its lax gun



Jordan protests border attacks

AMMAN: King Abdullah II protested in an interview published Sunday over attacks on Jordan's borders by "militias linked to Iran", following deadly clashes with drug smugglers on the frontier with Syria. Jordan faces "regular attacks on its borders by mili-

tias linked to Iran", he told Al-Rai newspaper. Abdullah called for "a change of behavior by Iran" and said that Jordan "does not want tensions in the region".

"Jordan, like the rest of the Arab countries, seeks good relations with Iran, with mutual respect, good neighborliness, respect for the sovereignty of other states and non-interference in their affairs," the king said. Abdullah said that Jordan, like other Arab nations, was being targeted by smugglers of drugs and arms that he said were in transit to Europe.

"Jordan is coordinating with its brothers (Arab countries) to confront this and protect its borders," he said. The Jordanian army conducts regular anti-smuggling operations on the border with Syria, where Iran-backed fighters support the Damascus regime in a civil war that erupted in 2011. On January 27, Amman said its forces killed 27 drug traffickers supported by armed groups, seizing a large quantity of drugs. An officer and a border guard were killed in a similar clash earlier the same month. —AFP

Egypt small farms play big role but struggle to survive

SINDIYUN: Egyptian smallholders grow nearly half of the country's crops, a lifeline role increasingly important after grain imports were stalled by war in Ukraine — but they are struggling to survive. Despite their crucial role providing food for the North African nation's 103 million people, smallholders are cash-strapped and indebted, frequently selling their harvests at a loss.

"The farmer is dead, trampled," farmer Zakaria Aboueldahab told AFP, brewing tea on his rented plot of wheat and onions in Qalyubia, 30 kilometers north of Cairo. "I'm trying to sell my

onion harvest but I can't find a market," he said, the remnants of his crop scattered across the soil. "I just want to break even. I don't know how I'm going to pay rent". His onions would sell in Egypt: but financing, marketing and infrastructure hurdles create massive gaps between supply and demand.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), small farms are the "primary producers" of food for domestic consumption in Egypt. Farmers cultivating less than three feddans (1.2 hectares, three



BENI SUEF: A farmer collects the pepper crop, in El-Fashn in Egypt's Beni Suef governorate, some 150 kilometers south of the capital.— AFP

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Continued on Page 6

Local

Kuwait's Nazaha stresses need for public to report corruption cases

Government, people 'must work together' to tackle corruption



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the workshop. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Nazaha's Vice-President Counselor Nawaf Al-Muhmel speaks during the workshop.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds, in cooperation with Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), held on Sunday a symposium and a workshop entitled "Investigation and Follow-up for the Recovery of Stolen Public Funds". In his opening remarks, Nazaha's Vice-President, Counselor Nawaf Al-Muhmel, stressed the need to achieve community awareness and help in reporting corruption cases. "There are still many procedural challenges related to strengthening the practical aspects of recovering funds stolen in corruption crimes, which require the follow-up and national action of putting Chapter Five of the UN Convention against Corruption into effect," he added. Muhmel further affirmed that societal awareness is an indispensable mechanism, adding that governmental institutions and the people of Kuwait must work firmly together to tackle corruption.

Fahad Al-Nasser, Treasurer of Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds, said meanwhile that Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority always cooperates with civil society institutions in the implementation of the 2006 United Nations con-

vention against corruption, stressing the need for civil society to do their social responsibilities and cooperate to restore stolen funds and assistance in reporting corruption cases. He called for benefiting from international experiences and applying them in the country, noting that Kuwait must take in mind



Workshop on 'recovery of stolen public funds'

the Malaysian and Swiss experiences, and benefit from their experience in order to get better recommendations to be applied.

Nasser pointed out that the Fatwa and Legislation Department played a major role in recovering the looted funds in coordination with

local and international authorities, starting from the case of the embezzlement of Kuwaiti investments in Spain in the 1990s to the case of the former general manager the Public Institution for Social Security Fahd Al-Rajaan. He noted that the administration formed a legal team to work on protecting the state's treasury, adding that the administration strives to develop its employees by providing them with the opportunity to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops, and apply protocols of cooperation with civil society institutions.

In the meantime, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait Nasreen Rabiean stressed that corruption is of one the most important issue that touch all societies and their comprehensive and sustainable development, noting that protecting public money is a shared responsibility. She indicated that the United Nations, through its competent bodies, organizations, and international conventions, has serious international efforts in this field to combat corruption in all its forms and protect public funds. "Addressing corruption is necessary to protect human rights and promote democratic accountability," she noted.



Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait Nasreen Rabiean delivers her speech.

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Afya-3 health insurance available until September 15

KUWAIT: Afya-3 health insurance cards are available for Kuwaiti retirees from July 24 to September 15, 2022. Director of Health insurance Department at the Ministry of Health (MoH) Ahmad Al-Hussaini stated Sunday. The cards could be handed out to beneficiaries through 44 health centers across the country during official work hours (7:00 am to 2:00 pm), he noted.

Original civil IDs have to be checked for retired Kuwaitis in order to get the recent vision of Afya insurance card. The Afya insurance cards, which covers treatment costs for Kuwaiti retirees in private medical facilities, was launched by the MoH in 2016, and the second version of the insurance program was launched in 2019. Kuwaiti retiree registered in Kuwait's Public Institution for Social



KUWAIT: A retired Kuwaiti woman receiving her Afya-3 health insurance card. —KUNA photos

Security are eligible to apply for the special health insurance card. —KUNA



Checking a retiree's civil ID number as part of the process of issuing the new Afya-3 health insurance card.



Retired Kuwaitis waiting to receive their new Afya-3 health insurance card.

Local

Kuwait Times intern Saoud Al-Marzouq talks about his passion for politics

People in power should move faster or Kuwait will be lost, says Marzouq

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Being an intern can benefit students in exploring a career path, giving them an edge in the job market, helping them develop and refine their skills, granting them access to a variety of tasks and securing good references and recommendations for them.

This summer, political science student Saoud Al-Marzouq, 20, joined Kuwait Times as an intern to develop his skills and get an insight into Kuwait politics. He receives training and education regarding how various media channels operate.

Marzouq shines in conducting interviews, writing feature stories, and striving to be the voice of the voiceless people of Kuwait. Kuwait Times interviewed Marzouq to discover more about him and his deep passion for learning to make a great impact on society.

Kuwait Times: Why did you choose to study political science?

Saoud Al-Marzouq: My first choice was psychology to study the mind and behavior of people, but it was not included in scholarship, so I ended up studying political science which was my second choice. I wanted to study psychology because I liked to see how individuals evolve and how they grow up and become who they are. I wanted to understand people around me and understand myself, but I had also an interest in political science like the sociological aspect. I was interested in the scene of how those individuals can come together and create society, government, nations, organizations, and companies, and how people can organize themselves naturally.

My desire to study political science grew when I went to the US and listened to a lot of broadcasts and saw the different perspectives. I watched and listened to a lot of broadcasters for their ideas on



KUWAIT: Saoud Al-Marzouq at Kuwait Times office. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

foreign policy in the Middle East. For me, I saw a lot of news during family visits; all news talking over and over about Syria, but I never understood what was actually happening.

The media never try to explain it but, in the broadcast, they explained it in a real way and very easily. I understand that some people speak the truth, but step by step I started to understand US domestic policy and getting more attached to it. I started to enjoy it after I got the background on politics.

KT: How did you imagine yourself as a grown-up?

Marzouq: When I was a kid, I always imagined my older version of me as a not-worthy man. I was a

failure in school, I was not religious, and anything life throws at me, I was not good at it. I remember when I was a kid, I had this idea that when I get older, I will be religious, pray five times a day and fast in Ramadan and be the perfect Muslim, but that kind of thinking changed when my parents got divorced. Their fights revealed the cover of some relatives that I thought were “perfect”, but it turns out that they were not. I started to think that when I grow up, I don’t want to cover up the bad sides of myself. I will not be a perfect human; I will be realistic with myself and the people around me.

KT: What are you passionate about?

Marzouq: I’m passionate about trying to understand Kuwait and how to contribute to fixing and being part of it. I try to see the world differently.

KT: What are your hobbies?

Marzouq: When I was young, I liked RC planes. Also, I was playing soccer in Jahra sports club, then I started to play oud, violin, and piano and will learn more about it in the next semester in the US. I like going to the gym one hour a day for 4-5 times a week.

KT: What projects you are aiming to achieve?

Marzouq: I’m trying to take life piece by piece, focusing on my internship with Kuwait Times and learning more about playing the oud during my free time here in Kuwait.

KT: How do you see your generation?

Marzouq: I see a lot of parts of them are more liberalized. Some of them are different, while others look like the old generation and turn to be like their parents. They allow themselves to do stuff while



Kuwaiti political science student and Kuwait Times intern Saoud Al-Marzouq.

others are not okay to do it. Parents think that they can discipline their kids by being strict with them and forcing them to do things. Children will be programmed to do stuff, not for their own sake. Nowadays, the generation does things just to please their parents. They are mature, but they are just brought up with their own pressures, and parents will not last forever.

KT: Where do you see yourself after graduation?

Marzouq: After graduation, I want to work in the United States; I do not see my future in Kuwait. I want to freely express myself. I want to be at least 80 percent real with my writings.

KT: Any last words?

Marzouq: The people in power in Kuwait should move faster or else Kuwait will be lost. People feel that they are not appreciated but they get appreciation from other countries. I met with some people who are more work-oriented and passionate about work like me; they tell me that I will not work in Kuwait, and it is not worth it as no one appreciates us.

Study finds young people follow influencers out of ‘fear of missing out’

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Associate Professor at Kuwait University’s Department of Media Fatima Al-Salem conducted a study that showed that following influencers on social media has repercussions on the mental health of their followers, especially young people.

The study, which was based on the theory of social comparison and the case of “FOMO” (fear of missing out), aimed to understand the social and psychological effects on young people who follow influencers on social media, and showed the impact on their psychological state on the extent of their daily use of social media apps.

Al-Salem’s study chose a sample of 4,275 young Kuwaiti people, and the results showed a strong statistical correlation between the psychological state variable and its impact on FOMO. The worse the psychological state, the higher is the feeling of fear of losing opportunities, according to the study.

The study recommended conducting more follow-up studies that focus on the psychological and social effects of using social media apps on young people, in addition to conducting studies aimed at explaining the differences in social comparisons and “FOMO” among young people and other groups. The study called for educating young people and making them aware of the dangers of extensive use of social media networks, through media education and awareness campaigns.

New trends

Maryam Hussain follows influencers from all over the world and keeps herself updated with the new trends in the fashion industry. She told Kuwait Times that her spending budget increased more than 40 percent in recent years on cloth, make-up,



accessories, and other luxuries.

“Influencers are affecting our purchasing decisions unconsciously. However, the availability of products in the market and continuous offers and discounts in the shopping centers and online stores encourage us to increase our buying,” she said. “Despite most followers knowing that the life of those influencers is not completely real, they like the idea of living this style of life.”

“Coming from a person who used to get influenced easily, getting influencers talking about products and highlighting the extravagant bits of their lifestyle was overwhelming,” she added.

Meanwhile, Nada Saleh said “I had managed to escape the cycle by acknowledging that the lives influencers claimed were real on their stories isn’t the reality in its full picture. Keeping that in mind, I got more into focusing on myself and my mindset to become fully

aware of my capabilities and strengths.”

Level of trust

Nahla Omar mentioned that following social media influencers and getting affected by them depends on the level of trust between the follower and what the influencer offers. “If the influencer recommends products that are over the budget or it turns out later that the products they offer are not good as what they said, the followers will not get affected by them later,” she said. “However, they will keep following them to be updated about the latest trends in fashion or other new lifestyle trends, fearing of missing out on what’s new.”

“Some influencers know how to affect their followers to buy the products they recommend,” she added. “As for me, if I bought a product recommended by an influencer and like it, in the future, I will buy what this influencer advises for me.”

Dive Team completes protective projects in Arifjan’s coral reefs



KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team, on Sunday, set new protective projects in the coral reefs of Arifjan, South Al-Ahmadi port. In a statement to the press, team director Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the team knows the significance of the coral reefs due to their impor-

tance to the environment and rareness. “The project lasted few days, in which the team have completed maintenance for anchorages in the depth of 11 to 14 meters, checking the condition of the coral reefs and lifting a neglected fishing net,” said Fadhel. “The coral



reefs of Arifjan are one of the most beautiful and important marine sites in Kuwait, and one of the most visited. Its depth ranges between three and 15 meters. It’s five nautical miles away from the coast of Mina Abdullah,” he added. —KUNA

In my view

Home businesses under Kuwait’s law



By Fajer Ahmed

local@kuwaittimes.com

Kuwait business laws are becoming more and more business friendly, especially for small businesses and home businesses, which were legalized under ministerial decision 330/2017. Many home businesses successfully operate from social media platforms. Today I will answer a few questions that concern home businesses which are referred to as micro businesses under Kuwait law.

Question: Do I need a small business license as a home business? If so, can you provide us with more information?

Fajer: It is advised that you get a small business license for many different reasons, one of which is working with payment providers, delivery companies, etc. Home business licenses are available in Kuwait and you can obtain them from Kuwait Business Center under the Ministry of Commerce. They are actually easy to obtain, and you can apply online. Unlike other licenses, you do not need a physical location, and therefore do not need to pay rent. Actually, all you need is an email to apply.

A few things to keep in mind though: Home licenses are only for specific activities. They are only provided to Kuwaiti citizens that are over the age of 21, and you cannot register for social security with a home license.

Question: I read that recently the Central Bank in Kuwait is not allowing small businesses to receive any funds or payments through payment providers if they are a home business. Is this true?

Fajer: The Central Bank clarified in recent regulations that home businesses may not receive funds from payment providers unless they have written permission and approval from their local bank to receive said funds electronically.

KOC Digital transformation ‘work in progress’

KUWAIT: The state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) underlined on Sunday its commitment to digital transformation plans, saying the process is a “work in progress” that would only come to fruition through more cooperation across the board. Amid an event outlining such plans, KOC deputy CEO for Planning and Financial Affairs Bader Al-Attar praised the efforts of the company’s workforce towards achieving digital transformation goals. Echoing his sentiments, Bader Al-Munifi, the deputy CEO of KOC’s gas and innovation directorate, cited digital transformation plans as “part and parcel” of the company’s long-term strategies. —KUNA

Local

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Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.comIndian Embassy
Open House on
July 27, 2022

KUWAIT: The next Indian Embassy Open House will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf Street, Kuwait-13015 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (registrations will be open at the Embassy from 10:00 am to 11:30 am). All Indian nationals in Kuwait are invited to participate in the Open House, subject to being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The event will not be hosted on the virtual platform. Those who wish to raise specific issues may please send their queries in advance with full name as in passport, passport number, civil ID number and contact number and address in Kuwait, by email to amboff.kuwait@mea.gov.in.

Commerce
ministry closes
violating stores

KUWAIT: Commerce and Industry Ministry inspectors cited a coffee shop in Fahaheel for violating its business license. Emergency teams took legal action against the violator. Meanwhile, ministry inspectors closed a store for selling counterfeit goods. Large quantities of clothes carrying fake tags for famous makers were found, so the store was closed, and legal action was taken, the ministry said in a statement.



Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A photo taken from the Salmiya beach showing the city's skyline. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Kuwaiti photographer elated after
clinching UAE-based global award

Social media useful tool for photographers to get global exposure: Zaabi



Giraffes photographed by Majed Al-Zaabi.



A photo of a lion by award-winning Kuwaiti photographer Majed Al-Zaabi.

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti photographer Majed Al-Zaabi expressed his elation on Saturday after he was named the winner of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA). Zaabi, who won top honors in the "content creator" category, said that this year's edition of HIPA was dedicated to nature and wildlife, saying he was glad to have been acknowledged in his quest to leave an indelible mark on the world of photography.

He cited social media as a useful tool for a photographer looking for global exposure, but warned that the platform can often be a "dou-

ble-edged sword" if used improperly. The Kuwaiti photographer is no stranger to global accolades, having amassed a slew of international awards over the course of a journey that has spanned over two decades.

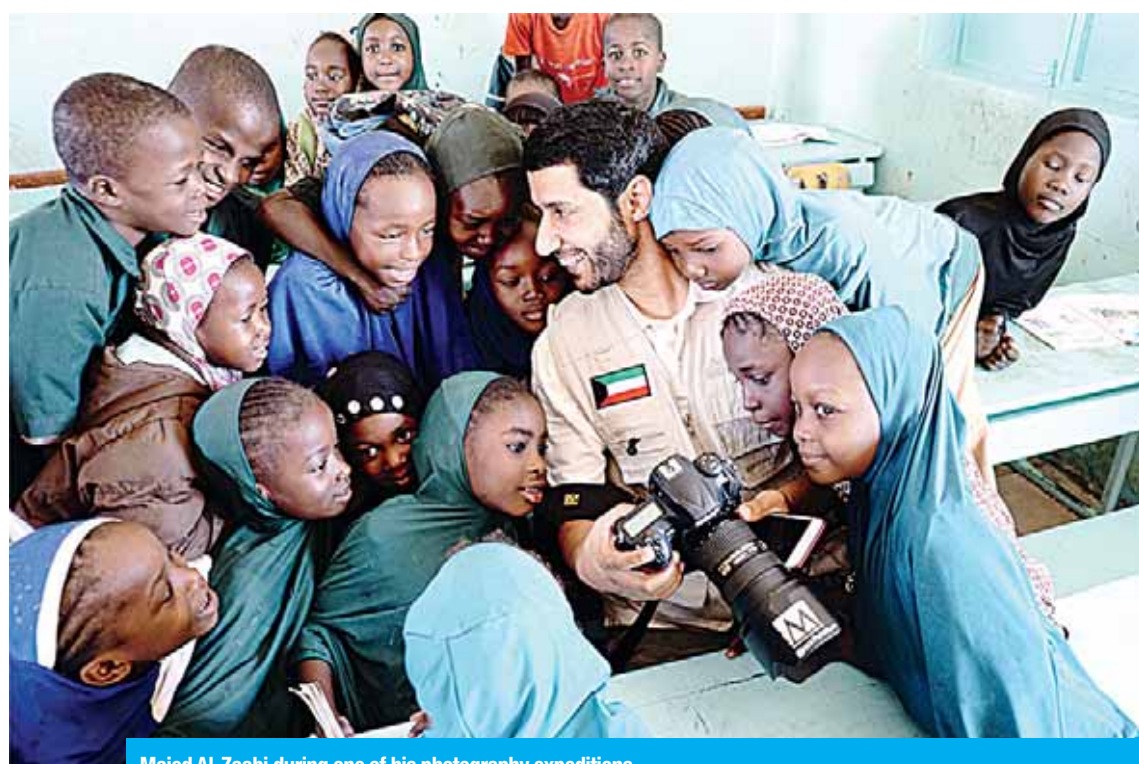
The General Secretariat of HIPA had recently announced the winners of the special prizes for the 11th session of the award, titled "Nature". Zaabi expressed his thanks and pride in the award and the extent of its impact and support for the photographers' communities and its very special position, pointing out that it is much more than a traditional competition, considering that it is an institution full of activity and life throughout the year. —Agencies



A photo of a rhinoceros by Majed Al-Zaabi.



Kuwaiti photographer Majed Al-Zaabi.



Majed Al-Zaabi during one of his photography expeditions.



Sri Lanka president's office to reopen after crackdown



NABLUS, Palestinian Territories: Mourners carry the bodies of Muhamad Azizi, 25, and Abdul Rahman Jamal Suleiman Sobh, 28, killed earlier in Zionist attacks in the old quarter of the West Bank city of Nablus, during their funeral procession in the same city, on July 24, 2022. — AFP

Two Palestinians killed in Zionist raid

Zionist forces have launched near-daily operations in West Bank

NABLUS, Palestinian Territories: Zionist forces killed two Palestinians during an overnight raid in the occupied West Bank, officials on the two sides said Sunday, in what Zionist entity described as a shootout with gunmen. The Zionist army said it carried out operations and used live fire in several locations, including in Nablus, adding it arrested four "individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activities".

The Zionist military claimed "hits" were identified against multiple "terrorists" and said there were no reported wounded on its own side.

The Palestinian health ministry identified the dead as Muhamad Azizi, 25, who it said was killed by a bullet to the chest, and Abdul Rahman Jamal Suleiman Sobh, 28, who was shot in the head. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported treating 19 wounded in Nablus, including 10



Youths killed in direct bullet hits

people hit by live fire.

Zionist security forces have launched near-daily operations in the West Bank following a spate of attacks in recent months. The Jewish state has occupied the West Bank since 1967. Zionist entity's Prime Minister Yair Lapid said those targeted in the overnight

raid were linked to recent "shooting attacks" on Zionists, and he commended the security forces for an "efficient and successful operation."

Nabil Abu Rudeina, a spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, called the raid a "Zionist crime." "The entire region will remain in a cycle of violence until the occupation is ended and a just peace is achieved," he added in a statement to Voice of Palestine radio. The Zionist army said in a statement that its operation in Nablus was carried out alongside police, and that it also launched operations in several other locations including the town of Mughayir, Ayda camp and the city of Jenin.

It said the operation in Nablus was launched "to apprehend armed terrorist suspects". "An exchange of fire took place between the people and Zionist forces.

Hits on a number of targets were identified," it said.

The Zionist military alleged that a "violent riot was instigated" during the "operational activity". "The rioters hurled explosive devices and rocks and shot at... soldiers, endangering their lives," it said. "The soldiers responded with riot dispersal means and live fire."

The military also said it had operated alongside Zionist Border Police in the village of Qabatiya to "apprehend two... suspected of involvement in terrorist activities". "Armed suspects shot at the soldiers, who responded with live fire," it added.

At least 52 Palestinians have been killed since late March, mostly in the West Bank, among them and also non-combatants, including Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American dual national, who was covering a Zionist raid in Jenin. — AFP

Evacuation alert after volcano erupts in Japan

TOKYO: Dozens of people were urged to evacuate their homes after a fiery volcanic eruption in southern Japan on Sunday as the national weather agency issued its top-level alert for the mountain.

Television footage showed red-hot rocks and dark plumes exploding from Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima, which erupted just after 8 pm (1100 GMT). There were no immediate reports of damage, said deputy chief cabinet secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has instructed the government "to work closely with the local municipality to ensure damage prevention, such as through evacuations," Isozaki told reporters.

The volcano frequently spits out smoke and ash, and is a major tourist attraction.

Sunday's blast propelled large cinders about 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the crater, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said, while the smoke reached around 300 meters and merged with the clouds. The agency raised its alert for Sakurajima to level five, the top level, which urges evacuations.

Previously it was at level three, which bans entry to the mountain.

The volcano saw four earlier eruptions between Saturday and Sunday afternoon, with the plume reaching as high as 1,200 meters. "Residential areas of Arimura town and Furusato town within three kilometers of the summit crater... of Sakurajima should be on high alert," Tsuyoshi Nakatsuji of JMA's Volcanic Observation Division told reporters.

According to Kagoshima City, there are 77 residents in the two towns. Nakatsuji said the JMA last week had observed the swelling of the volcano, which signals the accumulation of magma. "But the swelling hasn't been resolved after the latest eruption," he said.

"We'll carefully monitor this."

Japan has scores of active volcanoes and sits on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire" where a large proportion of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded. Sakurajima was formerly an island, but due to previous eruptions is now attached to a peninsula. Japan last issued the top evacuation alert for a volcano when Kuchinoerabu island, also in Kagoshima, erupted in 2015. — AFP



MYKOLAIV, Ukraine: A Ukrainian soldier keeps position on the front line in Mykolaiv region on July 23, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

Outgunned Ukraine troops face brutal fight to regain south

KYIV: In a devastated village near Ukraine's southern front line, the thud of incoming Russian artillery is a constant reminder of the hard battle ahead for Kyiv's troops in a planned major counter-offensive.

Signs of destruction are all around in the village, which was only liberated from Russian occupation after intense fighting. Almost every house has been leveled to the ground or badly damaged, there are burnt out cars, craters left by rockets and there is no sign of the people who once called the area home.

Now a small detachment of Ukrainian soldiers holds the position in sandbagged trenches and the wreckage of destroyed buildings, always alert to enemy drones in the air. A couple of dogs and a cat keep them company during the long, hot days of waiting.

"There are those who are afraid-but what can we do, we need to defend our homeland, because if I don't do it then my children will be forced to do it," said Stanislav, 49, who left his wife and two kids at home to volunteer to fight when Russia invaded. Kyiv has vowed to launch a counter-offensive to retake the strategic Kherson region and President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday that his forces were advancing "step by step".

For now, the troops at the position visited by AFP said Ukraine was doing well just to hold the front line. None doubted a push for Kherson city, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) away, would come eventually-even if the prospect looks brutal and Ukraine still needs more big guns and armored vehicles to make larger gains.

"We really don't have enough artillery here-if we fire eight times at them, they fire back 48 times. For now they have superiority in artillery," said Stanislav, who comes from the neighboring Odessa region. "But we are holding on."

Key battleground

While Russia has thrown the bulk of its forces at the bloody onslaught in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, the battle for Kherson could prove a more defining fight in shaping the future of the war.

Kherson was the first region to fall to Moscow after it launched the invasion and retaking it would be a major symbolic and strategic victory for Ukraine. Capturing Kherson city, the region's capital, and the land around would expel Russian forces from prime territory north of its stronghold Crimea and cut off the Kremlin's chances of launching a future push westwards along the Black Sea coast to Odessa.

The looming battle will also be a key test of whether Ukrainian forces, equipped with new longer range weapons from the West, can ever hope to push back the Russians and liberate the whole of the country. Kyiv and Western intelligence have said Moscow is reinforcing its defenses in the south to try to stave off any offensive and Russian forces have stepped up strikes on the nearby city of Mykolaiv in an apparent attempt to stall any Ukrainian push. "We will liberate Kherson-that's for sure. We will not give it away to the Russians," said 45-year-old soldier Oleksandr, leaning his rifle against the edge of his trench. "We need to withstand and then destroy the enemy horde."

'We are ready'

Ukraine has unleashed some of its most prized Western weaponry against the Russian lines on the south. Kyiv's forces have used US-supplied Himars guided missile systems, which have a range of 80 kilometers, to destroy weapons stores, command posts and disrupt supply lines deeper in occupied territory. They have also pummeled a key bridge across the Dniepr river to Kherson city in a move that threatens to cut off the Russian troops deployed there. Soldier Alex said he wanted to see more Himars sent to the southern front-but Ukraine only has a handful to spread out along the whole of its more than 1,000-kilometre front line.

He insisted that either way, Ukraine's forces were prepared for any battle that lay ahead. "We are ready to counterattack," he said. —AFP

Monkeypox outbreak can be contained, White House says

WASHINGTON: The White House said Sunday it was confident authorities could "eliminate" monkeypox from the United States by speeding up the rollout of vaccinations and treatment to combat the virus's spread. "I think monkeypox can be contained, absolutely," doctor Ashish Jha, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, told CBS News talk show "Face the Nation."

"We have acted swiftly," Jha said, pushing back against accusations that President Joe Biden's administration was caught flat-footed when the first cases began appearing in US states more than two months ago. He said Washington has undertaken a "very substantial" ramp-up of its response, including the recent acquisition of some 800,000 vaccine doses from Denmark, since the start of the US outbreak in May, when monkeypox vaccine stockpiles were limited.

"The plan is to eliminate this virus from the United States. I think we can do that," Jha said. The World Health Organization on Saturday declared the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency, having affected nearly 17,000 people in 74 countries.

US lawmakers and mayors have complained of the Biden administration's response, including House Democrat Adam Schiff who wrote the country's health secretary this week to warn that "the federal government is falling short of the response that is needed."

The center of the US outbreak is New York City, where most of the recorded cases are in men who have sex with men. Jha acknowledged that the virus is spreading largely in the gay male community, but stressed that "there are other people who are at risk as well," particularly those who are in close personal contact with people who are infected.

The World Health Organization on Saturday declared the monkeypox outbreak, which has affected nearly 17,000 people in 74 countries, to be a global health emergency — the highest alarm it can sound. "I have decided that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press conference.

He said a committee of experts who met on Thursday was unable to reach a consensus, so it fell to him to decide whether to trigger the highest alert possible. "WHO's assessment is that the risk of monkeypox is moderate globally and in all regions, except in the European region where we assess the risk as high," he added. Monkeypox has affected more than 16,800 people in 74 countries, according to a tally by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published on July 22. — AFP

International

Russia says strike on Odessa port hit Western-supplied weapons

Ukraine's Kherson to be 'liberated' from Russia by September: Official

KYIV: Russia said Sunday that its missile barrage on a Ukrainian port central to a freshly-inked grain export deal had destroyed Western-supplied weapons, after the attack sparked an outcry from Ukraine's allies.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced Saturday's strike on the Odessa port-which came just one day after the warring sides struck a deal to resume exports from the facility-as "Russian barbarism".

Turkey helped broker the accord and said immediately after the double cruise missile hits that it had received assurances from Moscow that Russian forces were not responsible.

logue with Moscow was becoming increasingly untenable. "This apparent Russian barbarism brings us even closer to obtaining the very weapons we need for our victory," Zelensky said in a late-night address to the nation. Under the deal brokered by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and United Nations chief Antonio Guterres, Odessa is one of three designated export hubs.

Kherson to be 'liberated'

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian official said Sunday that the country's southern region of Kherson, which fell to Russian troops early in their February invasion, would be recaptured by Kyiv's forces by September. "We can say that the Kherson region will definitely be liberated by September, and all the occupiers' plans will fail," Sergiy Khlan, an aide to the head of Kherson region, said in an interview with Ukrainian television.

The Ukrainian army, emboldened by deliveries of Western-supplied long-range artillery have been clawing back territory in the southern Kherson region in recent weeks. "We can say that a turning point has occurred on the battlefield. We see that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are prevailing in their most recent military operations," Khlan said. "We see that our armed forces are advancing openly. We can say that we are switching from defensive to counteroffensive actions," he added. Russian forces seized the region's main city, also called Kherson, on March 3. It was the first major city to fall following the start of Moscow's military operation in Ukraine in late February. The region, important for Ukrainian agriculture, lies next to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014.

Mykolaiv attacks

Ukrainian officials said grain was being stored in the port at the time of the strike, although the food stocks did not appear to have been hit. Guterres-who presided



ODESSA: A handout image made available by the Odessa City Council Telegram channel on July 24, 2022, shows Ukrainian firefighters battling a fire on a boat burning in the port of Odessa after missiles hit the port on July 23, 2022. —AFP

over the signing ceremony Friday-"unequivocally" condemned the attack. The United States "strongly condemned" the attack, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying it "casts serious doubt on the credibility of Russia's commitment to yesterday's deal".

Until Sunday, there was no response from Moscow, but Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Russia had denied carrying out the attack. "The Russians told us that they had absolutely nothing to do with this attack," he told state news agency Anadolu. Odessa region officials said the strikes left people wounded and damaged port infrastructure in Odessa, without speci-

fying the number or severity of the injuries.

The first major accord between the countries since Russia's February invasion of Ukraine aims to ease the "acute hunger" the UN says an additional 47 million people are facing because of the war. Ukraine, at the signing, warned it would conduct "an immediate military response" should Russia violate the accord and attack its ships or stage an incursion around its ports.

Zelensky said responsibility for enforcing the deal fell to the UN, which along with Turkey is a co-guarantor of the agreement. Turkey said it was committed to the accord after the attack. —AFP



Attack sparks outcry from Ukraine allies

But Russia's defense ministry rolled back on the denial Sunday, saying the strikes had destroyed a Ukrainian military vessel and arms delivered by Washington. "High-precision, long-range missiles launched from the sea destroyed a docked Ukrainian warship and a stockpile of anti-ship missiles delivered by the United States to the Kyiv regime," it said.

"A Ukrainian army repair and upgrade plant has also been put out of order." The port attack has cast a shadow over the milestone agreement aimed at relieving a global food crisis that was hammered out over months of negotiations and signed in Istanbul.

Zelensky said the strikes on Odessa showed Moscow could not be trusted to keep its promises and that dia-

Greece battles fierce wildfires amid heatwave

ATHENS: Greece on Sunday battled three wildfires across the country which forced hundreds to evacuate, as soaring temperatures raised fears of more blazes. The country is in the grip of a heatwave that began on Saturday and is expected to last 10 days. Temperatures were set to rise to 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) in some regions.

Experts blame climate change for the soaring temperatures and warned that the worst is yet to come.

Fires raged in the north, east and south of Greece, including on the island of Lesbos. Officials ordered the evacuation of around 200 people on Sunday afternoon from Vryssa village on Lesbos as flames crept closer, some 500 meters (1,600 feet) from houses, the deputy mayor of western Lesbos told Skai radio. Elderly women carried plastic bags with only a few personal belongings as they boarded the first buses to leave the village. Thick clouds of smoke were already engulfing the first houses of Vryssa.

The blaze broke out a day earlier, causing the evacuation of hundreds of tourists and residents from the beachside village of Vatera. At least four houses were destroyed in Vatera, state TV ERT reported, and fires damaged an unknown number of shops, hotels and beach bars in the village.

Dozens of firefighters early on Sunday clamored to control the blaze, with four water-dropping planes and two helicopters in operation. In the northeastern region of Evros, a wildfire was ablaze for a fourth day in Dadia National Park, known for its black vulture colony. The fire has already destroyed nearly 500 hectares (1,220 acres) of woodland.

More than 300 firefighters battled to control the



VRISA, Greece: Smoke ascends over the village of Vrisa, in the southern part of the Greek island of Lesbos, as the wildfire burn near tourist resorts for the second day, forcing vulnerable residents to flee on July 24, 2022. —AFP

fire in Evros and by late Saturday the thick smoke forced the evacuation of the village of Dadias. It was unclear how many people were evacuated. "The most important thing for us is the safety of the villagers and all forces (which) will be deployed there," Evros governor Dimitris Petrovits told Athens News Agency.

The fire had already passed the raptor birds observatory and was closing in on the buildings of the protected area management unit. Petrovits said collecting and treating injured animals was a high priority for the authorities. In the Peloponnese, a southern peninsula, a fire that broke out early Saturday forced the evacuation of Chrysokelaria village.

gist Saker Al-Nour told AFP, the consequences of the war "would be much worse."

In March, Cairo ordered farmers to grow wheat, calling the "compulsory delivery" orders a "patriotic duty." By June, farmers had provided more than 3.5 million tons, according to the supply ministry, over half the domestic supply goal to August, and equal to the total amount supplied in 2021.

Compulsory crop deliveries were a pillar of president Gamal Abdel Nasser's socialist policies in the 1960s, but those policies were dropped amid the structural adjustment programs of the 1990s.

With them went the former subsidies on seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers which have steadily shrunk over the decades. "Instantly, when things got tough, it went back to compulsory delivery, but this time without the services that came with it," Nour said. To encourage farmers to grow wheat, the government had previously set domestic prices higher than imports. But the unprecedented surge in global prices undermined that.

"Now I owe money to the pesticide guy, to the fertil-

izer guy," Aboueldahab said. "So if someone comes along and bids a low price, what am I supposed to do?" One solution is for smallholders to join together and harness the power of technology. Entrepreneur Hussein Abou Bakr launched a start-up finance company called Mozare3, 'farmer' in Arabic, which offers farmers financing solutions and agronomy support. It also helps farmers "become a bloc", in the absence of effective local cooperatives and sets prices "as a form of protection" against market fluctuations.

Nour warns smallholders have "very limited negotiating power, especially when they don't have the storage capacity for their harvest".

But with illiteracy among smallholders at 32 percent, according to the FAO, offline village associations are necessary. As climate change bites, Nour warns bottom-up approaches are essential. These associations could, for example, communicate extreme weather events quickly and directly to farmers whose crops are at risk. These tools exist, the sociologist said. "We just need to make them available to small farmers." — AFP

2.3 million residents, around 40 women are staying in only two specialized refuges.

When AFP visited one of them, a woman with bruises covering one side of her face sat in a corner. She was about to return to her husband, rather than risk losing access to her children. "The law is not on women's side all the time in the Gaza Strip," said Aziza Elkahlout, a spokeswoman for the social development ministry which runs one of the refuges. "We thought of opening the safe house because of the injustice women are exposed to," she added, blaming the blockade for Gaza's dire living conditions. But such reasoning is inadequate for Suleiman Baraka, who says the authorities are partly responsible for his daughter's killing. "The government helps the offender because it doesn't take any immediate decisions," said Istabraq's father. —AFP

Pope heads to Canada to make amends for Indigenous abuses

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE, Undefined: Pope Francis left Rome on Sunday for Canada for a chance to personally apologize to Indigenous survivors of abuse committed over a span of decades at residential schools run by the Catholic Church. The head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics will be met at Edmonton's international airport by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The Pope's plane took off from Rome shortly after 9:00 am local time (0700 GMT). The 10-hour flight constitutes the longest since 2019 for the 85-year-old pope, who has been suffering from knee pain that has forced him to use a cane or wheelchair in recent outings.

The pope was in a wheelchair on Sunday and used a lifting platform to board the plane, an AFP correspondent accompanying him said. Francis' Canada visit is primarily to apologize to survivors for the Church's role in the scandal that a national truth and reconciliation commission has called "cultural genocide". Before he left, the pope said on Twitter he was making a "penitential pilgrimage" that "might contribute to the journey of reconciliation already undertaken".

He will be joined on the visit by his diplomacy chief, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's second most senior official. From the late 1800s to the 1990s, Canada's government sent about 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children into 139 residential schools run by the Church, where they were cut off from their families, language and culture. Many were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers. Thousands of children are believed to have died of disease, malnutrition or neglect. —AFP

Proposed law will save KD 100m...

Continued from Page 1

The plan will save Kuwait's budget around KD 100 million per year, and will bring justice and equality in the system. It includes increasing developmental spending as money allocated for salaries will be redirected to development projects. Social assistance for needy Kuwaitis will be reduced through clear conditions that grant assistance to limited income Kuwaitis and residents - and not to Kuwaitis who live outside the country.

Budget for food supplies will be reduced. Squandering (in subsidies) will be reduced and items will only be sent to groups who need them. This will guard against smuggling and thefts. The financial support for Kuwaitis in the private sector will be reviewed. No Kuwaiti in the private sector will receive financial support if his/her salary exceeds a certain ceiling. The plan showed that reducing budget spending and excesses will be focused on the areas with higher number of expats.

"Employment in the public sector is projected to be limited to areas that have shortage in national manpower, such as the health and education ministries," said the sources. "The government looks to halt Kuwaitis' employment in administrative fields, which is something it hopes may encourage Kuwaitis to work in the private sector." The plan would focus on changing the current direction of the state's budget. "The KD 13 billion currently spent on salaries can be redirected to development projects," said the sources, noting that allocations for salaries could be reduced by as low as KD 2 billion within five years from the date of implementing the plan.

Egypt small farms play big role but ...

Continued from Page 1

acres) - an area the size of a football pitch - till 35 percent of arable land. Yet they produce some 47 percent of Egypt's field crops, the FAO calculates. Larger farms focus more on exports - a dynamic that came to a head when Russia invaded Ukraine.

'Patriotic duty'

Egypt, the world's leading importer of wheat, relied on Russia and Ukraine for 80 percent of its imports, providing the flour for Egypt's traditional flat bread. Ordinary Egyptians eat bread at almost every meal, and Egypt's wheat farmers ramped up production to 40 percent of the country's needs. "Without the 40 percent of wheat that we produce domestically," rural sociolo-

Gaza's women see no escape...

Continued from Page 1

Tied up, left to die

Men convicted of killing their wives can be jailed or face the death penalty. But the sentence is reduced if they commit a so-called "honor killing", in which a relative is murdered because they are deemed to have brought shame to the family. UN Women says such "outdated and discriminatory laws" impede justice. Additionally, those seeking to escape domestic violence risk losing their children. If a wife obtains a divorce, custody passes to the ex-husband once a

daughter turns 11 or a son reaches nine. Noha Khaziq, 31, stayed with her abusive husband because they had four children. He killed her in February. "Her husband tied her up and left her at home so that she couldn't escape and get out. When he returned she was dead," said her brother Abdelaziz, who shares his sister's green eyes. "We feel satisfied with the death sentence ruling against the husband, five months after the heinous crime, but we demand the sentence be enforced quickly," said the 28-year-old. The Khaziq family has not seen Noha's children since she was killed, because custody was granted to their father's relatives.

'Not on women's side'

Fifteen years since the blockade of Gaza began, it is almost impossible for women fleeing violence to leave the Palestinian enclave. In a territory home to

International

Sri Lanka president's office to reopen after crackdown

Crackdown on demonstrators triggers international condemnation

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's besieged presidential office will reopen on Monday, police said, days after anti-government demonstrators were flushed out in a military crackdown that triggered international condemnation. Widespread public anger over the island's unprecedented economic crisis saw protesters storm and occupy the colonial-era building earlier this month.

Soldiers were forced to rescue then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa from his nearby residence on the same day, with the leader fleeing to Singapore and resigning days later.

Troops armed with batons and automatic weapons cleared the 92-year-old presidential secretariat in a pre-dawn raid Friday on the orders of Rajapaksa's successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe.

At least 48 people were wounded and nine arrested in the operation, during which security forces tore down tents set up by protesters outside the complex since April.

"The office is ready for reopening from Monday," said a police official Sunday, who declined to be named as he was not authorized to speak to the media. "The siege of the secretariat, which lasted since May 9, has now been lifted."

Police said forensic experts had been called in to check damage to the Presidential Secretariat and gather evidence. Western governments, the UN and human rights groups have condemned Wickremesinghe for using violence against unarmed protesters who had announced

their intention to vacate the site later on Friday.

Wickremesinghe defended the crackdown and said he had told Colombo-based diplomats on Friday that blocking government buildings was unacceptable. Police spokesman Nihal Taldewa said protesters were free to continue their demonstrations at a designated site near the presidential office.

"They can remain at the official protest site. The government may even open a few more places for demonstrators in the city," Taldewa said Sunday. The military operation to clear the secretariat building and its immediate surroundings came less than 24 hours after Wickremesinghe was sworn in and just before a new cabinet was appointed.

Burning fuel crisis
Sri Lanka's 22 million people have also endured months of lengthy blackouts, record inflation and shortages of food, fuel and petrol. Its government is officially bankrupt, having defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt, and is currently in bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund.

The economic crisis which fuelled the protest campaign shows no sign of easing, but the government announced Sunday it would reopen schools which had remained shut for the better part of a month.

The education ministry said students and teachers will be asked to return to school only for three days each week as transport is still hampered by a national fuel shortage. Miles-long queues of motorists waiting to fill up were



COLOMBO: People walk past army personnel standing guard in front of the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on July 23, 2022. —AFP

seen across the country Sunday despite the government introducing a rationing system.

New president Wickremesinghe has said he will

unveil a fresh budget for the rest of the year in August as previous revenue and expenditure estimates were unrealistic. —AFP

China launches second of 3 space station modules

BEIJING: China on Sunday launched the second of three modules needed to complete its new space station, state media reported, the latest step in Beijing's ambitious space program.

The uncrewed craft, named Wentian, was propelled by a Long March 5B rocket at 2:22 pm (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang launch centre on China's tropical island of Hainan. A quarter of an hour later, an official from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) confirmed the "success" of the launch.

Hundreds of people gathered on nearby beaches to take photos of the launcher rising through the air in a plume of white smoke.

After around eight minutes of flight, "the Wentian lab module successfully separated from the rocket and entered its intended orbit, making the launch a complete success," the CMSA said.

Beijing launched the central module of its space station Tiangong-which means "heavenly palace"-in April 2021. Almost 18 meters (60 feet) long and weighing 22 tons (48,500 pounds), the new module has three sleeping areas and space for scientific experiments.

It will dock with the existing module in space, a challenging operation that experts said will require several high-

precision manipulations and the use of a robotic arm. "This is the first time China has docked such large vehicles together, which is a delicate operation," said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

He said until the next module arrives, the space station will have a "rather unusual L-shape" which will take a lot of power to keep stable. "These are all technical challenges that the USSR pioneered with the Mir station in the late 1980s, but it's new to China," he told AFP.

"But it will result in a much more capable station with the space and power to carry out more scientific experiments." Wentian will also serve as a backup platform to control the space station in the event of a failure.

The third and final module is scheduled to dock in October, and Tiangong-which should have a lifespan of at least 10 years-is expected to become fully operational by the end of the year.

Fast-paced space plan

Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, the country's plans for its heavily promoted "space dream" have been put into overdrive. China has made large



WENCHANG, China: The rocket carrying China's second module for its Tiangong space station lifts off from Wenchang spaceport in southern China on July 24, 2022. —AFP

strides in catching up with the United States and Russia, where astronauts and cosmonauts have decades of experience in space exploration.

"The CSS (Chinese Space Station) will complete its construction... in one and half a year which will be the fastest in history for any modular space station," said Chen Lan, analyst for the site Go-Taikonauts.com, which specializes in China's space program. "In comparison, the constructions of Mir and the International Space Station took 10 and 12 years respectively."

China's space program has already landed a rover on Mars and sent probes to the Moon.

In addition to a space station, Beijing is also planning to build a base on the Moon and send humans there by 2030. China has been excluded from the International Space Station since 2011, when the United States banned NASA from engaging with the country.

While China does not plan to use its space station for global cooperation on the scale of the ISS, Beijing has said it is open to foreign collaboration. —AFP

Over 1,000 migrants arrive in Italy in hours: NGO

ROME: More than a thousand migrants arrived in Italy within a few hours while hundreds of others, rescued by humanitarian vessels, were waiting for a port to receive them, NGOs and authorities said Sunday. Between January 1 and July 22, 34,000 people arrived in Italy by sea compared with 25,500 during the same period in 2021 and 10,900 in 2020, Italy's interior ministry said.

More than 600 people attempting to cross the Mediterranean on board a drifting fishing vessel were rescued on Saturday by a merchant vessel and coastguards off Calabria, at the southern tip of Italy. They were landed in several ports in Sicily.

The authorities also recovered five bodies of migrants who had died in so far undetermined circumstances. On the island of Lampedusa, some 522 people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, among others, arrived from the late hours of Saturday in 15 different boats from Tunisia and Libya. According to the Italian media, the island's reception centre has been overwhelmed.

With a capacity of 250-300 people, it currently hosts 1,200, according to the Ansa news agency. Offshore NGOs continued to recover hundreds of migrants in distress in the Mediterranean. SeaWatch reported that it had carried out four rescue operations on Saturday.

"On board SeaWatch3, we have 428 people, including women and children, a woman nine months pregnant and a patient with severe burns," it said on its Twitter account.

OceanViking, operated by non-governmental organization SOS Mediterranean, reported that it had recovered 87 people, including 57 unaccompanied minors, who were crammed onto "an overcrowded inflatable boat in distress in international waters off Libya". The Central Mediterranean migration route is the most dangerous in the world. The International Organization for Migration estimates that 990 people have died and disappeared since the beginning of the year. —AFP

California wildfire rages as US bakes in record heat wave

SAN FRANCISCO: A California wildfire ripped through thousands of acres Saturday after being sparked a day earlier, as millions of Americans sweltered through scorching heat with already record-setting temperatures due to climb. The heat wave encompassing multiple regions has increased the risk of blazes, such as the major Oak Fire, which broke out Friday in California near Yosemite National Park, where giant sequoias have already been threatened by flames in recent days.

The fire-described as "explosive" by officials-grew from about 600 acres to around 11,900 acres (4,800 hectares) within 24 hours. Concentrated in Mariposa County, it has already destroyed ten properties and damaged five others, with thousands more threatened.

More than 6,000 people had been evacuated, said Hector Vasquez, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection official, as the fire remained uncontained as of Saturday evening. The department said the fire's activity was "extreme." California Governor Gavin Newsom on Saturday declared a "state of emergency" in Mariposa County, citing "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property."

The blaze left ashes, gutted vehicles and twisted remains of properties in its wake, as emergency personnel worked to evacuate residents and protect structures in its path. More than 500 firefighters are working to extinguish the flames and are being assisted by aircraft, Vasquez said. Officials cited by the Los Angeles Times said it could take a week to contain.

Al-Shabaab fighters 'destroyed' in Ethiopian incursion

ADDIS ABABA: Authorities in the Ethiopian region of Somali on Saturday said they had "destroyed" fighters from the Al-Shabaab Islamist



NEW YORK: People hold their hands over their hearts during a moment of silence as the climate clock counts down seven to six at a demonstration for "Climate Emergency Day" at Union Square in New York. —AFP

"There's personnel showing up from various departments all over the state to help control this fire," Vasquez told AFP, saying the situation remained "really challenging." Climate scientist Daniel Swain tweeted that the fire was "exhibiting consistently extreme behavior," while stunned social media users posted images of billowing plumes of smoke that reached thousands of feet into the air. In recent years, California and other parts of the western United States have been ravaged by huge and fast-moving wildfires, driven by years of drought and a warming climate. Drought and high temperatures have been

group, in a rare militant incursion from neighboring Somalia.

Somali's state communication bureau in a statement said an armed Al-Shabaab group that crossed into the southeastern region on Tuesday "was surrounded in a sub-locality called Hulhul and completely destroyed". A three-day operation left more than 100 members of the militant group dead and destroyed 13 vehicles, it added.

The authorities said the armed group was seeking to pass through El-Kere district in the Somali

"not in our favor," Vasquez said.

Evidence of global warming could be seen elsewhere in the country, as more than a dozen states were under a heat advisory. The central and northeast US regions face the brunt of the extreme temperatures, which are not expected to peak until Sunday at the earliest and have sent public health officials scrambling.

"From the southern Plains into the East, it will feel extremely oppressive," the National Weather Service (NWS) said Saturday evening, warning as well of possible severe storms. —AFP

region, more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the Somalia-Ethiopian border.

On Thursday, officials and residents of Bakool region, on the border with neighboring Somalia, reported Al-Shabaab attacks the previous day against bases hosting a special Ethiopian police unit which helps protect the frontier. Mohamed Malim, a local official in Somalia's Hudur district, told AFP on Thursday that "this was the heaviest fighting ever" around the towns of Ato and Yeed in the country's west. —AFP

North Korea accuses US of biological warfare in Ukraine

PYONGYANG: North Korea accused the United States on Sunday of manufacturing biological weapons in Ukraine, echoing a Russian claim dismissed by the United Nations in March. Moscow ally Pyongyang in February said US policy was the "root cause of the Ukraine crisis", and this month formally recognized two self-proclaimed pro-Russian separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, prompting Kyiv to cut diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Washington "set up many biological labs in tens of countries and regions, including Ukraine, in disregard of the international treaties", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Sunday, citing what it said had been "detected" by Russia. Moscow in March accused Washington of funding research into the development of biological weapons in Ukraine, which has invaded by Russia nearly five months ago. Washington and Kyiv denied the existence of laboratories intended to produce biological weapons in Ukraine, with the United States saying the allegations were a sign that Moscow may use such tactics itself. —AFP

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022

Business

Boursa Kuwait crowned ‘Most Sustainable Company in the Financial Services Industry’

World Finance recognizes stock exchange operator’s efforts to foster sustainable business practices

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait has been awarded the title of ‘Most Sustainable Company in the Financial Services Industry’ by World Finance magazine, which recognized the national stock exchange operator’s efforts to raise awareness and foster the adoption of sustainable business practices, internally and throughout the wider capital market.

World Finance is a print and online magazine providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of the financial industry, international business and the global economy targeting an audience of finance professionals as well as corporate and private investors. The magazine’s Sustainability Awards program celebrates companies across the globe that place green values at the heart of their business operations. This year’s selected winners are those who have shown true commitment to

Boursa Kuwait can play a crucial role in achieving the overarching objectives of the nation’s ambitious roadmap by promoting and advancing corporate sustainability practices in capital markets and by creating an investment climate that can attract capital and encourage sustainable investments. The company recognizes that it has a critically important role in the global transition to more sustainable economies and has been committed to ensuring that the market and its participants continue to stay up to date with the latest developments in capital markets worldwide.

Through contributions to the three pillars of “Education”, “Community” and the “Environment”, Boursa Kuwait aims to be responsible and committed to its sustainable development as well as the community in which it operates and promote the adoption of

retail investors and securities professionals, the company collaborated with the CFA Society and Kuwait University to enhance Boursa Academy Online and launch new, engaging and educational content, in an effort to increase awareness and engagement with the investor community.

Boursa Kuwait also held several virtual corporate days in 2021, in collaboration with HSBC and Goldman Sachs, and hosted the ‘Boursa Kuwait ESG Perspectives Webinar,’ which sought to help listed companies assess their readiness to comply with the ESG metrics, and to have a better understanding of the new ESG Reporting Guide, which helps support listed companies to report on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues, and to meet the growing needs of various stakeholders, including investors, customers, suppliers, and regulators for transparent and regular information.

Additionally, on the heels of the ESG Disclosure Guide, the company published its first standalone Sustainability Report, which detailed its strategy, partnerships, and initiatives in the field of ESG reporting and implementation for the year 2021. Aside from these guides and reports, the company recently partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a workshop to help raise awareness of the best standards and practices for the reporting and implementation of ESG metrics, ensuring that they are aligned with the company’s overarching strategy as well as the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moreover, in partnership with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA), Boursa Kuwait held an investor relations (IR) webinar to increase transparency in communications with current and prospective investors, locally and around the world. The company also joined a record 78 exchanges from around the world to ring the bell for financial literacy during World Investor Week (WIW) 2021.

As part of its “Environment” pillar, the company launched a variety of green initiatives. In association with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia, the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), and the Kuwait Dive Team, Boursa Kuwait sponsored the 2021 National Campaign to Remove Hazardous Waste from the Kuwait Bay. The company also began a major initiative to renovate its buildings and facilities, which contributed to decreasing energy and water outputs and



reducing its carbon footprint. As part of the renovations, Boursa Kuwait also signed with EnviroServe, the first electronics recycling company in Kuwait, to manage the recycling of the discarded screens, old computers as well as many other electronic devices.

Boursa Kuwait also rang the bell and lit the iconic Boursa building in blue to raise awareness of climate action, in collaboration with the United Nations and its representative, the Secretary General and Resident Coordinator Office, Kuwait on United Nations Day 2021.

Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company’s corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for non-governmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, as well as environmental protection.



Prestigious accolade reflects the company’s enduring commitment to promoting corporate sustainability within Kuwaiti capital market

cutting emissions across their company’s entire value chain. Among the companies recognized along with Boursa Kuwait were Saudi Aramco, Volkswagen Group, Turkish Airlines and Swisscom.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has prided itself on being a progressive financial services company that strives to develop and enhance Kuwait’s capital market apparatus and its participants, whether through introducing internationally recognized products and services, developing an improved market infrastructure, or ensuring that business operations are sustainable over the short, medium, and long-term.

The company’s Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy is a fundamental component of its overarching strategy, and it recognizes that sustainable operations and practices are becoming increasingly vital to both investors and issuers. Since 2017, when it joined the United Nations’ Sustainable Stock Exchange (SSE) initiative, the company has made a formal commitment to drive corporate sustainability in financial markets.

As the operator of the country’s stock exchange,

socially impactful and accountable practices in the surrounding communities. In 2021, the company continued to partner and collaborate with local and international organizations on initiatives that correspond to each pillar. In the “Community” pillar, Boursa Kuwait continued to give back to the community in which it operates, partnering with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital to support each organization’s various initiatives in the areas of education and refugee protection and safety. The company also rang the bell for women’s empowerment in collaboration with the United Nations on International Women’s Day for the fifth consecutive year, to raise awareness to the empowerment of women financially as well as highlighting the key role the sector plays in support of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of the Education pillar, which aims to nurture a new generation of well-informed and competent



The 10 automated taxis supplied by US firm Cruise will begin to carry passengers in Dubai in late 2023.

Dubai’s first driverless taxis hit the road

DUBAI: Dubai’s first driverless taxis have hit the road in a major step forward for the emirate’s autonomous transport strategy. Two Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicles will be used to help create a digital roadmap for the wider roll-out of the high-tech taxis next year.

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) said the public-private partnership with US firm Cruise was the “first of its kind worldwide”.

The RTA said the Cruise vehicles would provide “taxi and e-hail services in Dubai”, starting on Sunday. They will initially be used in Jumeirah and driven by specialist drivers. Cruise’s technology uses a high-resolution map of the physical environment, which is created using specialized mapping vehicles equipped with a suite of sensors including Lidar (Light detection and ranging) and cameras.

The vehicles driven throughout the city will collect data, which is then used to create and maintain a navigable map for autonomous vehicles (AVs). “The agreement, which is the first-of-its-kind worldwide between a government entity and a leading company in the field of autonomous vehicles, is a major step toward realizing Dubai’s Self-Driving Transport Strategy,” said the RTA on Twitter.

Mattar Al-Tayer, director-general of RTA, said “limited numbers” of the cars would be deployed in 2023. The introduction of driverless taxis is part of a long-term vision to make 25 per cent of total trips

autonomous across various modes of transport by 2030. In March, the RTA announced plans to begin the testing of driverless taxis as part of the partnership with Cruise, the majority-owned autonomous vehicle subsidiary of General Motors, which would initially have 10 vehicles in operation. Cruise agreed to launch its first international robotaxi service outside the US in Dubai, in a deal announced by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed, Crown Prince of Dubai, on Twitter in April 2021.

“Dubai will be the first outside America to operate self-driving Cruise vehicles, in fulfillment of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid’s vision that Dubai is always in first place and the best city to live and work,” Sheikh Hamdan said at the time. “Our goal is to convert 25 per cent of the total ... trips in Dubai to self-driving trips through various modes of transport by 2030.” The RTA said it would complete rigorous testing before that launch to ensure the taxis are prepared for the hectic driving styles of some motorists in the UAE.

It is hoped wider adoption of autonomous vehicles will greatly reduce road accidents. By 2030, it is expected that 4,000 driverless taxis will be in operation in Dubai. The topic of driverless cars was a prime focus of the World Government Summit, held at Expo 2020 Dubai in March, during a session on policy and innovation in the future of movement.

As technology develops, so will the regulations required to create a safe and legal environment for all road users. Jeff Bleich, chief legal officer of Cruise, said Dubai would be the company’s first international partner to create a new cities system and develop the future of smart mobility.

“This kind of development and that of smart devices will be essential for work systems around the world, all governments will have to involve this positive transformation,” he said.—Agencies

Airport woes mount as summer travel chaos grips globe

NEW YORK: Airports around the world are the scene of summer holiday horror shows, with embattled passengers facing lengthy delays, last-minute cancellations and lost luggage. The aviation industry has buckled under the weight of pent-up demand for travel, with not enough staff to cope with the highest frequency of flyers since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has meant the idea of a dream getaway has turned into a nightmare for tens of thousands eager to make up for lost time after the easing of travel restrictions. Heathrow Airport in London, which has suffered major disruption, introduced a daily 100,000 passenger limit, meaning flights have to be rerouted to other airports or cancelled.

While Europe has faced plenty of travel torment, it is a global issue. On Monday, there were more than 25,000 flight delays and 3,100 cancellations around the world, FlightAware tracking data has shown.

In the US, 19 airports reported that about one in

five flights were delayed. Fifty per cent were delayed at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York. As airport queues stretched out the door on Saturday wreaking havoc on the holiday plans of hundreds of thousands of travelers, Sydney airport said people arriving too far in advance for their flight was exacerbating problems caused by wet weather, school holidays and continuing staff shortages.

In Sydney, Guardian Australia understands there were technical issues with luggage check-in systems across several domestic airlines on Friday and Saturday, which have contributed to long queues at baggage drops. Disruptions were significant on Friday due to industrial action on the train network limiting services to the airport.

Many travelers opted to drive to the airport due to the train shortages and wet weather, which further contributed to congestion, an airport spokeswoman said. As a result, foot traffic between the car park, drop-off bays and the terminals was so significant that traffic was reduced to one lane out of fear for pedestrian safety. Flash flooding warnings across Sydney also contributed to disruptions, and wet and stormy weather across the country caused a raft of flight cancellations, delays and diversions. More than 350,000 people were expected to pass through Sydney airport between Friday and Monday, and more than 2.1 million between 27 June and 17 July - 300,000 more than during the Easter holiday period. —AFP



LONDON: Suitcases uncollected at Heathrow’s Terminal 3 baggage reclaim. — AFP

Business



MANILA: In this photo taken on July 20, 2022, a baker prepares dough for the popular breakfast roll 'pandesal' at a bakery in Manila.



MANILA: In this photo taken on July 20, 2022, a staff member compares the sizes of the popular breakfast roll 'pandesal' at a bakery in Manila. —AFP photos

Philippine bakeries shrink 'poor man's bread' as inflation bites

Ukraine war pushes up wheat prices; weaker peso spikes cost of edible oil

MANILA: As the war in Ukraine pushes up wheat prices and a weaker peso raises the cost of imported edible oil, many Philippine bakers are shrinking the size of a popular breakfast roll to cope with higher inflation. The slightly sweet and pillowy soft "pandesal", which Filipinos often dunk in coffee or stuff with cheese, used to weigh 35 grams at Matimyas Bakery, a breadmaker in suburban Manila.

But as the cost of local and imported ingredients soared in recent months, co-owner Jam Mauleon gradually reduced the size of the roll-known as the "poor man's bread" because it is cheap-to around 25 grams to avoid raising the 2.50 peso (about \$0.04) price. She feared that even a slight increase would send cash-strapped customers in her neighborhood to a rival bakery five blocks away.

"We had to reduce the serving size to survive," Mauleon told AFP, as children, workers and retirees arrived early to buy rolls baked in a brick oven that morning. As the Philippines lifted COVID-19 restrictions and schoolchildren began returning to the classroom this year, Mauleon had hoped economic conditions for the bakery would improve. But since December, as wheat and fuel prices surged, the price of flour has increased by more than 30 per cent, while sugar is up 25 percent and salt costs 40 percent more, she said. The bakery survives day to day and does not make enough money to buy ingredients in bulk, leaving it vulnerable to changing prices in domestic and international markets. After

reducing the number of employees and absorbing higher costs, Mauleon was forced this week to raise the price of a pandesal by 20 percent to three pesos. Shrinking the size of the roll any further would affect its quality, she said. "We will try it out if people will still buy it," Mauleon said. "Pandesal is very important in the lives of Filipinos." For mother-of-five Laarni Guarino, the price hike means her family now eats fewer rolls for breakfast.

"We will have to redo our budget. From five pieces each, my children will have to eat just three to four," Guarino, 35, told AFP. "Fifty centavos is a big thing for poor people like us."

'Shrinkflation'

Lucito Chavez, president of an association representing local bakeries, said thousands of breadmakers were reeling from the higher cost for raw materials, most of which are imported.

"All of us are struggling, not to make profit, but to survive," Chavez told AFP. "We have to protect the pandesal industry." Inflation in the Philippines hit 6.1 percent in June, the highest level in nearly four years, as steep fuel price hikes pushed up food and transport costs. Lawmaker and economist Joey Salceda said bread would be hardest hit by "shrinkflation", where the size of a product gets smaller but the price stays the same. "Wheat prices have increased by 165 percent," he told reporters recently, urging bakeries to fortify their products with vitamins and minerals. — AFP

Hotel construction activity declines globally in June

NEW YORK: Hotel construction and planning activity declined globally at the end of the second quarter, according to data from hospitality industry analytics provider STR. The four regions of Europe, the Americas, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East and Africa recorded a drop in hotel pipeline activity in June, compared with the same month last year, the data showed. STR did not provide an explanation. The total number of hotel rooms under contract declined most in Europe, by 7.4 per cent, and the least in the Middle East and Africa, at just 0.6 per cent, the London-based company said.

Global capital investment in travel and tourism fell by about a quarter, to \$805 billion in 2020, from \$1.07 trillion in 2019, as the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the industry, according to data from the World Travel and Tourism Council. Investments in the sector declined a further 6.9 per cent in 2021 to reach \$750bn.

Investment in hotels represents a key component of overall investment and the development of the broader travel and tourism sector. In Europe, the number of rooms under construction declined 12.6 per cent to 207,315 rooms, while those under final planning dropped 15.2 per cent to 150,164 rooms, STR data showed.

Germany and the UK led Europe in terms of total rooms under construction, with 40,729 and 28,612 rooms, respectively. In the EU, the travel and tourism sector's recovery could be put at "serious risk" if almost 1.2 million jobs stay unfilled during a labor shortage this summer, the WTTC and European Travel Commission said in a separate report.

Europe's air transport and accommodation segments are not expected to fill about one vacancy in five, representing a 21 per cent and 22 per cent staff shortage respectively, WTTC said. In the Americas, the total number of hotel rooms under contract declined 5.8 per cent year on year to 739,777 properties in June, STR data showed. The number of hotel rooms under construction in the region decreased 16.9 per cent to 202,250 rooms during the period. Those under final planning dropped 14.4 per cent to 208,583 rooms. "The US holds the majority of rooms in construction in the region. After the US, Mexico (14,909) and Canada (7,232) have the highest number of rooms in construction in the region," STR said.—AFP

الصفاء
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AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 21 JUL 2022

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	35,847	8,571.49	4.2%	4.0%	12.2%	469,962,608	211,569,847	34,675	29.2	2.7	78.7%
Main Market	9,704	5,790.26	2.0%	1.9%	-1.6%	588,082,983	69,096,809	25,823	14.0	1.3	21.3%
All Share	45,550	7,670.70	3.7%	3.5%	8.9%	1,058,045,591	280,666,657	60,498	25.1	2.4	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	27,629	1,846.48	3.3%	3.7%	13.8%	319,033,570	140,475,776	19,622	27.1	2.6	60.25%
BASIC MATERIALS	899	1,008.13	0.3%	-0.5%	-1.6%	4,392,172	1,823,878	926	12.5	1.4	1.96%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	775	1,521.48	2.2%	2.2%	13.8%	39,966,363	12,902,914	3,134	19.2	9.0	1.69%
CONSUMER STAPLES	166	544.85	5.9%	3.3%	-25.5%	4,619,352	1,916,267	385	17.7	1.1	0.36%
ENERGY	239	1,150.64	2.8%	-1.5%	-19.4%	5,586,744	281,914	338	15.2	1.2	0.52%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,177	1,431.29	4.3%	4.3%	0.6%	440,746,627	56,648,693	17,104	17.0	2.0	9.11%
HEALTH CARE	229	462.15	-3.4%	-2.9%	-42.0%	1,526	782	11	13.7	2.1	0.50%
INDUSTRIALS	4,417	1,239.39	10.1%	6.5%	8.6%	65,592,090	36,820,799	9,346	46.5	1.5	9.63%
INSURANCE	643	1,541.48	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.5%	1,015,300	142,894	194	7.2	1.0	1.40%
REAL ESTATE	2,689	1,249.43	3.2%	3.7%	-5.8%	149,746,574	17,042,071	6,421	14.0	1.2	5.86%
TECHNOLOGY	10	705.67	2.1%	1.0%	3.2%	22,580	2,176	10	-	0.9	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,762	1,226.52	2.1%	1.4%	12.6%	17,550,427	10,633,457	2,462	14.7	2.2	8.20%
UTILITIES	223	534.21	-1.0%	-1.9%	-11.0%	9,772,266	1,975,035	545	15.7	2.6	0.49%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KHOT	168	52.73	1,728	271	8
AGLTY	890	16.04	27,520,061	22,979,579	4,183
SULTAN	136	15.25	3,372,260	437,423	236
AAYAN	151	13.53	31,462,911	4,559,949	1,139
OSOS	118	13.46	142,686	15,501	20

Top Losers

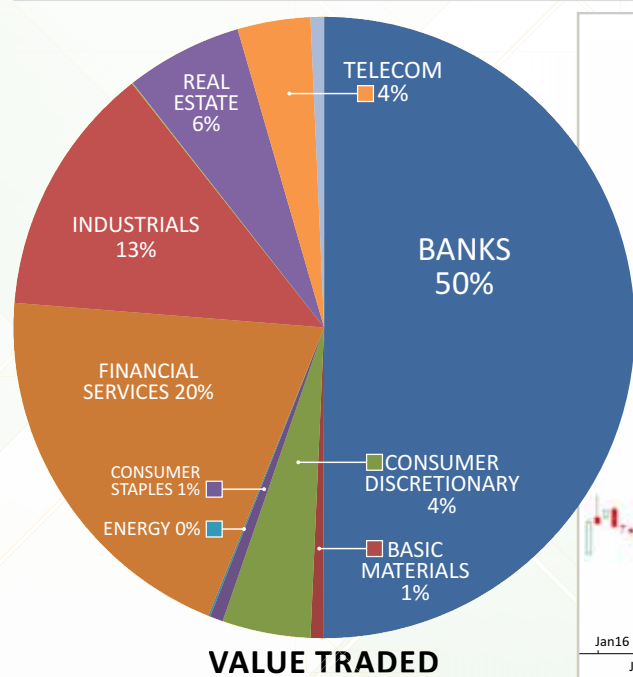
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
FTI	41	-16.15	350	15	6
WETHAQ	33.9	-13.08	608,378	20,973	104
EKTTITAB	10.1	-12.17	24,397,226	255,082	484
AREEC	280	-6.67	10,655	2,989	6
ARGAN	76	-6.17	178,372	14,057	51

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
AUB	294	5.00	126,775,179	35,906,550	4,091
GFF	92	9.39	120,854,822	10,872,290	3,563
KFH	892	7.21	51,133,540	43,775,572	6,525
KINV	162	9.46	47,345,959	7,370,151	1,576
ALSAFAT	149	11.19	41,702,821	6,121,470	1,572

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	892	7.21	51,133,540	43,775,572	6,525
AUB	294	5.00	126,775,179	35,906,550	4,091
NBK	1,064	0.38	23,645,666	25,103,924	2,291
AGLTY	890	16.04	27,520,061	22,979,579	4,183
GBK	351	10.03	38,201,531	12,957,887	1,382



All Share Price Index YTD



Market Summary:

- Premier market M. Cap reached 35.847 billion KD (%78.7), while the Main marker is 9.7 billion KD (%21.3).
- Both Premier and Main indices managed to overcome critical resistance levels which might lead now to restoring previous peaks.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7670, with support levels at 7635, 7574, 7556, and 7503, while resistance at 7677. Premier index closed at 8571, support levels at 8527, 8335, 8273, and 8174, while resistance at 8599. The Main index closed at 5790, with support levels at 5750, 5723, 5696, and 5675, while resistance at 5813.

LONDON: Officials at the English Channel port of Dover on Sunday said operations had returned to normal after two days of lengthy delays blamed on post-Brexit border checks.

The Port of Dover said the backlogs of freight and tourists from the last two days had been cleared overnight, although it said Sunday would remain "busy".

Some 72,000 passengers—the equivalent of 200 miles (320 kilometers) of traffic—had gone through the port already this weekend, it added. “With the entire port system working efficiently, including strong support from French border colleagues and ferries running through the night, the Port demonstrated that its summer plan will work for the rest of the holiday period,” the port said in a statement.

Eurotunnel, however, warned of delays to its rail shuttle service between nearby Folkestone and Coquelles in northern France, with motorists facing long queues to get to the terminal.

There were fears about chronic delays at Britain's ports even before the country left the European Union in full on January 1 last year. Brexit ended free movement from Britain to EU member states, reintroducing systematic passport checks and customs controls for the first time in decades. French border agency staff work alongside their UK counterparts to conduct checks at Dover.

Port officials initially said under-staffing of French border posts was to blame for the queues but officials across the Channel denied they were responsible. French lawmakers said checks now took longer because Britain has "third-country" status outside the EU, and urged facilities to be improved at Dover.

Britain's readiness to cope at the border, including

staffing and the introduction of new technology, was repeatedly questioned in the run-up to Brexit taking full effect.

Queues of lorries have already been seen at Dover but operations for tourist traffic have not been tested until now because of COVID travel restrictions. Several British newspapers on Sunday said the government turned down a £33-million (39-million-euro, \$40-million) bid for upgrades at the port, including new passport control booths.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss laid the blame squarely on Paris, telling her French counterpart Catherine Colonna that “the French authorities have not put enough people on the border.”

The situation has added to the bad blood between London and Paris in the wake of Brexit, scotching hopes of a reset after Boris Johnson said earlier this month he was stepping down as premier.

"We need to see action from them (the French) to resolve the terrible situation which travelers, including families, are facing," said Truss, who is currently fighting to succeed Johnson as prime minister.

But Paris has rejected claims that the gridlock was caused by under-staffing and Colonna in her tweet took a more sanguine view of their conversation, describing the talks as “good” and welcoming the “cooperation” to reduce the delays. Colonna also underlined the “need to improve facilities at the Port of Dover.”

“Tweeting the front page of Britain’s right-wing Daily Telegraph which had the headline “Truss tells France to fix holiday chaos”, France’s Transport Minister Clement Beaune said the French authorities were “mobilized” to ease movement.

But in a jab at London, the former Europe minister added: "France is not responsible for Brexit".

‘More checks than before’

Border checks and extra paperwork for freight traffic were reintroduced when Britain left the European Union last year, ending free movement for people and goods in



the bloc. Bottlenecks of lorries at Dover have been seen since then but this summer is the first with unrestricted travel for the public since the lifting of all COVID restrictions.

French lawmaker Pierre-Henri Dumont, whose constituency includes the French Channel port of Calais, called the travel chaos “an aftermath of Brexit.” “We have to run more checks than before,” he told BBC television, predicting it would happen again. Port of Dover chief executive Doug Bannister initially blamed a lack of French border agency staff for the logjam which saw some holidaymakers wait six hours or longer to catch their ferries.

But he conceded there were now “increased transaction times” post-Brexit. The port was confident of handling the demand at peak periods, he added. Brexit figurehead Johnson made “taking back control” of UK borders a rallying call for his “leave” campaign in the 2016 vote on EU membership.

Since becoming prime minister, he has found that more difficult, with record numbers of migrants crossing from northern France in small boats. Lucy Moreton, from the ISU union that represents borders, immigration and customs staff, said the tailbacks were a “reasonably predictable” result of Brexit. “This is the time that it’s chosen to bite,” she told the BBC. —AFP

Central Agency for Public Tenders			
Awarding Tenders			
from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022			
Entity	75	Kuwait University	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	2,000,000	950,000
Entity	77	Kuwait Credit Bank	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,500,000	1,454,000
		Estimated value	Awarding value
Total for all entities		433,334,732	445,038,101
Central Agency for Public Tenders			
Awarded Tenders			
from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022			
Entity	26	Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	272,160	157,122
Entity	28	Council of Ministers General Secretariat	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,800,000	1,946,520
Entity	30	Kuwait Municipality	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	800,000	368,000
Entity	37	Public Authority for Sport	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	7,750,000	5,949,000
Entity	40	Directorate General of Civil Aviation	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	600,000	196,512
Entity	45	Public Authority of Manpower	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	2	2,747,525	2,223,600
Entity	59	Public Institution for Social Security	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,200,000	1,197,612
Entity	64	The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	3,000,000	1,710,000

Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarded Tenders from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022			
Entity	13	Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	10	25,655,000	14,532,536
Entity	14	Ministry of Public Works	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	3,000,000	1,911,000
Entity	15	Ministry of Justice	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,400,000	926,605
Entity	17	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	576,000	616,032
Entity	18	Ministry of Health	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	10	326,801,743	369,603,865
Entity	22	Ministry of Defense	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	3	3,272,250	4,296,870
Entity	23	Ministry of Social Affairs	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	4	7,161,000	5,289,990
Entity	24	Ministry of Education	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	6	7,900,054	7,593,852

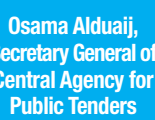
Central Agency for Public Tenders			
Awarded Tenders			
from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022			
Entity	77	Kuwait Credit Bank	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	540,000	504,648
		Estimated value	Awarding value
Total for all entities		142,369,409	122,897,132
Central Agency for Public Tenders			
Awarded Tenders			
from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022			
Entity	28	Council of Ministers General Secretariat	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	41,356,905	41,037,556
Entity	30	Kuwait Municipality	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	2,400,000	1,116,000
Entity	34	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	540,000	421,668
Entity	37	Public Authority for Sport	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	300,000	259,893
Entity	39	General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	116,000	104,364
Entity	54	Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	2,000,000	1,500,000
Entity	64	The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,200,000	967,413
Entity	75	Kuwait University	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,600,000	750,400

<p>UAE: Central Agency for Public Tenders issued its awarded tenders and its values for the period from 1-1-2022 until 31-3-2022.</p> <p>The numbers showed that the tenders' estimated value is 433,334,732 while the awarding value was 445,038,101.</p> <p>Details are in the following tables:</p>			
<p align="center">Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarded Tenders from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022</p>			
Entity	13	Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	13	62,104,675	56,198,113
Entity	15	Ministry of Justice	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	450,000	209,016
Entity	18	Ministry of Health	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	5,208,385	1,457,390
Entity	20	General Administration of Customs	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	460,000	427,344
Entity	22	Ministry of Defense	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	5	7,489,984	8,131,774
Entity	23	Ministry of Social Affairs	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	1,200,000	526,800
Entity	24	Ministry of Education	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	2	14,427,860	8,385,666
Entity	26	Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs	
	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
Total	1	976,000	899,086

KUWAIT: Central Agency for Public Tenders issued its awarded tenders and its values for the period from 1-1-2022 until 31-3-2022.

The numbers showed that the tenders' estimated value is 433,334,732 while the awarding value was 445,038,101.

Details are in the following tables:



Agreement Entity	Public tender procurement	General tender procurement	Direct Auction procurement	United tender procurement	Direct procurement	Tender/Invited Tender/ Awarding	Tender/Invited Tender/ Auction	Contracts Procurement (Direct - Auction - Invitation order)	Issuing Resolution
Ministry and Government Tendering Program									
Public Authority for Mineral Affairs									
Research Investment Authority			2					8	
Azraq Public Foundation									
- Zakat Income								2	
Social Development Office									
Marji's Bureau									
Investment Performance Follow-Up Agency									
The Prime Minister's Office									
The Crown Prince's Office			1					1	
Central Agency for Information Technology								1	
National Center for Education Development									
THE NATIONAL FUND FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME/MSME)								1	
Research Gulf Of Company									
Ministry of Oil									
Research Oil Company			8					17	
Research National Petroleum Company			1			2			
Petroleum Industries Company									
Research Petroleum Corporation									
Research Oil Tarbun Company									
Central Bank of Kuwait									
Research Financial Intelligence Unit								1	
Capital Markets Authority									
Insurance Regulatory DHR									
National Taxes for Purposes Rights									
Total decisions	110	1	79	1	58	104	8	314	1

The Central Agency for Public Tenders Board of Directors Approval Decisions from 13.2022 to 30.3.2022							
Approved offer	Participation fee	Public tender announcement	Central tender announcement	Direct contract	Tender/contract liquidation	Contract's proceeds Share, Administrative Service, Direct	Improving procurement
Ministry of Economy, Energy and Sustainable Energy	30	1	1	4	24	3	27
Ministry of Public Works	9			1	9	13	1
Ministry of Justice	7					4	
Ministry of Communications				0	0		
Ministry of Economy and Climate				0	0		
Ministry of Health	5	53		52	113	3	166
Ministry of Finance				1	1	38	
Research Service Administration of Customs							
Ministry of Interior	1		2			2	
Ministry of Defense				4	1		
Ministry of Social Affairs	2			5	4	1	4
Ministry of Education	2			9	11	20	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs						4	
Ministry of Capital and Strategic Affairs							
Ministry of Information	4			10	3	0	
Council of Ministers General Secretariat	1	10		1	2	10	
Research Municipality	6	1		1	3		
Civil Service Ministry	2				3		
Department for Legal Affairs and Legislation							
Research Unit for Foreign Investments						2	
Research and Consulting Authority							
Communication and info. Technology Regulators Authority							
Public Authority for Sport				0	3		
General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development							
Overseas General of Civil Aviation		3	1	3	3	0	
State Audit Bureau							
Public Authority for Electricity Affairs							
Central Statistical Bureau							
Public Authority for Industries	4			1	2		

[illegible]

Agreement Entity	No. applications	Public Tender amount	Contract tender amount	Public Tender amount	Contract tender amount	Direct Awarding	Tender's/contract Awarding	Tender's/contract Awarding	Contracts Procedures (Review, Extension, Variation orders)	Impeding Processes
Sustainable and Economic Reconstruction program										
Public Authority for Migrant Affairs										
Kowat Investment Authority										
Azad Public Foundation										
Zahid House										
Social Development Office										
Martyr's Service Assessment Performance Follow-up Agency										
The Prime Minister's Office										
The Crown Prince's Office										
Central Agency for Information Technology										
National Center for Education Development and Services, main task items, and support										
INTERNET DEVELOPMENT Kowat Gulf Oil Company										
Ministry of DR										
Kowat Oil Company										
Kowat National Petroleum Company										
Petrochemical Industries Company										
Kowat Petrolique Corporation										
Kowat Integrated Petroleum Industries Company										
Kowat Oil Tenders Company										
Central Bank of Kuwait										
Kowat Financial Intelligence Unit										
Capital Markets Authority										
Insurance Regulatory Unit										
National Office for Human Rights										
Total decisions	86	55	4	295	175	28	284			

[illegible]

The Central Agency for Public Tenders Board of Directors Agency's Decisions										
From 1/4/2012 to 30/9/2012										
Approval	File	Public tender	Contract tender	Public service	Public service	Direct Awarding	Tender/Contract Awarding	Tender/Contract	Contracts Procurement (Planned - Tender/Contract)	Importing (Tender/Contract)
Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy	21	1					47	5	3	1
Ministry of Public Works	2	2				1	1		15	
Ministry of Justice	1					1	1		3	
Ministry of Communication						1	1		1	
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	2		88			151	9	0	11	
Ministry of Finance	1					1	2	1	3	
General Administration of Customs										
Ministry of Interior							2		14	
Ministry of Defense	2		1			1	3		3	
Ministry of Social Affairs	1					1	1		3	
Ministry of Education	1						9		10	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs						1				
Ministry of Rural and Islamic Affairs							1		11	
Ministry of Information							2		4	
General Intelligence Security Directorate							1		1	
Research Ministry Agency	2	1					4		10	
Civil Service Commission									3	
Department for Social Affairs and Integration										
Investment Fund for Social Economic Integration									1	
Regional and Community Authority										
Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority										
Public Authority for Sport							2		1	
General Directorate of the Supreme Council for Planning and Investment							1		1	
Overseas Government of Civil Aviation	1			2					3	
State Audit Service										
Public Authority for Disability Affairs	3		1				2		1	
General Statistical Bureau	1								1	
Public Authority for Industry							1	1	10	



(From L) Director Peyton Reed, actors Kathryn Newton, Evangeline Lilly and Paul Rudd present “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” at the Marvel panel in Hall H of the convention center during Comic-Con International in San Diego, California.



Spiderman cosplayers attend Comic-Con International.



(From L) Director James Gunn, actor Chris Pratt, Karen Gillan, Pom Klementieff, Sean Gunn, Will Poulter and Maria Bakalova present “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3”.



(From L) Writer Jessica Gao, actresses Renee Elise Goldsberry, Kat Coiro, Jameela Jamil, Ginger Gonzaga and Tatiana Maslany present “She-Hulk: Attorney at Law” at the Marvel panel. — AFP photos

DISNEY ANNOUNCES TWO NEW MARVEL ‘AVENGERS’ FILMS AT COMIC-CON



Cosplayers attend Comic-Con International in San Diego.

Disney announced a slew of Marvel superhero movies including two new “Avengers” films Saturday at Comic-Con, as it offered screaming fans an emotional first glimpse at its upcoming “Black Panther” sequel.

The record-breaking Marvel movies have dominated Hollywood and global box offices in recent years, with 2019’s “Avengers: Endgame” briefly becoming the highest-grossing film of all time at more than \$2.79 billion.

“I wonder if you guys wouldn’t mind looking ahead a little bit?” studio president Kevin Feige asked the wildly cheering hall of die-hard superhero fans toward the end of a raucous hour-plus presentation at a San Diego convention center.

“Avengers: The Kang Dynasty” and “Avengers: Secret Wars” will hit theaters in 2025, he then announced. The films will aim to follow in the footsteps of “Avengers: Endgame,” which built unprecedented hype by rounding off storylines presented in all the preceding Marvel films.

The two new “Avengers” titles will conclude the next “saga” of more than a dozen inter-connected films and television shows in the “Marvel Cinematic Universe,” said Feige. “That will complete the second saga of the MCU, which of course is ‘The Multiverse Saga,’” he said.

The Marvel franchise in recent films and shows has explored the “multiverse” concept popularized by superhero comic books, in which infinite universes — and infinite versions of each hero and villain — exist in parallel realities.

‘Black Panther’ returns

The Marvel presentation capped off the biggest day at Comic-Con, and drew the week’s loudest and most frenzied cheers in the 6,000 capacity Hall H, where many had camped in line for days to gain access.

It ended with the first trailer for “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” a sequel to the first comic book film to win a best picture Oscar nomination, set to premiere November 11. Returning director Ryan Coogler, taking to the San Diego stage with a colorful troupe of African drummers and dancers, paid an emotional tribute to the first film’s star, the late, great Chadwick Boseman.



People pose for a photo with a cosplayer dressed as a scary clown in the Gaslamp District.

Boseman died from cancer in 2020, and his role is not being taken over by another actor in the new film. “I promise you, I can feel his hand on me right now,” said Coogler.

“Chad is no longer with us physically, but his spirit, his passion, his genius, his pride in his culture, and the impact he made on this industry will be felt forever.”

Coogler then presented new characters in the franchise being played by Michaela Coel and Tenoch Huerta. Coel, who won an Emmy for “I May Destroy You,” praised the unique “energy” of the first “Black Panther” film, which was widely seen as a breakthrough for Black representation in mainstream Hollywood movies.

“I think it’s got something to do with a Black superhero, padded out a clan of Black superheroes and what that kind of does for Black people,” she said.

Marvel A-listers

Other Marvel films announced Saturday by Disney at the world’s most famous pop culture gathering included “Thunderbolts” and “Fantastic Four,” both

due in 2024. Feige also set out dates for “Blade” — in theaters November 2023 — and the newly titled “Captain America: New World Order” coming May 2024.

Bill Murray and Olivia Colman join the ranks of Hollywood A-listers flocking to the Marvel franchise, appearing in first-look footage from movie “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” and Disney+ series “Secret Invasion” respectively.

Chris Pratt, Paul Rudd, and Lupita Nyong’o also appeared on stage Saturday along with Jonathan Majors, whose “Kang the Conqueror” character appears poised to become a major new supervillain for the franchise. — AFP



A cosplayer dressed as a merman visits the Gaslamp District.



A cosplayer portrays Dani from “Midsommar”.



A cosplayer portrays Cad Bane from “The Book of Boba Fett”.



Cosplayers portraying Thundercats characters.



Cosplayers attend Comic-Con International in San Diego.

Lifestyle | Features

HIT MANGA SERIES 'ONE PIECE' CELEBRATES 25TH BIRTHDAY

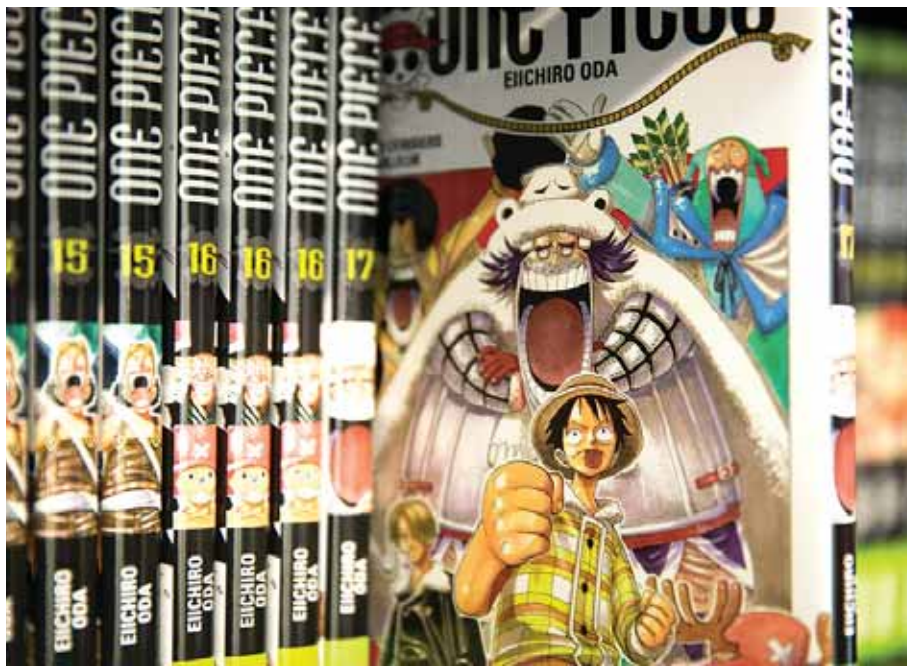
A manga series about a treasure-hunting pirate that has captivated millions of fans worldwide celebrates its 25th birthday as the final chapter of the best-selling saga reveals its secrets. The last instalment of "One Piece" begins from July 25 in Japanese weekly manga magazine Shonen Jump, published by Shueisha, following a one-month pause.

The series has racked up more than 100 volumes and smashed sales records since the first instalment appeared in 1997. The story revolves around hero Luffy, who hunts for the coveted "One Piece" treasure alongside other pirates.

Author Eiichiro Oda, 47, landed a Guinness World Record for having the most copies published for the same comic book series by a single author-with 490 million produced. His success has made his creation's 25th birthday a global event, from the United States to France, the second-largest market for manga and Japanese animation.

The 100th volume of the series came out in France last year with 250,000 copies, a number rivalling works that have won the prestigious Prix Goncourt literature prize. "I'm going to start showing all the secrets of this world that I've kept hidden," Oda said in a handwritten message posted on Twitter.

"It will be fun. Please fasten your seat-belt!" Chedli Ben Hassine, a content creator who specialises in pop culture, told AFP "One Piece" has become "not only



File photo shows "One Piece" comic books are displayed at the Paris Book Fair 2019 (Salon du livre) at the Parc des Expositions in Paris. — AFP

one of the greatest manga series in the world, but one of the greatest cultural works, all sectors included".

"What makes this manga so special is above all the plot," said Ryuji Kochi, president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Toei Animation, the Japanese company that has produced the series since 1999.

The "One Piece" universe includes cultural and geographical references that give it a universal dimension, including Ancient Egypt, Venice and medieval Japan. Engaging characters and modern themes of breakneck industrialisation, racism, slavery and geopolitical intrigues add to the appeal of the series.

"By proposing totally different universes, the author never bores the reader," Benoit Huot, head of manga at publishing company Glenat, told AFP. "You have a fresco, an epic, which lasts an extremely long time and where you can't say it goes round in circles."

Release on Netflix

Although the finale of "One Piece" promises plenty of twists and turns, the series has not reached a wider audience beyond Japanese comic fans like the global hits "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter".

Japanese culture is far from matching the influence of Western creations backed by a large market and soft power that a cultural machine like Hollywood can produce on an industrial scale, economist Julien Pillot told AFP.

Producers hope the upcoming release of a Netflix series adapted from the "One Piece" universe will help it conquer new territory, bringing the story to the global streaming platform's more than 200 million subscribers.

Pillot said Hollywood has historically struggled to adapt manga series to the big screen, including the aesthetic and commercial flop that was the adaptation of "Dragon Ball". "If Netflix managed to create a product of very high quality, which captures the unique spirit of 'One Piece', that would be a good start," he added. — AFP



Austrian conductor Stefan Soltesz.

Austrian conductor dead after collapse at German opera

Austrian conductor Stefan Soltesz has died after collapsing during a performance in Munich, the city's opera house said. The maestro of Hungarian extraction held the baton at opera houses in Vienna, Graz, Hamburg and Berlin during his long career.

"With dismay and deep sadness, the Bavarian State Opera must announce the death of Stefan Soltesz," it said late on Friday in a statement. Soltesz died late on Friday "after a collapse while conducting 'The Silent Woman' by Richard Strauss at the National Theatre" in Munich, it said. He was 73 years old.

No details on his cause of death were immediately available. The general director of the Bavarian State Opera, Serge Dorny, tweeted he was "deeply saddened" by Soltesz's death. "We lose a talented conductor," he said. "I lose a good friend. My thoughts are with his wife Michaela."

Soltesz served as musical director of the state theatre of Brunswick in central Germany from 1988 to 1993 and chief conductor of the Flemish Opera in Antwerp and Ghent from 1992 to 1997, followed by engagements in the western German city of Essen. He debuted on the Bavarian State Opera stage in 1995. — AFP



Beekeeper Luiz Lustosa shows a hive of native Brazilian bees at the Abelha Nativa Institute in Brasilia. — AFP photos

Brazil buzzing over potential of its native bees

Brazilian part-time beekeeper Luiz Lustosa lifts the lid on a wooden hive. The reaction is instant, and angry, as thousands of bees envelop him in a buzzing cloud.

Lustosa wears no specialized suit or gloves, however, just a light net to cover his face. These bees are stingless. "What a wonder!" Lustosa marvels at the honey-filled wax craters in the hive as the bees attack him furiously, but impotently-his childlike amazement not diminished by six years working with the insects.

Long overlooked, Brazil's native bees are making a comeback, with people such as Lustosa, a 66-year-old public servant, getting in on the movement to boost their profile. Of 550 stingless bee species known to exist in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world, some 250 are found in Brazil, according to Cristiano Menezes of Brazil's Embrapa Agricultural Research

Corporation.

Yet they are little known outside of rural and Indigenous communities, having been relegated to a lesser place by European and African honeybees brought to Brazil over the centuries for their more prolific honey- and wax-producing skills. Most of Brazil's honey today comes from non-native, stinging bees.

'Here to help us'

Lustosa is president of the Native Bee Institute, a non-profit organization that plants trees to expand the habitat of native bees and educates people about their important role as pollinators. "We explain to children that the bees don't sting, that they are necessary for the environment and nature, and they are there to help us," Lustosa told AFP at the institute's premises in Brasilia, where he runs workshops and sells native honey.

A study in 2016 estimated that about 1.4 million jobs and three-quarters of all crops worldwide depend on pollinators such as bees-a service rendered for free but worth tens of billions of dollars, according to scientific studies.

Bees account for 80 percent of plant pollination by insects. Unlike their immigrant counterparts, Brazil's native bees are picky, dining exclusively on the fruit and pollen of indigenous fruit and avocado trees for whose pollination they are crucial.



Detail of a hive of native Brazilian bees at the Abelha Nativa Institute in Brasilia.



Beekeeper Luiz Lustosa shows a hive of native Brazilian bees.

Beekeepers "depend on vegetation, a healthy forest" for the bees to feed on, said Jeronimo Villas-Boas, a fellow native beekeeper and ecologist. "For this reason, beekeepers are agents of conservation."

Villas-Boas is helping indigenous communities improve the quality of the native honey they produce and links them up with buyers in a bid to get them in on the "business" of the coveted sweet liquid.

"Bees enable businesses with a positive impact on society, the environment and agriculture," says Menezes. Native bees produce a honey that proponents claim is healthier for its lower sugar content. The flavor and acidity differs from species to species.

They produce about 30 times less honey than their stinging cousins, and as a result, native honey costs about \$55 per kilo in Brazil, compared to \$6 per kilo for the other.

One of Villas-Boas's clients is Brazilian chef Alex Atala, whose D.O.M. restaurant in Sao Paulo holds two Michelin stars for its locally-based cuisine. Honey from the



Brazilian beekeeper Jeronimo Villas-Boas pours honey obtained from bees of the mandacacia species (Melipona quadrifasciata) in Itapeverica da Serra.

tubi native bee is a key ingredient in one of Atala's award-winning dishes of cassava cooked in milk.

"We have a world as rich as that of wine to get to know," Atala told AFP. "Eating our biodiversity will generate value for products that today are forgotten, devalued." — AFP



A bee of the yellow urucu species (Melipona manducator) is seen in a hive.



Brazilian beekeeper Jeronimo Villas-Boas looks at his hives.

Bees can learn to roll a ball for food: Study

Entice them with a sweet reward and bumblebees can be trained to roll a ball into a goal, revealing unexpectedly complex learning abilities for an insect, researchers said. The findings in the US journal Science offer the first evidence that bees can learn a skill that is not directly related to their typical duties of foraging for food.

Even more, bumblebees appeared to learn best by watching the behavior of other bees, and sometimes even improved on their predecessors' techniques. Until now, the ability to learn how to solve a complex problem by reaching a goal was known to be possible in humans, primates, marine mammals and birds. But insects were not necessarily considered part of this elite group. "Our study puts the final nail in the coffin of the idea that small brains constrain insects to have limited behavioral flexibility and only simple learning abilities," said co-author Lars Chittka, a professor at Queen Mary University of London's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

Exploring limits

Previous studies have shown bees could learn to pull on a string to get a food reward and perform other simple tricks, but these studies were limited in scope because the "learning processes involved might be used in tasks encountered by bees naturally," said the study.

Researchers wanted to explore whether or not bees could learn to manipulate an object — in this case a small, yellow ball — unlike anything they knew in their daily lives. "We wanted to explore the cognitive limits of bumblebees by testing whether they could use a non-natural object in a task likely never encountered before by any individual in the evolutionary history of bees," said joint lead author Clint Perry, also of the QMUL School of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

The bees were trained, one at a time, to roll the ball, which was about the same size as the bees themselves. The ball had to be pushed to a specific target before a sugar solution would be awarded to the bee. Some bees were trained by observing a bee that had already learned the technique. Others were shown how by a hidden magnet beneath the platform which moved the ball. A third group received no instructions at all.

The bees learned most efficiently from watching other bees, it turned out. Sometimes, they even found better ways to get a treat, for instance by choosing one of a selection of balls that was already closer to the goal than the others, instead of picking the ball that was furthest away as the trainer bees consistently did. "The bees solved the task in a different way than what was demonstrated, suggesting that observer bees did not simply copy what they saw, but improved on it," said joint lead author Olli Loukola. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



Pamela Berstler (L) and Marianne Simon (R) of Green Garden Group describe the native plants at a water-conserving residential garden they helped create amidst California's historic drought. — AFP photos



Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Water Conservation Specialist Damon Ayala finds water leaking onto the pavement.



A sign encourages homeowners to replace their lawns with water conserving and money saving regenerative front yard gardens.

'Water police' patrol drought-hit LA streets

Damon Ayala patrols the streets of drought-stricken Los Angeles every day, inspecting the sidewalks. Each time he sees a puddle, he stops. He is part of the city's Department of Water and Power team, which looks into hundreds of community complaints filed by neighbors each week about water waste.

"It's not extreme, but it's something that we want them to take a look at," he says of one pool of water. "Looks like they have drip irrigation on this side. So there might be just a broken connector."

Ayala's patrol comes as California and the western United States are in the grip of a severe, years-long drought. Scientists say global warming driven by human activity, including the unchecked burning of fossil fuels, is creating a greater number of extreme events.

With reservoirs and rivers at historic lows, Los Angeles authorities have brought in water restrictions, such as limiting lawn irrigation to as little as eight min-

utes, twice per week. Ayala notes down the addresses of properties where he finds evidence of infringement. The first violation prompts a warning.

"A lot of times they don't know about the ordinance, and that's our job to educate them," he said. Repeat offenders are fined between \$200 and \$600. "We're not looking really for their money-that doesn't get us more water. We're trying to get behavioral change," he said.

"So that way we can capture the water savings from making those changes." After a fifth infraction, a device is installed which physically restricts a household's supply, although Ayala says that step has rarely been necessary. "We've been in serious drought situations in the past in the city of Los Angeles, and its citizens responded," he said. "And we expect them to respond this time around too."

'Obvious choice'

The water department says it is begin-

ning to see results. Officials noted a reduction in residential water demand in June, compared to the same month last year. But as the drought worsens, more permanent changes to the city's landscape could become necessary.

Famous for its rows of palm trees, Los Angeles has also traditionally been known for its lush, green lawns, maintained with automatic sprinklers. Residents are increasingly replacing their thirsty lawns with plants native to this desert region.

"When we think of how much water gets used in a residential setting, over 50 per cent is actually used outdoors," said Pamela Berstler, executive director of urban landscaping firm G3 Garden Group. She and her colleague Marianne Simon teach classes as part of a city program to encourage Angelenos to trade in their lawns for alternatives.

South Los Angeles residents Gabriel Golden and Danielle Koplinkase, joined the program a few years ago. "The envi-

ronmental impact of watering a lawn, not only in the midst of a draught but also living in a very dry climate, made this an obvious choice," they said.

"We also sought to inspire our neighbors and community by going to a drought tolerant and native garden." Native plants such as California oak, and flowers that only require a few drops of water each week to thrive, now adorn the couple's garden.

"There are parts of southern California where they have cut the water down to one day of watering per week," said Simon. "And the reality is that these kinds of gardens would be fine on that amount of water-in fact, could do with less-but our traditional lawns can't survive on that."

'Short-sighted'

Other popular alternatives include artificial lawns or gravel, although Simon stresses the environmental benefits of maintaining some form of vegetation.

"The problem is that we are so short-sighted and so narrow in our vision that all we can see is saving the water," she said.

A planted area can be cooler by "easily 20 degrees" Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) than a gravel replacement, and "there's the ability to hold on to rain when we do get it so that we can replenish aquifers."

As she speaks, a nearby sprinkler turns on under the blazing California sun, spraying a lawn during prohibited hours. With the thermometer hovering around 97 degrees F, water falling on the wilted, uneven grass and trickling down the sidewalk evaporates within minutes.

"It's heartbreaking to see, but it's also a lesson," she said, pointing to the withered garden. "That should be our past and this should be our future," Simon added, looking back at the native plants. — AFP



Amanda Eames (R) from Melbourne, Australia, works to collect dried Irish turf with the Power family, cut from the Bog of Allen before being used as a traditional way of heating Irish homes, in Carragh, west of Dublin. — AFP photos

Turf wars stall Ireland's green agenda

In the aftermath of the hottest day in Ireland for more than 130 years this week, small family groups picked their way across the Bog of Allen in the country's midlands collecting sun-dried turf. The briquettes of peat, which are liquorice black when hewn wet from the ground, had turned a toasted brown in the soaring July temperatures and were ready to be stored and burnt as winter fuel.

But the bog, like others across Ireland, has become a frontline in a struggle to cut carbon emissions and conserve peat lands, pitting rural communities against urban policy makers. "There's very deep anger and resentment that the likes of the Green Party and urban members of the Green Party think... they can run riot over the country people of Ireland," John Dore a spokesman for the Kildare Turf Cutters Association told AFP.

Fourteen percent of the Irish population use turf, a smoky fuel, to heat their homes, according to Ireland's

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For those who rely on the traditional energy source, which has been cut and burnt in the country for centuries, turf is a birthright.

"It's a very cultural and community activity," Dore explained. "We're fuel independent. It's about being independent as well." During a visit to Japan on Tuesday, Ireland's prime minister Micheal Martin said his government needed to focus on emissions as it looks to set legally binding targets by the end of the month.

"I think what the heatwaves are showing, it's bringing it home to people the enormity of the consequences of climate change," he told reporters in Tokyo. "It's here now."

'Back to the bog'

EPA figures released on Thursday showed a 4.7 percent rise in greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 compared to 2020 — and up 1.1 percent on 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Martin's three-party governing coalition, which includes Ireland's Greens, has been licking its wounds after it tried to place curbs on the sale of turf earlier this year.

A series of heated debates on the restrictions triggered a rebellion among the government's rural deputies. One independent lawmaker from Tipperary, Mattie McGrath, said ministers needed a "trip back to the bog" to realise the impact of proposed restrictions on low-income

families living in rural areas.

As he unveiled revised plans to curb the retail sale of turf last week, Green Party Environment Minister Eamon Ryan said controversial measures restricting the sale of turf to within communities of less than 500 people had been dropped.



John Dore, spokesman for the Kildare Turf Cutters Association, poses for a photograph with his stock of turf that he uses to heat his home.

Under the new rules, sales of turf to family, friends and neighbours will continue as before. But sales at retail outlets and online will be banned, along with the advertisement of turf sales in traditional media. For Patsy Power, a turf cutter whose family has rights to cut and remove turf on the Bog of Allen, the changes will make virtually no difference to the way he operates. "We've been taking turf from here all my life time," said Power, 60, who has seven siblings who gather turf from the same plot.

"We wouldn't be selling it anyway, it's merely for domestic use and it'll merely be family," he added as he took a break from throwing clods into the back of his truck.

'Not worth the heat'

Dore called the government's retreat a "bit of a victory". But he said the compromise had also been driven by factors such as rising energy prices and fuel insecurity from the war in Ukraine rather than concern for rural communities.

The spokesman, who also cuts and stores turf at his home nearby, said he understood Ireland had international climate commitments but characterised targeting turf farmers with curbs as "starting with the small guys".

Conservationists have urged the government to grasp the nettle of turf cutting over the damage it does to bogs, which are natural carbon sinks and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. "There's no onus on turf cutters to restore the habitat or manage emissions from when they're draining the bog," said Tristram Whyte, policy officer for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

"Along with that all the peat silt enters the waterways and with the emissions there's biodiversity loss. "It's the most emitting source of fuel that you can use... the effects from burning peat is not worth the heat." — AFP

France plans fashion revolution with climate-impact labels

Is it better for the environment if you buy a brand-new cotton T-shirt or a recycled one?

Well, it depends.

Recycling has obvious benefits, but the process shortens cotton fibres and so usually has to be mixed with some oil-based material to keep it from falling apart. Such trade-offs make it tricky to figure out the real sustainability rating of clothes-but brands in Europe will soon have no choice.

By next year, every item of clothing sold in France will require a label detailing its precise climate impact-with a similar rule expected for the rest of the European Union by 2026. That means juggling many different and conflicting data points: Where and how were its raw materials grown? What was used to colour it? How far did it travel? Was the factory powered with solar energy or coal?

The French Agency for Ecological Transition (Ademe) is currently testing 11 proposals for how to collect and compare data-and what the resulting label might look like to consumers-using 500 real-life items of clothing. "The message of the law is clear-it will become obligatory, so brands need to prepare, to make their products traceable, to organise the automatic collection of data," Erwan Autret, one of the coordinators at Ademe, told AFP. "Some say the models are too simple, some say they're too complicated, but it's a sign of the maturity of the debate that no one questions the need for these calculations anymore."

'Transparent and informed'

The need for change in fashion is urgent. Statistics are notoriously hard to verify, but the UN says the industry is responsible for 10 percent of global carbon emissions, as well as a significant portion of water consumption and waste.

Labels can be a key part of the solution, say campaigners. "It will force brands to be more transparent and informed... to collect data and create long-term relationships with their suppliers-all things they're not used to doing," said Victoire Satto, of The Good Goods, a media agency focused on sustainable fashion. "Right now it seems infinitely complex," she added. "But we've seen it applied in other industries such as medical supplies." Seeing how the winds are blowing, the textile industry has been racing to come up with technical solutions.

A recent presentation by Premiere Vision, a Paris-based textiles conference, highlighted many new processes including non-toxic leather tanning, dyes drawn from fruits and waste-and even biodegradable underwear that can be thrown on the compost. But the key to sustainability is using the right fabric for the right garment, said Ariane Bigot, Premiere Vision's deputy head of fashion. That means synthetic and oil-based fabrics will still have a place, she said: "A strong synthetic with a very long lifespan might be right for some uses, such as an over-garment that needs little washing." — AFP



People work to collect dried Irish turf.

Sports

Vingegaard survives 'heart attack' slip to virtually wrap up Tour de France

Team Jumbo's Vingegaard tops the overall standings

News in brief

Newgarden takes 4th victory

WASHINGTON: American Josef Newgarden captured his fourth victory of the IndyCar season on Saturday, holding off Mexico's Pato O'Ward over the final laps to win the Iowa 250. Newgarden took his fourth career triumph on the 0.894-mile oval at Newton, Iowa, after leading 208 of 250 laps in hot and windy conditions. "I knew we had the car to win this race," Newgarden said. "It's one of my favorite tracks. I always love to win this race." O'Ward finished second followed in order by Australian pole-sitter Will Power, Dutchman Rinus VeeKay and New Zealand's Scott Dixon. "I was pushing Josef at the end," O'Ward said. "We didn't quite have it." Newgarden, the 2017 and 2019 IndyCar season champion, previously won at Iowa in 2016, 2019 and 2020. Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of Sweden leads the season points chase 375-360 over Newgarden despite the American's season-best win total after adding Iowa to Texas, Long Beach and Road America.

LAFC down Kansas City

LOS ANGELES: Gareth Bale opened his account for Los Angeles FC with a late goal in a 2-0 victory over Sporting Kansas City on Saturday. Bale fired in a low shot seven minutes from time to seal three points for LAFC, who remain four points clear at the top of the Western Conference standings. Former Real Madrid star Bale had come off the bench as a second-half substitute before scoring his first goal since arriving in Major League Soccer earlier this month. The Wales international launched the move which set up his goal, quickly releasing striker Cristian Arango with a pass from deep inside his own half. Arango, who had scored LAFC's opener, held the ball up well and then rolled a pass into the path of Bale, who had sprinted up in support of the counter-attack. Bale took his time before nonchalantly prodding his finish past Tim Melia in the Kansas City goal. "Obviously I think the most important thing is that we won the game, first and foremost," said Bale. "Nice to come and grab a goal and help the team get the three points."

Pumas sign Dani Alves

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's Pumas on Saturday signed Dani Alves after the veteran Brazilian defender left Barcelona for a second time. Alves, regarded by many as the most successful player in history, had rejoined Barca in November but confirmed last month that he would not be extending his contract. The international star signed before the cameras after a medical that Pumas president Leopoldo Silva said had gone "very well". Alves said that he wanted to "leave a legacy for younger people so that they can keep fighting for what they dream of, because here is living proof that everything in this life is possible". "I come from a small town where people want to win," he added, explaining his decision to join the Pumas, who are linked to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). "Soccer has transformed my life and I want it to continue transforming the lives of many people, and that's why I accepted the challenge of coming to the Pumas," he said.

Alcaraz breaks into top 5

HAMBURG: Carlos Alcaraz will become the youngest player to reach the top five of the ATP rankings since Rafael Nadal in 2005 after powering into his fifth ATP final of the season in Hamburg on Saturday. The 19-year-old Spaniard eased to a 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 success against Slovakian Alex Molcan and will face Lorenzo Musetti in Sunday's final at the clay-court event. Alcaraz has won all five of his previous Tour finals, including Masters triumphs in Miami and Madrid earlier this year. "Lorenzo is playing really well," Alcaraz said. "Of course he's a great player. It's going to be a great final. "He has played great matches before the final. (I have) as well, so I have a lot of confidence for the final and hope to make it six-for-six." He will pass Casper Ruud, who reached the Gstaad final on Saturday, in the updated rankings which will be released on Monday.

Neymar to stay at PSG

SAITAMA: Neymar said Saturday that he wants to stay with Paris Saint-Germain and does not "need to prove" himself to anyone after five years with the French club. The 30-year-old Brazilian said no one from PSG had spoken to him regarding his future but he wants to continue playing in the French capital alongside Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe. "I still want to stay here with the club," Neymar said after PSG's 3-0 win over J-League side Urawa Reds on the club's tour of Japan. "So far the club hasn't said anything to me so I don't know what their plans are for me. "I don't need to prove myself to anyone-I just need to play my football and I have to be happy playing football," he added. Neymar said he was feeling "fit" after coming on as a substitute with Messi to play the last 30 minutes of Saturday's game. He said it was "too early to speak about" his impression of new coach Christophe Galtier, who arrived at PSG from Nice at the end of last season. —From AFP

ROCAMADOUR: Jonas Vingegaard survived the "heart attack" of a near fall on Saturday's individual time-trial to virtually wrap up the Tour de France and now only needs to cross the Champs-Elysees finish line in Paris on Sunday to guarantee the champion's yellow jersey. Team Jumbo's Vingegaard tops the overall standings 3min 34sec ahead of two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar, while Geraint Thomas of Ineos Grenadiers, the 2018 winner, stands third at 8min 13sec.

Frenchman David Gaudu of FDJ and Aleksandr Vlasov of Bora round out the top five ahead of Sunday's stage to Paris which is traditionally a ceremonial run. Saturday's time-trial was won by Wout van Aert ahead of his Danish teammate Vingegaard, meaning Jumbo have six stage wins, the yellow jersey, the green sprint jersey and the polka dot mountains jersey. Two years ago, Pogacar famously overturned a 57-second deficit on the penultimate day time-trial on La Planche des Belles Filles to snatch victory from Primož Roglic.

But on Saturday, Vingegaard flew down the ramp last of the 139 surviving riders and set a relentlessly high pace through the baking country roads meaning a battle of nerves with Pogacar never really emerged. He did, however, suffer a late wobble, losing his back wheel which slid over gravel into a gutter, but just managed to right himself. "I nearly had a heart attack," Vingegaard admitted. "I grew up, I became a better rider. We are the first Dutch team to do this in 43 years and I'm proud of myself and proud of every rider in the team."

Vingegaard, who was runner-up in 2021 behind Pogacar, said he was already thinking about his 2023 challenge. "I want to celebrate this victory first but of course I want to come back to the Tour to win another one," he said. "I didn't set myself five Tours de France or anything like that. I just want to come back and win." The Dane was eight seconds faster than his great rival on Saturday, and Pogacar looked downhearted at the finish line.

"I'm proud of myself, I did what I could, and at least I have the white jersey (best under-25s)," Pogacar said. "I learned a lot, I'll go away and analyse it." Thomas will also be remembered for his under the radar approach that delivered a podium



LACAPPELLE-MAR: Jumbo-Visma team's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles during the 20th stage of the 109th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 40.7 km individual time trial between Lacapelle-Marival and Rocamadour on July 23, 2022. —AFP

place at 36. "I'm over the moon to be on the podium, people talk about age, but for me it's about mentality, if you eat, train, rest properly you can achieve a lot," said Thomas.

Epic struggle

"I'll celebrate, but I'll try not to celebrate too much. I can see the end of my career coming and I want to make the most of it." The two main protagonists fought each other from start to finish with Vingegaard dethroning the two-time champion with a pair of soaring performances in the high mountains.

Pogacar made all the early running with his lone wolf mentality, gradually clawing into top spot on stage six with an appearance of invincibility. But

the stars aligned against Pogacar when he lost teammates to Covid and injury. He is also a man known to dislike intense heat. Vingegaard took the yellow jersey from Pogacar on stage 11 and while the UAE man refused stubbornly to give up he lost further ground on stage 18.

Their epic struggle was highlighted by a moment of sportsmanship when Pogacar fell at high speed and the pretender to his throne waited for him to catch up, the pair clasping hands briefly in a memorable image from one of the best modern editions of the Tour. "We don't really speak to each other out of racing, but we get along," said Vingegaard. "He's one of the best riders in the world and I respect him, we respect each other." —AFP

Kuwait wins 3 medals at Arab Swimming tourney

ALGIERS: Kuwaiti national swimming team won a silver medal and two bronze medals on Saturday in the fourth and final day of the Arab Swimming Championships and clinched third place in the overall ranking of the tournament. The tournament, hosted by the city of (Oran) in western Algeria, witnessed the talented Kuwaiti swimmer Ali Al-Zamil, who managed to win the silver medal and second place in the 100-m backstroke with a time of 56.96 seconds.

For his part, his teammate swimmer Walid Abdulrazaq was

able to force his presence in the pool again in the 100-meter freestyle race, where he managed to win the bronze medal and third place with a time of 50.99 seconds. The Kuwaiti team also won the men's 100-meter relay four times, taking the bronze medal. Walid Abdulrazaq, Saud Al-Shamroukh, Abdulrazaq Al-Duwaihi, and Abdulaziz Al-Duwaihi participated in this race. The Arab Swimming Championships concluded this evening with a ceremony in honor of the participating teams. —KUNA



Kuwait National Swimming Team

Scotland cricket board quits over racism report

LONDON: The board of the Scottish cricket federation resigned en masse on Sunday following accusations of institutional racism in a damning independent review which is due to be published on Monday. "The Board of Cricket Scotland has resigned. We will work in partnership with @sportscotland with immediate effect to ensure appropriate governance, leadership & support is in place for sport in the days ahead," Cricket Scotland tweeted on Sunday.

The review was commissioned last year by Sport Scotland, the national funding body, after Scotland's all-time leading wicket-taker Majid Haq told Sky Sports News that Cricket Scotland was "institution-

ally racist". Haq's former team-mate Qasim Sheikh said he had also suffered racist abuse. In its resignation letter to the interim chief executive, the Cricket Scotland board said it was "truly sorry" and apologized to "everyone who has experienced racism, or any other form of discrimination" while playing the game in Scotland.

"The review has achieved an unparalleled level of engagement and we believe it will be truly transformative, not just for Cricket Scotland and the sport of cricket, but it will provide a watershed moment for Scottish sport and society in general." The statement added the current board had not seen the contents of the report. However, it added the board had been made aware of "proposed timescales and certain mandated actions" recommended by the review.

'Unachievable'

In the view of the outgoing board, plans to both resolve the racism issues quickly and modernize the running of Cricket Scotland were "unachievable within the timetable proposed and the current gov-

ernance framework". "Consequently, we believe we must now step aside to enable the required progress to be made in the coming months," the statement added.

The issue of racism within British cricket as a whole was brought to the fore again two years ago when former spinner Azeem Rafiq said he had been subjected to racial harassment and bullying during his time as a player for leading English county Yorkshire. That prompted the Headingley-based club to commission an investigation into allegations by the 31-year-old Rafiq, who said he was driven to thoughts of suicide by the culture of racism during his time at Yorkshire.

Although seven were upheld, Yorkshire concluded last October that no member of staff would face disciplinary action, a decision that prompted uproar among politicians and the wider cricket community. That led to a mass clear-out of administrative and coaching staff at Headingley, with new chairman Kamlesh Patel taking over as the face of a fresh Yorkshire regime. —AFP

Berrettini crushes Thiem, books final

GSTAAD: Matteo Berrettini put the brakes on Dominic Thiem's impressive return to the courts on Saturday crushing him 6-1, 6-4 to set up a clash with top seed Casper Ruud in the final of the Gstaad ATP tournament. The Italian world number 15, playing his first event since having to withdraw from Wimbledon with COVID, made short work of the 2020 US Open champion, putting him away in just 77 minutes.

Defending champion Ruud also looked impressive as he swept past fourth-seeded Spaniard Albert Ramos 6-2, 6-0 in just over an hour to set up a clash of the top two seeds on Sunday. "I'm really happy with my performance," said Berrettini, the 2018 champion in Gstaad. "I don't think I

gave him the time to play his game and that was the key today." It has still been a good week for the Austrian who has slipped to 274 in the ATP rankings after a year of setbacks, including a wrist injury, depression and Covid. This was his first semi-final in 14 months.

Berrettini goes forward to his eleventh career final and is bidding for a third straight title after wins on grass at Queen's and in Stuttgart. In a battle of the past two champions at the clay-court event in Switzerland, Ruud was dominant throughout as the French Open finalist reached his fifth final of the year. The Norwegian broke Ramos' serve five times and did not face a single break point, as he also targets a second Gstaad title and third this year.

Both finalists are unbeaten in the Swiss mountains, with Berrettini winning of his debut in 2018 and Ruud lifting the trophy on his first appearance a year ago. "It's going to be tough," said Berrettini. "The four (semi-finalists) all



GSTAAD: Italy's Matteo Berrettini returns the ball to Norway's Casper Ruud during their final match at the Swiss Open tennis tournament in Gstaad, southwestern Switzerland, on July 24, 2022. —AFP

won here, so we definitely like to play (in Gstaad). We like the altitude. I won 2018, Albert in 2019, and Casper in 2021, so I guess we like it here." Berrettini and

Ruud are tied 2-2 in their head-to-head record, with the Italian winning their most recent clash in the Madrid semi-finals last year. —AFP

Sports

Arsenal thrash Chelsea 4-0 in a friendly match

Jesus continues his impressive pre-season form

MIAMI: Gabriel Jesus continued his impressive pre-season form with another goal as Arsenal thrashed Chelsea 4-0 in a friendly in Florida on Saturday. Jesus, who only joined Arsenal from Manchester City earlier this month, took his goal tally to four goals in three games for his new club in a clinical win for the Gunners in front of 63,811 fans at Orlando's Camping World Stadium.

It was another encouraging performance for Mikel Arteta's side, who took control of the game with two first half goals after dominating the opening 45 minutes. Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel could not hide his anger during a lacklustre first half display from his team, who were repeatedly exposed by Arsenal's nimble counter-attacking.

Chelsea had one promising attack after five minutes when new signing Raheem Sterling played Timo Werner into space, but French defender William Saliba snuffed out the danger with a solid covering tackle. Arsenal should have opened the scoring moments later, when Gabriel Martinelli burst clear on the counter. The Brazilian passed to Bukayo Saka but the English international's shot was saved by Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.

The Arsenal pressure finally told in the 15th minute with a goal that came after Chelsea's Nathaniel Chalobah surrendered possession with a misplaced pass that went straight to Granit Xhaka. The Swiss international played a superb first time ball into Jesus who coolly chipped over the advancing Mendy to make it 1-0. Martin Odegaard made it 2-0 to the Gunners in the 36th minute with another well-worked move. Martinelli's pass found the Norwegian playmaker in space inside the Chelsea area, and the attacking midfielder turned smoothly and tucked a low finish past Mendy.

Chelsea's best chance of a lacklustre half came in stoppage time when Mason Mount curled a shot from the edge of the area which beat Aaron Ramsdale but crashed back off a post. Arsenal extended their lead midway through the second half when Saka buried a rebound from close range after Mendy parried Xhaka's long-range strike. Arsenal continued to create chances but had to wait until injury time for their fourth goal when Albert Sambi Lokonga headed past Mendy after a superb cross from the right by Portuguese international Cedric. —AFP



ORLANDO: Oleksandr Zinchenko of Arsenal has a shot blocked by Reece James of Chelsea during the Florida Cup match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Camping World Stadium on July 23, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. —AFP

Under-pressure All Blacks sack two coaches

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Rugby tossed out two All Blacks assistant coaches Sunday and brought in Canterbury Crusaders' Jason Ryan in a widely expected shake-up in the wake of the recent series loss to Ireland. Forwards coach John Plumtree and attack coach Brad Mooar have been let go following "robust and in-depth conversations" about ways to improve performance, NZR said in a statement.

Ryan has been the forwards coach for the champion Crusaders team for the past six years, in which they have won six Super Rugby titles, as well as being the Fiji forwards coach. "Jason is a proven performer with plenty of experience at international level," All Blacks coach Ian Foster said. "Last year we witnessed first-hand the impact he has made on Fiji's forwards, adding to his continual growth as the forwards coach of the Crusaders. His appointment now is clearly with an eye to the future and to (the Rugby World Cup) 2023."

Former Ireland coach Joe Schmidt, now an All Blacks selector, has also taken on a key analysis role with the All Blacks and will work with Foster on overall strategy and attack play. There was a huge outcry in New Zealand following the 2-1

series loss to Ireland, the first time they have lost a series to the Irish, with rugby pundits blaming poor coaching and a poorly constructed game plan, and calling for heads to roll.

Foster kept his position as head coach but announced he had parted ways with Plumtree and Mooar. "Right now, I am really feeling for two fine men who are great rugby coaches that made an enormous contribution to the All Blacks," Foster said. Mooar was coaching Scarlets in Wales when Foster sought him to be an assistant coach in 2019 and NZR was forced to buy him out of his contract. Foster was chosen ahead of Crusaders coaching guru Scott "Razor" Robertson to take over the All Blacks when Steve Hansen retired following the 2019 World Cup. —AFP

Ten Hag rues United's 'unacceptable' lapse in 2-2 draw with Villa

PERTH: New Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag demanded his team take heed of their "unacceptable" second half lapse after a 2-2 friendly draw against Aston Villa on Saturday. United let slip a two-goal advantage to end Ten Hag's winning run in the final game of their pre-season tour of Asia and Australia. United, wearing their white away shirts, exhibited their newfound attacking flair in a dominant first half, but conceded a header to Villa's Calum Chambers in the dying seconds amid inclement conditions at Perth's Optus Stadium marked by a soggy pitch.

"The drop of focus is unacceptable. That cannot happen," Ten Hag told reporters. "We have to learn from the second half that it is not possible just to be comfortable being two goals up." United wrapped up their tour with England national player Jadon Sancho a standout to claim his third goal from four friendlies. They had earlier notched convincing victories over Liverpool, Melbourne Victory and Crystal Palace ahead of their English Premier League opener against Brighton on August 7.

Even though the second half collapse ended their tour on a sour note, Ten Hag was still buoyed by the signs of improvement from United—who had finished a disappointing sixth in last season's Premier League. "I have seen a lot of progress in the last two weeks," he said. "In the first half, I saw really good football. "The guys might have been tired, but it is never an excuse." Steven Gerrard's Villa, who finished 14th in the Premier League last season, struggled to match United's energy early before storming back into the contest to finish without a defeat in their pre-season campaign.

Villa's Premier League opener is against Bournemouth on August 6. "People have really jumped out in that second half and let me know they want to be in the starting eleven, so I'm pleased because I was frustrated at half-time," said former Liverpool star Gerrard. After heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed Perth earlier in the day, there were fears the game might be cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch but the contest went ahead as scheduled.

Embattled United skipper Harry Maguire, who copped jeering from fans in Melbourne last week reminiscent of the negative reaction he received last season, had a muted response from the near-capacity crowd of 58,228. He was in the action early with a superb header that was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who was under siege. The Argentine was helpless in the 24th minute when 22-year-old Sancho powerfully struck home the volley after Luke Shaw and Marcus Rashford combined well on the left side. Amid torrential rain just before half-time, Sancho continued to menace with a wicked cross smacking into Villa's Matty Cash for an own goal. Ten Hag resisted making changes at half-time, but Gerrard's decision to bring on winger Leon Bailey proved inspired with the Jamaican nailing a long-range shot to claw Villa back into the contest. —AFP

France end Dutch defense to reach Euro 2022 semis

ROTTERHAM: France coach Corinne Diacre said Les Bleues are not satisfied with just breaking new ground by reaching the semi-finals for the first time at a women's Euro after beating defending champions the Netherlands 1-0 after extra-time on Saturday. Eve Perisset's penalty on 102 minutes finally broke the Dutch resistance in Rotherham to set up a semi-final clash with Germany on Wednesday.

But the scoreline did not do justice to the gulf in class between the sides as France were frustrated for 90 minutes by the brilliance of young goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar.

"We've reached a new level for us tonight but that's not the end," said Diacre, who had been fiercely criticised for her part in France's quarter-final exit on home soil at the World Cup three years ago. "We are looking to reach the final."

Defeat rounded off a difficult tournament for the Dutch, who had been weakened by injuries to key players and coronavirus cases. Vivianne Miedema was fit to return after she missed the group stage wins over Portugal and Switzerland due to Covid.

However, the Arsenal striker looked well short of match fitness as one of the world's best players struggled to have any meaningful impact on the game.

France scored five in the first half of their opening game against Italy and could easily have repeated that feat in the opening 45 minutes.

The Netherlands lost veteran goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal for the rest of the tournament to a shoulder injury in their opener against Sweden, but Van Domselaar has shone in her absence. The 22-year-old had made just one international appearance prior to Euro 2022, but now looks certain to keep her place as the Dutch number one going forward. "I just told her has the best goalkeeping performance at a Euros since Nadine Angerer in 2013 and she won a Ballon d'Or that year," said Netherlands coach Mark Parsons on Van Domselaar. "Tonight she was world class."



ROTTERHAM: France's midfielder Sandie Toletti (left) and Netherlands' defender Lynn Wilms vies for a header during the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 quarter final football match between France and Netherlands at the New York Stadium, in Rotherham, on July 23, 2022. —AFP

France's fitness test

France were also guilty of wastefulness in front of goal as they missed the predatory presence up front of the injured Marie-Antoinette Katoto. That profligacy could still prove costly as Diacre's side were forced to play an extra 30 minutes on top of having two fewer rest days than Germany for the semi-final.

"We would like to have scored earlier but we were up against an incredible Dutch goalkeeper," added Diacre. "When you win you always recover faster. That's the schedule, we've known about that from the start." Kadidiatou Diani and Delphine Cascarino were first to test Van Domselaar before Cascarino then fired against the post from outside the box.

Stefanie Van der Graagt then twice rode to the Netherlands' rescue with goal line clearances to deny Melvine Malard and Grace Geyoro as France bombarded the Dutch goal without reward.

Miedema had to wait 55 minutes for a sight of goal and the Netherlands' all-time record goalscorer would have expected to do better when she volleyed over when unmarked from a corner. Soon it was Van Domselaar who was back in the firing line, though, as Wendy Renard turned away in disbelief when her looping header was clawed away by FC Twente 'keeper with the last act of the 90 minutes. France, though, refused to be denied a place in the last four of a women's European Championship for the first time.

Diani's pace took her away from Dominique Janssen, who dived in with a desperate lunge to halt the Paris Saint-Germain forward.

Croatian referee Ivana Martincic initially thought Janssen got a touch on the ball, but corrected her decision once shown a replay. Van Domselaar still nearly denied France as she got finger tips to Perisset's penalty, but was finally beaten. —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
Shamiya	24849807
Shuwaikh	24848913
Abdullah Salem	24814507
Nuzha	22549134
	22526804

Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

I, am Naranjan Pal holder of Indian Passport No. M9149587 having permanent resident of VPO Pachranga Teshil and Jalandhar District, India, Pin No: 144201 residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under:
Given name: Naranjan
Surname: Pal (C 2021)
22-07-2022

I, Sahil Royal S/o Parminder Singh holder of Indian Passport No. V-9366205 issued from Kuwait on date 22/09/2021 permanent resident of B-5/109, Dada Colony Industrial Area Jalandhar and presently residing at Salmiya, Block 10, Issa Al-Qatami Street, Building No. 51, Kuwait do hereby change my name from Sahil to Sahil Royal with immediate effect. Kindly

note. (C 2022) 22-07-2022

I, KANAIALAL VAL-LABHBHAI PAREKH S/o VALLABHBHAI PAREKH, R/o BEDEKAR COMPLEX, A-Wing, Room No#101, Maharashtra, India, Dist. Raigad, Shriwardhan, Pin 402110. Passport No. P6317340. I have changed my name from Kanaialal Vallabhbhai Parekh to ZAID VAL-

LABHBHAI PAREKH. Kanaialal and Zaid both names belong to one and the same person. (C#2023)

I, Ranjit Khiva S/o Nachhatar Khiva R/o Mohalla. That now I have changed my name from Ranjit Khiva to Ranjit Singh. All concern may be noted. That Nachhatar Khiva and Nachhatar Singh both names are belong to one. (C#2024)



EUGENE: Emmanuel Kipkurui Korir of Team Kenya crosses the finish line to win gold in the Men's 800m Final on day nine of the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 at Hayward Field on July 23, 2022. —AFP

Korir, Pichardo add world titles to Olympic crowns

Tsegay wins world 5000m gold; Injury heartbreak for Warner

EUGENE: Kenya's Emmanuel Korir and Pedro Pichardo of Portugal added world titles to their respective Olympic crowns on Saturday, but there was injury heartbreak for Canada's Damian Warner in the decathlon. Two other gold medalists from last year's Tokyo Games had a mixed bag, Indian Neeraj Chopra having to content himself with silver in the men's javelin, but Dutch runner Sifan Hassan leaving Eugene medal-less after finishing sixth in the women's 5,000m.

The 4x100m relays saw the US women beat a loaded Jamaican team featuring individual sprint champions Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson, to win gold, but a Canada team anchored by Olympic 200m champion Andre de Grasse beat the favored US men's team into silver. "It felt great to do it, to spoil the party for them," said De Grasse, who contracted Covid-19 three weeks before the championships and was too fatigued to race the 200m. "We talked about this moment so many times. We came up a little bit short at the Olympics, and we were all like, we could do better...it's a good way to end the championship."

Korir produced a trademark kick from

200 meters out to win the men's 800m in 1min 43.71sec, well ahead of Algerian Djamel Sedjati with silver and Canada's Marco Arop bronze. "I knew there were some guys close behind me in the last 100m," Korir said. "I was expecting someone to come, but no one did. I never shake my end in training but I do in races. It's like magic. I have been working for this. It's been a long wait-I failed in 2017 and 2019 and I made it now."

Pichardo was imperious in the triple jump, all but tying up competition when he went out to 17.95 metres on his first attempt. "I opened strongly," the Cuban-born Pichardo said, adding that he had been mentally focused on the mythical 18-metre mark in a bid to better his two previous silvers. "My mindset was focused on 18m. It did not come out today, but more importantly, I won gold. This world title was elusive to me."

In the absence of American multiple global medal winner Christian Taylor, world and Olympic bronze medallist Hugues Fabrice Zango of Burkina Faso claimed silver 40cm off Pichardo, while China's Zhu Yaming took bronze. Warner, also a winner in Tokyo, was in full control

of the decathlon after four of the first day's five events, but he pulled up injured in the 400m. He was left lying on the track clutching his left hamstring.

Puerto Rico's Ayden Owens-Delemew is now installed as the overnight leader, with the second day of action comprising the 110m hurdles, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and 1500m.

No mercy shown

Grenada's Peters retained his javelin throw title with a best of 90.54 meters on his sixth and final attempt for victory, having dominated the competition throughout. "To defend the title is not an easy task. I had to push myself," Peters said. "The last attempt, I already knew I was a champion but I was working on my technique in every throw and I finally got it through."

Olympic champ Chopra took silver with 88.13m, while Czech Jakub Vadlejch claimed bronze (88.09). There was also no mercy shown in the women's 5000m, where Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay surged down the home straight to win in 14:46.29 ahead of Kenya's Beatrice Chebet and another Ethiopian, Dawit Seyaum. Olympic champion Hassan could only fin-

ish sixth, meaning she will depart Oregon not having made the podium in either the 5,000 or 10,000m.

Hassan produced a stunning 1,500m-10,000m double at the 2019 world championships in Doha before winning 5,000m and 10,000m gold and 1,500m bronze at last year's Olympics in Tokyo. But she admitted that she needed seven months out of competition after her exertions, both mental and physical. "I really overworked last year so I wanted to get a break for my mental part because athletics is not only about running but also about motivation," she said. "It is so hard to get motivated again."

US track legend Allyson Felix, having deferred her retirement, played her part by helping the US women's 4x400m relay qualify for Sunday's final. The US team won their heat in 3:23.38, Felix running the second leg, and will be joined in the final by Britain, Jamaica, Belgium, Canada, Italy, France and Switzerland. Should the US team medal, Felix stands to win her 20th world medal. Her overall world tally currently stands at 19 medals (13 gold, three silver, three bronze), including four individual golds. —AFP

Raphinha strikes again as Barcelona stun Real Madrid

LAS VEGAS: Raphinha made it two goals in two matches as Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 1-0 on Saturday in their Las Vegas Clasico. Raphinha, signed from Premier League Leeds United earlier this month for around \$60 million, followed up his debut in a 6-0 thrashing of Inter Miami with the lone goal of the high-profile clash at Allegiant Stadium, the \$1.97 billion, 65,000-seat home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders.

The Brazilian was perfectly placed to intercept an ill-advised pass from Real's Eder Militao along the top of the area. After one touch to settle he lashed a left-footed shot over Thibaut Courtois into the top right corner of the net to put Barcelona up 1-0 in the 27th minute the fourth edition of the Clasico to be played outside of Spain - the second ever held in the United States - featured all the intensity of the long rivalry.

Real Madrid, playing their first pre-season friendly, nearly opened the scoring in the 18th minute but Federico Valverde was denied by the post in the 18th minute, seizing the ball after a poor clearance by Jordi Alba and blasting a volley from 25 yards out that beat Marc-Andre Ter Stegen only for the upright to intervene. Two minutes later it was Barcelona who saw a chance get away when Eduardo Camavinga lost possession to Pedri in front of Real's goal. Pedri found Fati, who pulled Real keeper Thibaut Courtois off his line but put his shot just wide of the far post.

Overall it was Barcelona - energized by the debut of Polish striker Robert Lewandowski after his move from Bayern Munich - who controlled the tempo in the first half against the reigning Champions League and La Liga title holders. The first half ended on a testy note after Jordi Alba's sliding tackle on Militao that earned a yellow card. Some jawing and shoving escalated, with players having to step in and separate Madrid newcomer Antonio Rudiger and Barcelona's Ronald Araujo.

Lewandowski's night ended without a goal as he was departed at the half, replaced by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as part of a raft of changes at the midpoint. Aubameyang had a chance just two minutes into the second half with a header from the center of the area off a cross by Raphinha but missed it left. A back and forth between substitute Marco Asensio and defender Lucas Vazquez gave Real Madrid a golden opportunity in the 59th minute, but after Vazquez played the ball back to Asensio in front of goal he pulled his shot wide.

They pressed desperately in the closing minutes for an equalizer, but Carlo Ancelotti's side clearly missed French star Karim Benzema, who was granted an extended holiday by the club and sat out the contest after joining up with his teammates in Los Angeles just days before. Real Madrid continue their US tour on Tuesday against Mexico's Cub America at San Francisco's Oracle Park baseball venue while Barcelona take on Italian giants Juventus in Dallas on the same night. Both play again on July 30, when Barcelona take on Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls and Real Madrid play Juventus. —AFP

Kuwait's boxers shine at boxing tournament



KUWAIT : Iraqi's Muntadher Naser Ali (left) and KSA's Abdulaziz Al-Atbi compete during the third day of the Kuwait International Boxing Championship at the Kuwait Boxing Hall in the Sabah Al-Salem district on the outskirts of Kuwait city on July 23, 2022.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait 1st International Boxing Tournament will be concluded on Monday with final bouts in the seven Olympic weights in the presence of Chairman Kuwait Boxing Federation Mohammad Mansi, board members and heads of delegations. Boxers from Europe, Africa and Asia seek to win the most gold medals to enable their teams take first place in the championship.

Boxers from the three continents showcased their best in most of their matches in the semi-finals in front of enthusiastic crowds. Kuwait's boxer Abdelrahman Al-Enezi nicknamed (Kuwait Tyson) hopes to end his 15-year carrier by winning the gold medal (90 kg). The semi-finals saw highly competitive and exciting matches between Arab boxers - reflecting the major development of the Arab boxing sport. In the first bout, Kuwaiti boxer Mansour Mubarak gave a brilliant performance - beating Bahrain's Fadhel Sayyed Abbas by a unanimous decision in the 51 kg category, while Iraq's Muntadher Ali defeated Saudi Arabia's Abdelaziz in the same weight.

The championship had three competitive bouts in the 80kg category on Saturday evening. Rosenov Willam from Bulgaria was defeated by Iran's Seyedhossein Mirahmadibabaheidari, while Adylbek Uulu Erkin from

Kyrgyzstan defeated Thailand's Borworn Kadamudan. Also, Iran's Seyedshahin Mousavi beat REhemandu Halimulati (China).

Kuwait's Boxing Federation Assistant Secretary Hazzaa Al-Mutairi said the organizing committee continues in its efforts to guarantee the success of the tournament. "We are keen on applying the best international standards. All subcommittees completed their work early to ensure smooth and comfortable participation," Al-Mutairi said. Chairman of Iraq Boxing Federation Ali Takleef lauded the good organization of the first Kuwait International Boxing Championship, adding that the event is considered a model.

Results of the third day of competition were as follows:

In the 51 KG category: Rigi Mostafa (IRI) defeated Sabri Ergynal (BUL); Mbarek Mansour (KWT) defeated Abbas Sayed Fadhel (BHN); Mannopov Abdumajid (UZB) defeated Shuail Al-Qannas (YEM); Ali Nasser Muntadher (IRQ) defeated Abdulaziz Alati (KSA).

In the 63 KG category: Pidnuch Khunatip (THA) beat Hassan Kamel; Lazizbek Fattoev (UZB) defeated Abdullahi (QAR); Sami Yahya (IRQ) defeated Samer Humaidi (KSA) while Faraji Bagher (IRI) beat Muaadh Al-Khameri (YEM).



KUWAIT: Bahrain's Fadhel Sayed Abbas (left) and Kuwait's Mansour Mbarek compete during the third day of the Kuwait International Boxing Championship at the Kuwait Boxing Hall. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Iran's Mostafa Rigi (left) and Bulgaria's Ergynal Sabri compete during the third day of the Kuwait International Boxing Championship.

In the 80 KG category: Seyedhossein Mirahmadibabaheidari (IRI) defeated Wiliam Rosenov (BUL); Uulu Erkin Adylbek (KGZ) defeated Borworn Kadamudan (THA); Sayedshahin Mosavi (IRI) defeated Halimulati (CHN) while Ruzetov Dilshodbed (UZB) overpowered Talal-Al-Motawaa (KWT).