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# Ending Zionist occupation key to halting violence: UN

## Investigators blame Zionist entity for conflict, slam discrimination against Palestinians

### Jordan Crown Prince visits Kuwait



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives his Jordanian counterpart Prince Hussein bin Abdullah on June 7, 2022. — KUNA (See Page 2)

GENEVA: UN investigators on Tuesday blamed the Zionist entity's continued occupation and discrimination against Palestinians for the endless cycles of violence in the decades-long conflict, prompting angry Zionist protests. A high-level team of investigators, appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to probe "all underlying root causes" in the drawn-out Zionist-Palestinian conflict, pointed the finger squarely at the Zionist entity.

"Ending the occupation of lands by (the Zionist entity)...remains essential in ending the persistent cycles of violence," the report said. The 18-page report mainly focuses on evaluating a long line of past UN investigations, reports and rulings on the situation and how and if those findings were implemented.

"The findings and recommendations relevant to the underlying root causes were overwhelmingly directed towards (the Zionist entity), which we have taken as an indicator of the asymmetrical nature of the conflict and the reality of one state occupying the other," lead investigator Navi Pillay, a former UN rights chief from South Africa, said in a statement.

"We also found that these recommendations have overwhelmingly not been implemented, including calls to ensure accountability for (the Zionist entity's) violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and the indiscriminate firing of

rockets...by Palestinian armed groups into (the Zionist entity)," she said.

"It is this lack of implementation coupled with a sense of impunity, clear evidence that (the Zionist entity) has no intention of ending the occupation, and the persistent discrimination against Palestinians that lies at the heart of the systematic recurrence of violations in both the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and (the Zionist entity)."

(The Zionist entity) has refused to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry (COI) created last year following the 11-day Gaza war in May 2021, which killed 260 Palestinians and 13 people on the Zionist side. The COI, which is the highest-level investigation that can be ordered by the UN Human Rights Council, was tasked with looking beyond that surge in violence and to investigate all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in (the Zionist entity) and the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

While the council had previously ordered eight investigations into rights violations in the Palestinian territories, this was the first open-ended probe, and the first to examine "root causes" in the drawn-out conflict. It was also the first tasked with looking at systematic abuses committed within the Zionist entity.

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### Alghanim & Sons Automotive lists on Bursa Kuwait

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait witnessed on Tuesday the listing of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company KSCC, marking a historic milestone as the first family-owned company and automotive agents to be listed on an exchange across the Gulf markets. The company stated the public offering which took place a few days prior was oversubscribed approximately 11 times, mirroring investors' trust, considering the high demand during the subscription process for 45 percent of the company's shares.

The company's decision to be listed on the stock market was made in line with the forward-looking

approach to current global market trends and the positive outlook for the near future. It also supports the company's vision to expand investment horizons, specifically in terms of faltering family-owned companies on both regional and international levels, as it reaches the third generation, where majority of economic indicators show that public shareholding companies will dominate the investment scene in the near future.

The company also stated that the official listing on the Kuwait bourse stems from its sense of responsibility as a leading company in the region in general, and in Kuwait specifically, which aims at adopting the principles of transparency and governance. It also seeks to expand its scope of work, which will contribute to creating unique employment opportunities for youth, while deploying the company's considerable capabilities and exceptional cadres that represent a further driving force enabling it to fulfil its stated objectives. (See Page 8)



KUWAIT: Ali Thunayan Alghanim (third right), Bursa Kuwait Board Member Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi (second left), CEO of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Fahad Ali Alghanim (third left), Khalid Waleed Al-Falah (left), Mohammed Khalid Alghanim (right) and Ali Marzouq Alghanim (second right) during the listing ceremony of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co on Bursa Kuwait on June 7, 2022.

### MoH: Indicators of COVID pandemic in Kuwait 'reassuring'

KUWAIT: The ministry of health confirmed that indicators of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kuwait are still reassuring, despite a rise in some evaluation indicators being recorded. In a statement Tuesday, the ministry pointed out that its specialized teams continue community surveillance and follow up measures globally and locally. This comes in light of the remarkable stability that has been reached during the past period thanks to the efforts of everyone, along with following up reports of global pandemic indicators and monitoring some increases in infection numbers and outbreak rates in some countries worldwide, it said.

The ministry called for maintaining healthy habits and applying them daily in order to preserve the significant positive results achieved in the face of the pandemic. In the event of contagious respiratory disease symptoms, it is necessary to avoid contact with others and wash hands, as well as cover the mouth and nose in crowded and closed places. The ministry recommends taking the booster shot of the COVID-19 vaccine and be cautious during travel. — KUNA

### Johnson fights on despite Tory revolt

LONDON: Britain's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed on Tuesday to plough on with policy priorities including the economy and Ukraine, but was urged by a Conservative predecessor to quit and save the nation from further "agonies". Addressing his cabinet a day after narrowly fending off a no-confidence vote from his own Conservative

MPs, Johnson said: "We're able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about."

But most critics and commentators disagreed, with many characterizing the margin of his win - 211 votes to 148 - as a "Pyrrhic" victory that left the Tory leader drained of much authority. Johnson's former employers at the Daily Telegraph branded it "a hollow victory that tears Tories apart". "Party's over, Boris," headlined the Daily Mirror, in a nod to a series of lockdown-busting parties held in Downing Street, which saw Johnson fined by police and drew outrage from voters.

Continued on Page 6



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (left) speaks as he chairs a Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street on June 7, 2022. — AFP

### EU agrees single charger standard, in blow to Apple

BRUSSELS: European officials on Tuesday agreed the text of a proposed EU law imposing a standard charger for smartphones, tablets and laptops sold in

the bloc, in a blow to Apple. EU member states and MEPs believe a standard cable for all devices will cut back on electronic waste, but iPhone juggernaut Apple argues a one-size-fits-all charger would slow innovation and create more pollution.

For most portable devices the requirement for charging via a USB Type-C port will come into effect from late 2024, negotiators said, while laptops will be given more time. The USB-C rule will also stretch to digital cameras, headphones, headsets, portable speakers and E-readers, they said. Lawmakers agreed on the common charger based

on a proposal that was made by the EU executive - the European Commission - in September, but came more than a decade after the European Parliament first pushed for it.

The decision will be formally ratified by European Parliament and among EU member states later this year before entering into effect. "We have been able to do it in nine months, that means that we can ... move fast when there is a political will," the EU internal market commissioner Thierry Breton said.

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## Local

# Kuwait's Crown Prince praises historic ties with Jordan

## Jordan's Crown Prince arrives to Kuwait on official visit



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah at Bayan Palace.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed on the historic bilateral ties between Kuwait and Jordan. This came during His Highness the Crown Prince's reception of the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah at Bayan Palace on the occasion of his official visit to the country. His Highness conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's greetings to the Jordanian King Abdullah II and to the Jordanian people. Moreover, His Highness the Crown Prince praised the important role played by Jordan to

enhance stability in the region and its valued efforts in supporting the Arab causes.

His Highness also said that he looks forward that this visit would contribute to boosting bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince's Diwan Chief Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and several state

officials attended the reception.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah arrived in Kuwait on an official visit earlier Tuesday with an accompanying delegation. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, the Crown Prince's Diwan Chief Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Jordanian King and his accompanying delegation in Kuwait Airport. Prince Hussein was accompanied on his visit by a high-level

delegation that included Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher Al-Khasawneh, Minister of Investment Khairy Amr, Ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait Sager Abu Shtal and number of top officials. Later Tuesday, His Highness Sheikh Mishal held a luncheon in honor of his Jordanian counterpart.

At the conclusion of his visit, Prince Hussein was seen off at the airport by Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and chief lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA



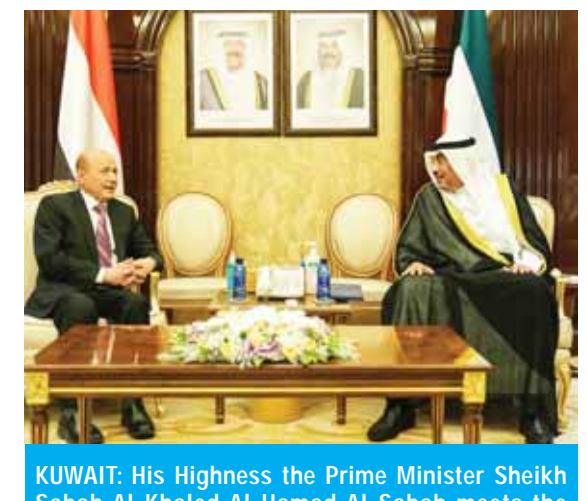
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah welcomes the head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al-Alimi.

## Kuwait's Prime Minister holds official talks with Yemeni leadership chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Monday held official talks with head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al-Alimi on the deep-rooted ties between the two countries. The two sides also discussed means of these ties in a way that serves the stability in Yemen, and aspirations and interests of the two countries and their peoples. In addition, they touched upon the current regional situations, and stressed the two countries' support to international efforts aiming to settle the conflict and establish international peace and security as well as achieve the desired stability in the region and the world.

The talks featured First Deputy Prime Minister and

Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Mohammad Al-Fares, Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, head of Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dahkil, Health Minister Dr Khaled Al-Said, Minister of Public Works and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Ali Hussein Al-Mousa, head of honor mission and advisor at His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Dr Sheikh Basel Humoud Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs Nasser Al-Qahtani. His Highness the Prime Minister held an official dinner banquet in honor of the senior Yemeni official and his accompanying delegation. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah had met the visiting head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Tuesday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets the head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al-Alimi. — KUNA photos

## KIB issues environmentally friendly banking cards

KUWAIT: In a highly strategic step that reaffirms its strong commitment towards achieving both organizational and environmental sustainability across its entire operational spectrum, upholding its position as an active member within the United Nations Global Compact, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently announced the issuance of "Go Green" banking cards, fabricated purely from recycled biodegradable materials. Through this eco-friendly venture, KIB aims to contribute to the overall reduction of its carbon footprint, in line with the global movement towards environmental conservation and protecting the planet in the long-term.

Adopting an eco-conscious work culture within its responsible practices, mandated by its Environmental,

Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) division, KIB will be issuing both its Debit and Black account "green" cards, manufactured entirely from recycled components, offering an eco-friendly option that maintains the highest level of quality and durability. These biodegradable components will also allow users to recycle the new cards upon expiration, as an alternative solution to typical disposal options.

Commenting further on this environmental achievement, Executive Manager of Card Services at KIB, Deema Al-Mulifi, said: "After conducting extensive studies on the various environmental practices and initiatives implemented by some of the largest financial institutions around the world, we soon realized that it was

highly necessary for us to follow and keep up with these global organizational approaches. As eco-responsibility advocates, we strive to continuously and promptly respond to the urgent calls to save the environment, with serious steps to raise more awareness on this pressing topic and support its global initiatives".

Adding to her statement, Mulifi reiterated that KIB remains fully committed to the local and international values and policies that emphasize the importance of ecological sustainability, as a non-optional solution to creating a better future, and a fundamental corporate direction to ensure the highest degree of business continuity. Pointing to the exclusive benefits KIB's new cards are set to offer, Mulifi mentioned that these cards will come with unique and attractive designs, in addition to all of the original services and offers each card account provides.

It serves to note how KIB has long been proactive in addressing the various social and environmental issues,



Deema Al-Mulifi

determined to always create a positive impact on society. This stems from the Bank's firm belief that its role is not limited only to making progress in its financial and banking offerings, but also in developing the scope of its social responsibility program to be more inclusive and wide-ranging, considering it an integral part of its multifaceted corporate strategy.

### News in brief

#### Amir condoles with Bangladesh President

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable Tuesday to the President of Bangladesh Mohammad Abdulhameed, expressing his condolences on the victims of the fire that resulted in the death of tens of people in Sitakunda area. His Highness the Amir also expressed condolences to the victims' families and wished the injured quick recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

#### Kuwait oil price up \$3.50 to \$119.95 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by \$3.50 to \$119.95 per barrel on Monday compared to \$116.45 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday. Globally, the Brent crude went down by 21 cents to reach \$119.51 per barrel, same as the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 37 cents to settle at \$118.50 pb.

#### Union denounces offensive remarks

BEIRUT: The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union denounced on Monday the remarks issued by spokeswoman of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In a press release, it called all countries to work on spreading the real principles of Islam that are based on justice, tolerance and dialogue between different cultures and religions. It added that it welcomed India's BJP suspension of Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal due to their remarks on a TV program against the Prophet.



Photo of the Day

KUWAIT: The sun sets behind transmission towers in Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Local

# USS Port Royal in Kuwait for Navy, Coast Guard drills

US, Kuwait maintain highly productive military partnership: Cooper



KUWAIT: US warship USS Port Royal arrives in Kuwait. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Admiral Brad Cooper Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command, speaks at the event.



The ship's crew.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** US warship USS Port Royal arrived in Kuwait to participate in maneuvers and exercises with the Kuwaiti Navy and Coast Guard on Tuesday. In a press conference, Vice Admiral Brad Cooper Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command, said the United States and Kuwait have maintained a highly productive military partnership over the past several decades, stating the Port Royal is just one display of bilateral commitment to strengthen the longstanding naval partnership.

"We will meet several leaders in the country, and I'm also here to express our deep continued commitment to our long strategic relationship. We will continue to pursue having Kuwaiti personnel and ships training and operating alongside us. Kuwait's Navy and Coast Guard continue to be valued partners, and we are committed to working together far into the future to ensure security and stability in the waters of the Arabian Gulf," he added.

Cooper pointed out that Kuwait-US coast guards and navies remain bound by shared interests in maintaining regional maritime security and stability, as well as countering terrorism. "We are discussing plans with Kuwait to conduct joint patrols in bilateral and multilateral formats. We are also developing plans to enhance cooperation and communication to deter aggression and smuggling."

He stressed that Kuwait is leading Combined Task Force 152, one of four task forces under Combined Maritime Forces -the largest international naval partnership in the world, praising Kuwait's

efforts in leading with incredible energy and innovation, in addition to setting a new standard as it tackles illicit activity off the coastline.

Cooper revealed that there is a potential to cooperate with Kuwait to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) in naval vessels during their daily operations in the Arabian Gulf, noting the importance of these new technologies that help in improving the image of the surrounding seas to achieve safer seas and stronger protection of global trade. "The coasts of the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea are more than 8,000 kilometers, which makes maintaining its security extremely difficult, and there is no naval force that can roam and cover it all by itself," he said.

Cooper said by the summer of 2023, the US Navy, in cooperation with its allies in the region, will launch hundreds of these ships connected to satellites, and they can take and send pictures from the seas and gulfs of the region in support of the region's efforts to confront criminal and illegal acts. "I believe there is great potential for Kuwait to join US Navy efforts to integrate unmanned and artificial intelligence capabilities into our day-to-day operations at sea. We will demonstrate on Tuesday current capabilities at the Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base of two types of unmanned surface vessels we are operating across the region: A high-speed unmanned surface vessel, the fastest in the world, and a high-endurance unmanned surface vessel that we've seen remain at sea for more than 100 days without any stops for fuel or maintenance," he added.

USS Port Royal (CG-73) is a United States Navy Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser.

Commissioned in July 1994, she is the 27th and final in the class. Port Royal is the second US warship to bear the name of the two naval battles of Port Royal Sound, South Carolina - of the American Revolutionary War and the American Civil War. At the time of her naming, the Navy designated her as "first ship named" by way of a plaque in the Engineering Control Center, but this was in error as there was a previous ship to bear the name.

Modern US Navy guided-missile cruisers perform primarily in a Battle Force role. These ships are multi-mission Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS), and Surface Warfare (SUW) surface combatants capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, or operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups. Cruisers are equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles giving them additional long-range strike warfare capability. Some Aegis Cruisers have been outfitted with a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability.

Technological advances in the Standard Missile coupled with the Aegis combat system in the Ticonderoga class cruisers have increased the Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) capability of surface combatants to pinpoint accuracy from wave-top to zenith. Under the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress directed modernization in accordance with the "2-4-6" plan, which allowed the Navy to modernize two Cruisers a year, remain under modernization for no more than four years, and allow no more than six ships to undergo modernization at any one time.

IN MY VIEW

## Need for oil companies' restructuring



By Yousuf Awadh Al-Azmi

local@kuwaittimes.com

**"L**ong-range planning does not deal with the future decisions, but with the future of present decisions." - Peter Drucker

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) controls the oil sector's assets in Kuwait as a holding company, and it has several specialized subsidiaries of all specialties of oil systems, as each company has its own independent entity, its rules, board of directors, executive apparatus and financial liabilities. I believe this organization does not serve the general long-term plan that is supposed to be for any specialized apparatus, as the distribution of specialties with a decentralized approach will disperse efforts and increase financial costs. It will create unnecessary posts and be like the excess fat on the public budget's body!

If we take a look at international companies, we will find that the organization of work is done according to the one-unit centralization, as the general principles are concentrated on a common base that is formed from the unified name and main budget from which a separate budget is derived, along with a horizontal link in planning job opportunities and required positions, as well as other related suitable requirements.

KPC controls in a supervisory capacity over the rest of companies under its banner, yet each company has a name, specified brand and a board of directors that run the executive apparatuses of the same company. So here I wonder then what is the role of the holding company?

I believe, that through follow up, it is better to approve a structural process pertaining to the general centralization that makes it easier to take a decision and implement it, in addition to having a unified trademark for all, as they all work side by side under the same trademark that belongs to the mother company. This would also save a good amount of finances through the unification of the boards of directors in just one board and the rest under an executive director who carries out the general policies of the mother company, as the companies' names should be changed to a subordinate unit, for example the chemicals unit of KPC, the exploration unit of KPC, and so on.

Among the first steps of the modified structure is to change the corporation entity into a company and change companies to administrative units belonging to the company with central management without breaching the organizational independence of the decision-making process, and all units must be under one logo and one unified higher management run by a clearly agreed upon strategy that does not change with the change of persons in the higher management, nor does it get frozen due to a transient or wrong emotional decision!

The reality in the oil sector is that it is a sector with many haphazard decisions, as many decisions led to significant losses. Among the examples are the decisions to create the Petroleum Services Company, then Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC), then the termination of the Petroleum Services Company.

Also, the confusion in future plans and changing them from the 2030 plan to the 2035 plan up to the 2040 plan. Most important is the difficulty in achieving any of these plans, because continuous change of views results in fatal mistakes in the field of research and planning.

We should not forget that the increasing costs at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) reflects on the price of the production of a barrel of oil, as whenever the KOC budget increases, the cost of the production of an oil barrel increases. So far there is failure at the company with regards to its production ability until now, as it cannot produce more than three million barrels per day, bearing in mind that all its plans since 1991 until now failed, while other countries were able to increase their oil production significantly!

We, at this point, should ask where are the budgets that were spent on increasing production and dealing with oil reservoirs and what are the results? There is so much argument about the general performance of oil companies, yet there are many engineers and experts who are able leading the management in this important sector, yet ambition for the better requires us to put pleasantries aside and place the finger on the problem for more development and achievement and get the best possible results according to the available facilities. The first of these plans as we see it is a comprehensive restructuring that contributes to a qualitative move that elevates the general standard of the oil sector.

## Consumer can return product if near expiry: Official

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Foods with a long shelf life cannot remain for sale at grocery stores until the last day of validity. The allowed period till when they can be displayed depends on the period of expiry. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry sets these periods, and stores have to follow them.

Products with a shelf life of three years or more, such as oil, sugar, etc, should be removed from shelves 60 to 90 days before the date of expiry printed on the package. Products with a shelf life of two years, such as canned foods like hummus, fowl, etc, should be removed from shelves 45 to 60 days before the date of expiry. Products with a shelf life of one year, such as canned tuna, biscuits, etc, should be removed from shelves at least 30 days before the date of expiry.

President of the Consumer Protection Association (CPA) Mishal Al-Manea explained all markets should respect these periods, otherwise they will be penalized. "Customers can report violations at the Consumer Protection Department. The consumer also has the right to return the product if they find it is near expiry, if they have the invoice," he told Kuwait Times.

There are instructions for receiving and storing food products. "Certain rules should be followed when receiving products from suppliers. The basic rules should be applied to all products. For instance, the store should not accept products whose production period is longer than the period remaining to their expiry," explained Manea.

"Fresh products or daily-produced items, whose expiry period is less than a week, should be removed from the



shelves or refrigerators one day before or on the same day of expiry, depending on the condition of the product," he added. The responsibility is on both the director of the supermarket as well as the product distributor. The director should check the expiry of all food products.

Kuwait Times asked various grocery stores and supermarkets about the possibility of refunds for prod-

ucts with expiry dates closer than the period set by the ministry. Two well-known supermarkets and two co-ops in different areas confirmed that if the consumer wants a refund for any product whose expiry date is shorter than the period set by the ministry, then they will be refunded. But the consumer should always keep the invoice to be able to return the product.



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FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 353-355-356  
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618  
P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Local spotlight

## Charting a new course: Capitalism with less carbon

By Ali Agha

Kuwait is a wealthy country, one of the world's largest producers of oil. Carbon is the stuff of diamonds and fossil fuels (including oil and gas), the primary energy source powering our technological civilization. Prosperity demands lots of energy and we harvest that energy from the environment. But the basic physics of energy, heat and work known as thermodynamics tell us that harvesting energy from the environment must produce waste that gets dumped back into the environment in the process. Kuwait has one of the world's highest carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions per capita.

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases act like an insulating blanket, trapping some of the heat that Earth might have otherwise radiated out into space. As CO<sub>2</sub> molecules soak up this energy, they vibrate and re-emit the energy back in all directions. About half of that energy goes out into space, and the rest returns to Earth as heat, contributing to the 'greenhouse effect'.

Last year, Kuwait had 19 days where temperatures soared to 50 degrees Celsius or higher. For every ton of carbon that gets used up in a combustion reaction, a maximum of 3.67 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> can be produced. That's billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year worldwide. There is little doubt that carbon is the currency of climate change, creating a global consensus on the need to act now, to start decarbonizing. We cannot eliminate carbon emissions, though we hope to reach carbon neutrality or net zero at some point, to remove as much CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere as we release into it by 2050. Capitalism has thrived on carbon since the start of the industrial revolution. The challenge now is to chart a new course: Capitalism with less carbon.

More than 100 countries have already pledged net-zero emissions in the coming decades. The UK and the EU are both committed to net zero by 2050. Saudi Arabia has committed to reaching net zero by 2060. Kuwait's promise at the COP26 summit in Glasgow last year was a pledge to cut 7.4 percent of greenhouse emissions by 2035. This commitment is perhaps indicative of a number of issues that impede the transition to a sustainable energy system in Kuwait. You can read Dr Osama Al-Sayegh's cogent analysis of those issues in his paper, "Barriers facing the transition toward sustainable energy system in Kuwait."

A modest target is better than no target and it need not be the end of the road. In fact, given the conflict in Europe and the uncertainty gripping global supply chains and energy markets, now might be the time to start taking small steps toward curbing domestic energy demand, a key driver of carbon emissions in Kuwait. Change is hard but during a crisis, the door to change opens just a crack.

The country needs a credible plan to hit the 2035 emission reduction target. Credible plans establish priorities and force transparency into the debate, allowing everyone to see the costs, the trade-offs and the values such plans embody. Credible plans run on credible numbers. To start, every government and major private sector organization should build its own comprehensive carbon accounting and control system that runs alongside its financial equivalent. The carbon accounting system must track Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting Standard. Scope 1 covers emissions from operations under the organization's control, including onsite fuel combustion, direct emissions from its own activities.

Scope 2 covers emissions from usage of electricity, steam, heat and/or cooling purchased from power generators, indirect emissions attributable to the organization's energy use. With a carbon accounting system, organizations can effectively manage their carbon inventories: Measure it, own it and control it.

A carbon accounting system could also be an important productivity lever. When looking at carbon inventory data in the proper context, decision makers might spot opportunities for raw material cost savings by controlling fugitive emissions for example. They might also identify low-cost opportunities for abating emissions through circularity and renewables, to lower their cost per ton of abated carbon.

Capitalism with less carbon requires investing in trees and green technologies. But to make it a success, we must recalibrate our consumption habits and balance them with a serious drive to conserve resources, to produce less waste. We can start today. Start small, think big and scale fast.

# Kuwait ex-addict tells story of addiction, road to recovery

## Mental health, struggle with social acceptance drive people to take drugs

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Ex-addicts live their lives on the edge. The shame, guilt and powerlessness can be overwhelming. Those who've successfully recovered worked hard to understand what led them to substance abuse, and how they can keep the addiction from invading their lives again. An ex-addict, 25, who asked to remain anonymous, told Kuwait Times about his story with addiction and how substance abuse was an intruder that encroached onto every aspect of his life.

He remembers the first time he smoked a drug-laced cigarette at the age of 12. "It's just for fun," his friend told him. "Hashish was the drug in the cigarette I smoked. My friend told me to smoke just for fun and said its effect is temporary and will vanish before I reached home. I tried it - it felt like an adventure; it gave me some sort of happiness," the ex-addict said.

At the age of 15, he struggled with tough exams like his peers. "I saw my unintelligent friend studying and memorizing the curriculum while taking a pill. When I asked him about it, he said this pill increases his focus and calms his nerves in order to answer the exam questions smoothly, and gave me one. It was Tramadol 225, which we call 'strawberry'. As my body size was different, I took a double dose, which is considered an overdose," he recalled.

His addiction continued for "fun" only, but as time passed, the ex-addict fell deeper and deeper into the abyss, which set him on a dangerous path. "You do drugs to forget and put your troubles out of your mind, but when you come crashing down, it makes your entire situation worse," he noted.

### Teachers too

He claimed students are not the only ones who are involved in addiction, but teachers too. "I remember the day our teacher got a panic attack because of a drug he took a day before, whose effect was still continuing. The teacher would take drugs from student distributors in exchange for services he provided, such as high grades," he alleged.

Addiction is something that can affect the human brain and behavior. When someone is addicted to drugs, they can't resist the urge to use them, no matter how much harm the drugs may cause. The ex-addict told Kuwait Times that many reasons lead to addiction, which the society does not consider as serious.

"One of the reasons that led me deeper into addiction is mental issues. All addicts escape their reality of loneliness, trauma, depression, abuse or having no one there to care or listen. Even the support from family is missing. Some parents do not harm their children directly or deliberately, but because of their habits and how they were raised, they consider it the correct way to raise their children too," he explained.

According to him, the methods used to raise children nowadays are not correct. "They do not allow us to express our feelings. Parents do not understand the emotions that even boys can go through. They do not understand our needs that need to be heard and they still cannot understand the need to heal from mental issues. Addicts escape reality in an unreal world through drugs. Even drugs sometimes make us



feel insecure about ourselves and make us aggressive towards people we love, people who we want just a hug from," he said.

At the age of 17, he started buying drugs with his own money, and the quality and quantity he used increased over time. "Drugs are available everywhere. The price of a narcotic pill ranges between KD 1 to KD 50 depending on the quantity and type. If we could not have access to drugs we needed, we used to take a veterinary drug that is considered somewhat legal, similar to catnip," he said.

"There was no direct communication with the dealer - we dealt with the distributors, who were all

my emotions, did not judge me and accepted the fact that I'm not a bad person because I am an addict. When I see people who do not accept me, it proves that I'm not worthy. The rejection breaks and destroys addicts and adds more insecurities to the list," he explained.

He added addicts cannot survive withdrawal symptoms unless there is someone who supports them and stands by their side even during minor setbacks, and the treatment process needs baby steps. Even after recovery, an addict still struggles with the urge to return to addiction to escape reality. According to him, addiction is much cheaper than therapy. Also, government institutions are not trustworthy, and addicts are afraid of getting arrested. "Sadly, addicts also struggle with the social stigma that often surrounds addiction," he rued.

Forcing addicts into treatment is futile. One has to voluntarily seek out treatment to have a better chance of recovery. The greatest problem of getting out of addiction is being addicted to something else, he said. "When a person gets out of addiction, he gets addicted to something else. No fewer than 70 percent of young people are addicted, whether to drugs, alcohol, a person or self-harm. Prices of drugs are affordable for children or adults, and it's easy to buy, not necessary from a dealer, but also medical staff," he added.

Addiction makes a person more social, while ex-addicts suffer from being introverted and cannot socialize with people as they did before. "The normal life I used to have as an addict is gone. New and even old things that used to help me overcome my problems and be happy have become meaningless. Life becomes a drag, even prayer and getting closer to God is cumbersome," he said.

Recovered addicts often hesitate to tell their families and friends about their problems for fear of being criticized or abandoned. Ex-addicts told Kuwait Times their biggest fear is for their family to learn about their addiction. "I wasn't afraid of dying of an overdose, but of my family being ashamed if they know about my addiction. I only seek acceptance - I'm afraid my family could lose hope in me," he indicated.

## Drugs are available everywhere

students. The students' monthly income ranged from KD 1,000 to KD 10,000, and we always saw them driving the most luxurious cars despite their young age. The distributors dropped out of school because of their high income. Dealers even work from jail. You do not meet them in person - they leave the drug on the tyre of a car and send you the location of the car," he told Kuwait Times.

### Road to recovery

The ex-addict said his recovery began when he found a positive relationship. "Recovering from an addiction is difficult when it is done alone. It's important to understand that addicts need their loved ones to stick to their sobriety plan. The best thing people can do for someone in recovery from an addiction is stand by their side during their ongoing journey," he said.

"I found acceptance by a person, who understood

## Truck driver dead in accident

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Force said a concrete truck flipped over and caught fire on Seventh Ring Road. The driver was trapped in the vehicle and died in the accident. Jleeb firemen responded, freed the body and handed it to interior ministry authorities.

### Car fall

A 63-year-old Kuwaiti woman suffered various fractures after her car fell from the first to the ground floor of Amiri Hospital parking lot after colliding with a pole. The woman was taken to hospital for treatment.

### Two-car crash

Qurain firemen responded to a call about an



**KUWAIT:** Firemen are seen at the site of the fatal truck crash.

accident between two vehicles on King Fahad Expressway, resulting in the death of a Kuwaiti man in military uniform.



**The vehicle after it fell from the Amiri Hospital parking lot.**



## Mol: 308 residency violators arrested in Mahboula campaign

**KUWAIT:** On the instructions of First Deputy Premier, Interior Minister Gen (rtd) Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and follow up by Undersecretary Lt Gen Anwar Al-Barjas to go after violators, Ahmadi security directorate carried out a surprise campaign in Mahboula, resulting in the arrest of 308 residency violators. Two other cases of drugs and liquor were reported. Nahda, criminal detectives, and Mol's public relations and security information department participated in the campaign.







Death of 3 sisters spotlights India dowry violence

## Graft-accused Gupta brothers face extradition to S Africa from UAE

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LOS ANGELES, United States: US Vice President Kamala Harris (c) speaks with faith leaders including Reverend Dr Amos Brown about reproductive health care during a roundtable at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor on the sidelines of the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

# Harris announces migration funds

## Mexico, other countries snub Americas summit

**LOS ANGELES, United States:** US Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday announced another \$1.9 billion in private-sector funding to boost jobs in hopes of reducing migration from Central America, at a Latin America summit in Los Angeles snubbed by the leaders of Mexico and other affected countries.

Harris has been given the unenviable task of tackling the root causes of rising migration into the United States, an issue seized upon by the rival Republican Party that has become a top priority for President Joe Biden at a week-long Summit of the Americas.

A day before Biden's arrival, the White House said that Harris was unveiling another \$1.9 billion in commitments in addition to \$1.2 billion announced last year from businesses with the aim of creating economic opportunity in the impoverished so-called Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Harris will also give details on the "Central American Service Corps" funded through US aid to provide opportunities for young people. The investments aim "to provide hope for people in the region to build safe and prosperous lives at home," a White House statement said.

### Creating jobs at home

On the visit to her home state, Harris held a dinner Monday with regional business leaders and was due to meet Tuesday with civil society leaders to promote women's empowerment in Central America. But none of the Northern Triangle leaders are attending the summit, nor is President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico, the crucial US partner on migration policy due to the 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) shared border.

The White House said 23 heads of state were coming to Los Angeles, including the leaders of key players such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. Mexico

and the Northern Triangle nations will still participate at a lower level. The new funding announced by Harris included a commitment by credit card giant Visa to invest more than \$270 million over five years with an aim of bringing one million more businesses and 6.5 million people into a formal financial system in a region rife with corruption.

The North America branch of Yazaki, the Japanese autoparts maker, will invest \$110 million, hiring more than 14,000 new employees in Guatemala and El Salvador, the White House said. Other companies making commitments include clothing maker Gap and Millicon, a telecommunications company that plans to invest \$700 million to expand mobile and broadband networks across the three countries.

### 'Lack of respect'

Lopez Obrador, a leftist populist who had developed a surprisingly close relationship with Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, on Monday made good on threats to boycott the summit due to Biden's refusal to invite the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela on the grounds that the summit is only for democracies.

"You cannot have a Summit of the Americas if you do not have all the countries of the Americas attending," Lopez Obrador said, complaining of US "hegemony" and "lack of respect for nations." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought until the last minute to woo Lopez Obrador, including by seeking lower-level participation by Cuba and easing some restrictions including on US flights to the communist island.

But US officials said they saw no reciprocity from Cuban authorities, who recently went ahead with the trial of two dissident artists, making an invitation politically unpalatable in Washington where anti-communist Cuban-Americans hold sway.

"The challenges that these three regimes pose," State Department spokesman Ned Price said, "were just insurmountable when you talk about bringing together a summit where democratic governance-democratic values-is on the agenda."

Cuba-an arch-enemy of Washington since the aftermath of its 1959 communist revolution despite tentative attempts at a thaw by former president Barack Obama-denounced its exclusion from the summit as "anti-democratic."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro-considered

illegitimate by Washington due to a 2018 election in which wide irregularities were reported-accused the United States of "discrimination."

But Bob Menendez, a Cuban-American Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hailed the administration for standing firm. "I join those increasingly concerned by President Lopez Obrador's decision to stand with dictators and despots over representing the interests of the Mexican people in a summit with his partners from across the hemisphere," Menendez said. —AFP

## Swedish government averts political crisis with new deal

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden:** Sweden's government on Tuesday averted a political crisis, after it clinched a last-minute deal to ensure its justice minister survived a no-confidence vote in parliament. The deal stems from winning the support of an independent lawmaker who is determined that Stockholm does not cave into Turkish conditions for supporting Sweden's bid to join NATO.

The potential crisis came just three months ahead of general elections and less than a year after the Social Democratic government was toppled and then returned to power within weeks. The no-confidence vote held on Tuesday was launched by the far-right Sweden Democrats who accuse Justice Minister Morgan Johansson of failing to stem rising gang violence.

Sweden has struggled to reduce the shootings and bombings that have plagued the country in recent years, usually due to gangland rivalries or organised criminals battling over the drug market. "We have reached a point where the single most important crime policy measure is to give Morgan Johansson an early retirement," Sweden Democrat MP Henrik Vinge told parliament last week.

Supported by the conservative Moderate Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats, 174 of 349 MPs voted for the motion, one short of the absolute majority needed to oust the minister. Of the remaining, 97 voted against, 70 abstained and eight were absent.

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, who became Sweden's first woman premier when she took over the reins in November, had said she would resign if a no-confidence vote passed against Johansson, saying all government decisions were made collectively.

### Assurances on Turkey

With one vote missing, the situation hinged on parliamentarian Amineh Kakabaveh, a former Left Party member sitting in parliament as an independent since 2019. Kakabaveh, who is of Iranian-Kurdish origin, has become a focal point in Swedish politics over Turkey's opposition to Stockholm's bid to join NATO.

Ankara accuses Stockholm of providing a haven for



STOCKHOLM: Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson (C) and ministers of the Government of Sweden walk to the Parliament for a no-confidence vote against Sweden's Justice minister Morgan Johansson in Stockholm, on June 7, 2022. —AFP

the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), listed as a "terrorist" group by Turkey and its Western allies, and has demanded the extradition of people it considers extremists and the lifting of a weapons embargo.

Kakabaveh, who has no direct political link to the PKK, had sought assurances that the ruling Social Democrats would not cave in to Turkish demands, saying otherwise she would vote against Johansson. Kakabaveh said Tuesday she had received the assurances she wanted and therefore abstained.

Speaking in parliament, Kakabaveh said her main concern was protecting Swedish sovereignty against the influence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whom she accused of being "authoritarian" and "operating a racist policy against Kurds".

"Should we adapt our freedom of expression and assembly to Erdogan's demands?" she asked fellow lawmakers. Last November, Kakabaveh and the government agreed that she would provide the deciding vote to bring the cabinet into power in exchange for deeper cooperation with the Democratic Union Party (PYD), the political arm of the YPG. The People's Protection Units (YPG), is a US-backed Syrian Kurdish group that Ankara considers a "terrorist" offshoot of the PKK. The Social Democratic government confirmed Tuesday the deal was still in force, implying it was prepared to stand up to Erdogan's demands. —AFP

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## International

## Graft-accused Indian-born Gupta brothers face extradition to S Africa from UAE

‘Extradition is a complex process involving many role players’

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa:** Two Indian-born brothers who allegedly wove a web of corruption across South Africa have been arrested in Dubai and face extradition, in a landmark step in Pretoria's anti-graft fight. Dubai police confirmed Tuesday they had arrested Atul and Rajesh Gupta after receiving a so-called red notice from Interpol, and were coordinating with the South African authorities for their extradition.

South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority confirmed the contact but refused to give details. "Extradition is a complex process involving many role players, including the executive," said spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga.

The arrests bring a glimmer of hope that the alleged masterminds behind South Africa's darkest corruption scandal will face prosecution after years of legal fog and delay. The two tycoons are accused of paying bribes for state contracts and wielding influence over ministerial appointments in a scandal that clouded former president Jacob Zuma's administration and eventually forced him from office.

By one estimate, several billion dollars were lost to the South African economy

as a result of their activities. After Zuma resigned in February 2018, his deputy Cyril Ramaphosa took over. Ramaphosa vowed to make the fight against graft the cornerstone of his presidency. But prosecutions have been rare, public scepticism runs deep and Ramaphosa himself is now fighting accusations of scandal.

## ‘State capture’

The Guptas came to South Africa in



## Family befriended Zuma

1993, eventually building a sprawling empire in mining, computer technology and media. Some members of their family were granted South African citizenship. But the pair and other family members fled the country shortly after a judicial

commission, launched in 2018, started probing "state capture"—the alleged looting of state assets—and the brothers' influence over the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

After arduous investigations, Chief Justice Raymond Zondo this year published a report that described how the brothers became intertwined with the highest levels of government and the ANC. The family befriended Zuma to the point where they influenced cabinet appointments, and infiltrated state-owned enterprises, where they secured some of the juiciest contracts, it said.

Zuma "would do anything that the Guptas wanted him to do for them," Zondo said in his report published this year. Zuma was last year jailed for 15 months for refusing to testify before the investigators. He was released on parole, having served just two months of the term.

An independent investigator estimated that the cost of the Guptas' alleged illicit activities in South Africa could be as much as 50 billion rand (\$3.2 billion) over the years. Their current arrest is however for fraud and money laundering



**BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa:** File photo shows Atul Gupta attending the 53rd national conference of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein. Two Indian-born businessmen brothers have been arrested in Dubai and are facing extradition to South Africa. — AFP

in connection with a 25-million rand contract paid to a Gupta-linked company, Nulane Investment, for an agricultural feasibility study in the central Free State province.

Their arrests came almost a year after Interpol issued a red notice—a global

alert enabling law enforcement to arrest a person sought for prosecution or to serve a custodial sentence and hold them pending extradition. A third brother, Ajay Gupta, is not cited in the current case, but has been named in another embezzlement and corruption case. — AFP

## Leading presidential aspirants in Nigeria ruling party

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) party holds its primary election on Tuesday to choose a candidate for next year's presidential election to replace Muhammadu Buhari. The winner will face former vice president Atiku Abubakar of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) among other candidates in February 2023, when Buhari steps down after reaching his constitutional limit of two terms in office.

The PDP held its own convention last week where 75-year-old Abubakar, an influential and wealthy Muslim politician from the north who has contested five times for the top job, emerged as flagbearer. More than 20 aspirants are vying for the APC ticket and leading the pack are:

## Yemi Osinbajo

The 65-year-old Osinbajo has been Nigeria's vice president since 2015. A university professor and lawyer, Osinbajo is a Christian from the southwest and has promised to continue with Buhari's policies if he is given the ticket and wins next year's poll. He was an ally of ex-Lagos governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu, another contender from the region, though the two men are now competing in the primary.

## Bola Ahmed Tinubu

A national leader of the APC and two-term former governor of Lagos state, Tinubu is a popular politician with a network of supporters across



**MADRID, Spain:** Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (R) and Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari talk during their meeting at the La Moncloa Palace in Madrid. — AFP

Nigeria. He is credited with having contributed to the rapid transformation of Lagos as Nigeria's main commercial hub. The 70-year-old former senator from southwest Nigeria was instrumental to Buhari's victory in 2015, after three unsuccessful bids. That landmark win against an incumbent president was the first opposition victory in Nigeria's history. A wealthy Muslim, Tinubu was accused of corruption after leaving office, but he was later cleared. He has said that becoming Nigeria's president was his life-long ambition.

A two-term governor of southern oil-rich Rivers state, Amaechi recently resigned as Buhari's transport minister to run for the APC ticket. The 57-year-old Christian has also been speaker of the state parliament. With a wide network of contacts and supporters across Nigeria, Amaechi is considered an influential and serious contender. He is credited with modernising Nigeria's railways and constructing new tracks linking the nation's regions. — AFP

tions this month and an upcoming investigation by MPs into whether he lied to parliament over "Partygate".

Even without any obvious candidate to succeed him, former Tory party leader William Hague argued that Johnson should now "look for an honorable exit". Comparing Monday's margin to votes that ultimately toppled Johnson's predecessors Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, Hague said it showed "a greater level of rejection than any Tory leader has ever endured and survived". "Deep inside, he should recognize that, and turn his mind to getting out in a way that spares party and country such agonies and uncertainties," Hague wrote in *The Times*.

But in his personal life, populist politics and bombastic style, Johnson is unlike previous Conservative leaders, and his camp spent Monday arguing that even a majority of one would suffice. Johnson, 57, needed the backing of 180 of the 359 Conservatives MPs to survive the vote. Most of Johnson's cabinet publicly backed him in the secret ballot. But more than 40 percent of the parliamentary party did not.

Under current Tory rules, the prime minister cannot be challenged again for a year, which leaves little time for any new leader to emerge before the next general election due by 2024. But the party's "1922 committee" of MPs, tasked with overseeing leadership challenges, says it could easily change the rules if a majority backs it.

Senior backbencher Tobias Ellwood, who voted against Johnson, said the prime minister should revamp his cabinet to "bring in fresh talent and actually start to focus on the big issues". But Ellwood said Johnson was likely to ignore such advice and faced being kicked out before long. — AFP

appointed to this commission is actually a disgrace". And on Tuesday, even before the report was published, dozens of Zionist reserve soldiers and students — some of them dressed like Palestinian Hamas militants — marched outside the UN building in Geneva in protest.

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, who heads the Zionist NGO Shurat Hadin that organized the protest, decried "a witch-hunt against (the Zionist entity)". And she slammed the Human Rights Council, which will kick off its 50th session next week where the report will be presented, as "the most anti-Semitic body in the world". — AFP

## Johnson fights on despite...

Continued from Page 1

The prime minister's team tried to regain the offensive by pointing to a set piece speech expected in the coming days on new economic support measures, as Britons struggle with a cost-of-living crisis. The government is also expected to introduce new legislation to unilaterally walk away from its post-Brexit commitments on Northern Ireland, placating some right-wingers but likely infuriating the European Union.

However, a cabinet reshuffle to replenish his team of Brexit loyalists is not "currently" on the cards, Johnson's spokesman said. Nor is a snap general election, the prime minister said after the vote, pointing to the pressing need for government unity in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Britain has been at the forefront of European military support for the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who spoke by phone to Johnson in the hours before Monday's Conservative ballot.

At an online event on Tuesday hosted by the *Financial Times*, Zelensky said he was "very happy" that Johnson had survived the vote. "Boris Johnson is a true friend of Ukraine," the president added, speaking through a translator. But at home, many question whether Johnson can recover voters' trust, as the party braces for two Westminster by-elections.

## Ending Zionist occupation...

Continued from Page 1

The Zionist entity has slammed the creation of the investigation, and has also loudly criticized Pillay for "championing an anti-(Zionist) agenda".

Zionist foreign ministry spokesman Lior Haiat told reporters in February that "the fact that she was

## 27 killed in Sudan ethnic clashes

**KHARTOUM, Sudan:** Heavy fighting in Sudan's west and south has killed at least 27 people and left dozens wounded, residents said Tuesday, with the United Nations envoy saying he was "deeply concerned." In separate incidents, clashes broke out in the restive Darfur region in a bitter land dispute, leaving 16 dead, as well as in South Kordofan state, where 11 people died after an argument between two people reportedly escalated into wider gun battles.

The latest violence comes as Sudan grapples with the fallout from a coup in October last year led by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. In West Darfur, the arid region of Sudan bordering Chad, fighting took place near Kolbus, some 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the state capital El Geneina. Attackers set fire to villages leaving them burned to the ground.

It is the latest in several rounds of clashes pitting largely settled farmers against semi-nomadic Arab pastoralist groups. "Fighting erupted over a land dispute between member of an Arab tribe and a farmer from a non-Arab one," said a leader from the non-Arab Gimir people. "The clashes killed eight people from Gimir, and three villages were burned."

A leader from the Arab Rizeigat community said fighting began over a dispute over land. "Eight of our people were killed," he said. "Clashes are ongoing." In South Kordofan, fighting erupted between rival Arab groups—the Hawazma and Kenana groups—near Abu Jebeiha.



**KHARTOUM, Sudan:** Sudanese demonstrators take to the streets in Khartoum on June 3, 2022 to demand justice for scores of pro-democracy protesters killed during the suppression of a 2019 sit-in against now ousted dictator Omar al-Bashir. — AFP

"At least 11 people were killed and 35 wounded in fighting," said one resident, who is involved in mediation efforts between the rivals. He said fighting began as a dispute between two people, but spread into clashes between the groups.

"I am deeply concerned about inter-communal clashes," UN special representative Volker Perthes said Tuesday, over the fighting in South Kordofan. "I call on security forces to secure the area and ensure the protection of civilians, and urge local leaders to undertake mediation efforts".

Both Darfur and South Kordofan suffered heavily during decades of civil war during the three-decade rule of president Omar al-Bashir, who armed some Arab groups to fight ethnic minority rebels demanding an end to marginalisation by his Arab-dominated regime. — AFP

## Indonesia, Malaysia summon India envoys over Prophet remarks

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia and Malaysia have both summoned India's envoys in their countries over "derogatory" remarks made about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by two officials of the South Asian nation's ruling party, their foreign ministries said Tuesday. It comes as anger spreads across the Arab and Muslim world, with various Middle Eastern nations summoning New Delhi's envoys and a Kuwaiti supermarket removing Indian products.

Remarks by a spokeswoman for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who has since been suspended, sparked the furor. Another official, the party's media chief for Delhi, posted a tweet last week about the Prophet (PBUH) that was later deleted. Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Teuku Faizasyah told AFP that India's ambassador in Jakarta, Manoj Kumar Bharti, was summoned on Monday, with the government

lodging a complaint about anti-Muslim rhetoric.

In a statement posted on Twitter, the ministry said Indonesia — the most populous Muslim-majority country — "strongly condemns unacceptable derogatory remarks" made by "two Indian politicians" against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The tweet did not mention the officials by name but was an apparent reference to BJP spokeswoman Nupur Sharma and the party's Delhi media chief Naveen Jindal, who was expelled from the BJP, according to Indian media reports.

Malaysia also "unreservedly condemns the derogatory remarks" by the Indian politicians, its foreign ministry said in a statement late Tuesday, adding that it had conveyed its "total repudiation" to India's envoy. "Malaysia calls upon India to work together in ending the Islamophobia and cease any provocative acts in the interest of peace and stability," it said.

Modi's party, which in the past decade has established dominance in India by championing Hindu identity, has frequently been accused of discriminatory policies towards the country's Muslim minority. On Sunday, it suspended Sharma for expressing "views contrary to the party's position" and said it "respects all religions". — AFP

## EU agrees single charger standard...

Continued from Page 1

"We are able to say to the lobbies, 'sorry, but here it is Europe and we're working for our people'," he said.

The 27-nation union is home to 450 million people, some of the world's richest consumers, and the imposition of the USB-C as standard could affect the entire global market. "This is a rule which will apply to everyone," said MEP Alex Agius Saliba, who led the negotiations for the European Parliament. "If Apple ... or anyone wants to market their product, sell their products within our internal market, they have to abide by our rules and their device has to be USB-C," he said.

The rules will also give shoppers the option to opt out of receiving a new charging cable when purchasing an electronic device. And in order to prepare for the

future, the law has provisions to set a standard on wireless charging. This was "not to end up ... legislating for a technology which is basically dying out, so we are also planning ahead," Saliba said.

Apple, which already uses USB-C connectors on some of its iPads and laptop computers, has insisted any legislation to force a universal charger for all mobiles in the European Union is unwarranted. "The proposal is vastly disproportionate to any perceived problem," the company said in its response to the commission when the law was being drafted.

Imposing a charger standard, it argued, would stifle innovation and "reduce European consumer choice by removing more affordable older models from the market". Consumers currently have to decide between phones served by three main chargers: "Lightning" for Apple handsets, the micro-USB widely used on most other mobile phones and the newer USB-C that is increasingly coming into use. That range is already greatly simplified from 2009, when dozens of different types of chargers were bundled with mobile phones, creating piles of electronic garbage when users changed brands. — AFP



## International

# Death of three sisters and children spotlights India dowry violence

## India's National Crime Records Bureau recorded nearly 7,000 dowry-related killings in 2020

**JAIPUR:** Before the three sisters and their children were found dead in a well, they left a message blaming the family they had married into. Kalu, Kamlesh and Mamta Meena were victims of a dispute over dowries, the often hefty sums Indian parents pay to marry off their daughters. The sisters had wed brothers from the same household and lived under the same roof, but suffered constant violence from their husbands and in-laws, according to the trio's grieving relatives. They were abused constantly, they say, including when their father failed to meet demands for more money.



Leaving was never seen as an option

All three were found dead last month near their marital home, a village on the outskirts of Jaipur, along with Kalu's four-year-old son and infant child. Both Kamlesh and Mamta were pregnant. "We don't wish to die but death is better than their abuse," read a message on WhatsApp left by one of the sisters after their disappearance, a cousin said. "Our in-laws are the reason behind our deaths. We are dying together because it's better than dying every day." Authorities are investigating and currently treating the deaths as suicides, a senior police officer in Jaipur told AFP.

The sisters' distraught father, Sardar Meena, said life had been a living hell for his daughters, whose husbands banned them from pursuing their education and constantly harassed them for more payments. "We had already given them so many things, you can see them in their home," he told AFP, counting off the beds, television sets and refrigerator he provided to the family.

"I am the father of six girls, there is a limit to how much I can give," added Sardar, who earns a meagre income as a farmer. "I had educated them and just doing that was difficult." Police have arrested the three husbands, their mother and a sister-in-law on charges of dowry harassment and spousal abuse. AFP's attempts to contact the men's family were unsuccessful.

### 'Dignity of the family'

India outlawed the practice of paying dowries more than 60 years ago, and harassment or extortion over the



**DUDU, India:** Farmer Sardar Meena (center left) stands next to the well where his three married daughters and two grandchildren were found dead in a well in Dudu village of India's Rajasthan state. — AFP

payments is a criminal offence. But the custom persists, particularly in rural areas, undergirded by social conventions that treat women as an economic burden and demand compensation for accepting them as brides.

Local news outlets regularly report on marital property disputes that end in murder. Last year, a man in the southern state of Kerala was jailed for life after using venomous snakes to murder his wife and take sole control of their property, which included a new car and 500,000 rupees (\$6,500) provided by her family as dowry. Courts have also been punitive in their treatment of dowry harassment, last month jailing a man in Kerala for 10 years after his payment demands were blamed for driving his wife to suicide. A pervasive taboo around divorce—only one in 100 Indian marriages end in dissolution—has kept married women from contemplating escape from abusive situations. For the Meena sisters, leaving was never seen as an option, even though their relatives were aware of the violence. "Once they were married, we thought they should remain in their marital homes, to maintain the dignity of the family," Sardar said. "If we had gotten them remarried in another home, and if that situation turned out to be worse, then what will we do? We'll lose face."

### 'End of the road'

India's National Crime Records Bureau recorded nearly 7,000 dowry-related killings in 2020 — around 19 women every day. The same agency reported that more than 1,700 women killed themselves that year over "dowry-related issues".

Both figures are dependent on reports to police, and experts say the actual number of cases is much higher, as with other data on family violence. "In an hour, some 30 to 40 women are victims of domestic violence... and these are just documented (cases), so it must be much more than that," Kavita Srivastava, an activist with India's People's Union for Civil Liberties, told AFP.

Srivastava said the dowry dispute involving the Meena sisters was just one part of their tormentors' efforts to control their lives and restrict their independence. The fundamental cause, she added, was a widespread social acceptance of domestic violence in India that leaves women feeling trapped in oppressive and violent relationships. "If even one woman has to kill herself because her marital life seems like the end of the road," she said, "I feel the Indian state has failed for those women." — AFP

"They are my best friends, and we were more than a family," said Bappy. "We worked so many nights together. They are also from the same background as I have. I know how devastating their deaths are to their poor families."

### 'Young brothers'

Kumira is only eight kilometres (five miles) from the B.M Container Depot in Sitakunda, where the blaze broke out late Saturday night. Authorities have accused the facility operators of not telling firefighters volatile hydrogen peroxide was stored on site, and when they unwittingly doused it with water, the cache of chemicals detonated.

Five of Bappy's crewmates have been confirmed dead, two are missing and feared dead, and the other seven are all critically injured, flown in military helicopters to Bangladesh's best hospital for burn victims.

Local media said the Kumira firefighters did not have any training in chemical fires, which require sophisticated fire-fighting equipment—not available at their station—and careful handling. "The depot did not tell us that there were chemicals close to the garment containers," said Purnachandra Mutsuddi, a regional fire official. Had they known, he added, "We would never send our firefighting team to splash water on the fire. Now our young brothers are dead." More than 40 people were killed in total, among them at least nine firefighters, making it the nationwide service's worst-ever single disaster.

Bangladeshi infrastructure has long been poor but its economy is now booming, a combination that keeps firefighters busy with frequent blazes in factories and multi-storey buildings. Notoriously, the Rana Plaza garment factory complex in Dhaka collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,100 people. Authorities later found it had been built flouting building and fire safety laws.

More recently, 54 people died in a factory fire last July. Bappy was still on duty at the station on Monday, where colleague Riad Hossain—part of a reinforcement crew for the blaze—recalled chatting to Rana immediately before he responded to the distress call and went to his death. "I don't believe they are now gone," said Riad, breaking down in tears. — AFP

## Bangladesh firefighter's unit decimated by blast

**SITAKUNDA:** Firefighter Rakibul Hasan Bappy's engine was the first to arrive at a blazing Bangladeshi container depot. After a devastating explosion, everyone else in his 15-man crew is now either dead, missing or injured. The 22-year-old—who joined the fire service three years ago—had been ordered to increase the water pressure moments before the monumental blast lit up the night sky for miles around.

He stepped away to the fire truck, only to be confronted when he returned by carnage and the bodies of friends and crewmates. "I will never forget this till my death," Bappy told AFP, trembling as he recalled the scene at the weekend's disastrous blast.

"All those colleagues, gone in front of my eyes. We were energised to work, but when I saw them dead, I don't know how to express it. I am not feeling right anymore. "God has gifted me a second life," he added. "I can't believe I'm alive."

Firefighters in Bangladesh are badly equipped and poorly paid—salaries start at \$200 a month—compared to some in private jobs or army soldiers, who can be sent on lucrative UN peacekeeping missions. But for rural families, a government job is one-way ticket out of poverty, bringing with it steady and regular pay hikes and pensions for the employee and their spouse.

Tens of thousands of people apply every year for the firefighter test and Bappy, the only child of a farming family in the rural northern district of Mymensingh, thought he was the "luckiest" man in his village when he got the job. "For my parents and me, it was the proudest moment," he said. "I felt proud because I know I could serve the nation." Posted to Kumira, in Chittagong, he made friends with fellow new recruits Mohammad Rana Mia and Moniruzzaman. Both of them were killed at the weekend, their bodies ripped apart by the explosion.



**SITAKUNDA, Bangladesh:** Firefighters carry the dead body of a victim from the site after a fire broke out at a container storage facility in Sitakunda, about 40 km (25 miles) from the key port of Chittagong. — AFP



Nupur Sharma

## Indian firebrand caught in row over Prophet remarks

**NEW DELHI:** Her incendiary remarks on the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) sparked outrage from the Islamic world and a diplomatic furore, but Nupur Sharma has long been a firebrand mouthpiece for India's Hindu nationalist government. The 37-year-old has been a regular fixture of TV news debates, distinguishing herself as a zealous and combative advocate for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda. Her stature had risen in concert with the fortunes of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which in the past decade has established itself as India's dominant political force by championing Hindu identity.

But last week she set off a global backlash after commenting on the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) relationship with his youngest wife during a broadcast debate. Several Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East swiftly called in their Indian ambassadors to lodge protests, and her remarks were blamed for inciting violent clashes in one Indian state. Sharma — whom AFP could not reach for comment — issued a public apology and said she had received death threats in the wake of her television appearance.

Her party also went into damage control, suspending Sharma for expressing "views contrary to the party's position". "The BJP strongly denounces insult of any religious personalities of any religion," it said in a statement. But by suspending her, experts say the party has made Sharma a scapegoat for a broader political culture that has long dealt in anti-Islamic rhetoric.

"The party uses these hotheads to drive their agenda but when they go overboard they are forced to pull back," Delhi-based analyst Parsa Venkateshwar Rao told AFP. "It's a cat-and-mouse game that they play. The party top brass allows the spokespersons to raise the temperature, and when they feel it is going out of control they get into action." Until last week, Sharma was seen as one of the rising stars of a party that critics say has often targeted India's 200-million-strong minority Muslim community. A trained lawyer who attended the London School of Economics, she had unsuccessfully contested a state election for the BJP in 2015. She first joined the party's youth wing while studying at the prestigious Delhi University, where she was elected student union president and became infamous for leading a mob of students to storm a seminar hosted by a Muslim academic in 2008.—AFP

### News in brief

#### Iran sentences man to death

**TEHRAN:** An Iranian court sentenced a man to death over an April shrine attack in the Shiite holy city of Mashhad that killed two clerics, the judiciary said on Tuesday. The April 5 attack on the Imam Reza shrine, where pilgrims had gathered to worship during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, killed two clerics and injured a third. Local media at the time identified the assailant as Abdolatif Moradi, a 21-year-old Sunni extremist and ethnic Uzbek who had entered Iran illegally via the Pakistani border a year earlier. "The person who stabbed two clerics in the Imam Reza shrine at Mashhad was sentenced to death," judiciary spokesman Massoud Setayeshi told a news conference in the capital Tehran. The defence has appealed the verdict at the Supreme Court, which will review the case, the spokesman added. One of the clerics, Mohammad Aslani, died immediately while the death of the second, Sadeq Darai, was announced two days later. — AFP

#### Media boss gets six months in prison

**ALGIERS:** The director of an Algerian radio station and news website was sentenced to six months in prison Tuesday for reopening the wounds of the country's devastating 1990s conflict, a rights group said. Several journalists are in prison or facing trial in Algeria, which ranks 134th out of 180 countries on the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Index. Ihsane El Kadi, director of Radio M and news website Maghreb Emergent, was also fined 50,000 dinars (322 euros), Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights vice president Said Salhi told AFP. He remains at liberty as the court in Algiers did not issue a warrant for his arrest, Salhi added. El Kadi was found guilty of "publishing false information likely to damage national unity" and "reopening the issue of the national tragedy," Algerian media reported. — AFP

#### Death for holy city bombings

**LUCKNOW:** An Indian court has sentenced a man to death over deadly bomb blasts that rocked the Hindu holy city of Varanasi, in a trial that took 16 years to reach a verdict. Wasiullah Khan was convicted on murder and terrorism charges last week over the 2006 attacks, which targeted an ancient temple packed with worshippers and a nearby railway station. Around 20 people were killed in the blasts while dozens more were injured. Other unexploded bombs were also found and disarmed by police including at the bustling Dashashwamedh Ghat, a popular riverside prayer site where large numbers of Hindu pilgrims gather each evening. "The accused has been found guilty of murder and has been fined Rs 50,000. He will be hanged until death," the trial judge said in a court order released late Monday. — AFP

## Ghani unlikely to have fled Kabul with millions in cash

**WASHINGTON:** Former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani almost certainly did not flee Kabul as it fell to the Taliban with millions of dollars in stolen cash, a US government watchdog's report said Monday. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report, which will be published on Tuesday, is an interim document, as the office is still awaiting answers to questions sent to Ghani.

First reported on by Politico, it interviews witnesses as well as officials who were in the helicopter convoy with Ghani as they hastily fled the Presidential Palace in Kabul while the Taliban marched into the capital on August 15, 2021. In subsequent days, multiple reports suggested that Ghani and the other officials took up to \$169 million in Afghan government money with them. Ghani has always fiercely denied these claims. "Although SIGAR found that some cash was taken from the grounds of the palace and loaded onto these helicopters, evidence indicates that this number did not exceed \$1 million and may have been closer in value to \$500,000," the report states.

It based that assessment heavily on interviews with the witnesses and officials involved, all of whom said they saw no signs of such large amounts of cash on the helicopters already overloaded with people fleeing for their lives. "\$169 million in hundred dollar bills, stacked end to end, would form a block 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet tall... This block would have weighed 3,722 pounds, or nearly two tons," SIGAR noted, adding that witnesses reported "minimal luggage" on the helicopters, which had no cargo holds.

Instead one official carried around \$200,000, another carried some \$240,000 and others had "\$5,000 to \$10,000 in their pockets... No one had millions," one former senior official told SIGAR. "If true, this puts the total amount of cash on board the three helicopters at approximately \$500,000, with \$440,000 belonging to the Afghan government," the report said. "SIGAR also identified suspicious circumstances in which approximately \$5 million in cash was allegedly left behind at the presidential palace," the report added.—AFP



# Business

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

## Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company lists on Boursa Kuwait

First family-owned Gulf automotive firm to be listed on a regional stock exchange



KUWAIT: Ali Thunayan Alghanim (third right), Boursa Kuwait Board Member Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi (second left), CEO of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Fahad Ali Alghanim (third left), Khalid Waleed Al-Falah (left), Mohammed Khalid Alghanim (right) and Ali Marzouq Alghanim (second right) during the listing ceremony of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co on Boursa Kuwait on June 7, 2022.

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait witnessed on Tuesday the listing of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company KSCC, marking a historic milestone as the first family-owned company and automotive agents to be listed on an exchange across the Gulf markets. The company stated the public offering which took place a few days prior was oversubscribed approximately 11 times, mirroring investors' trust, considering the high demand during the subscription process for 45 percent of the company's shares.

The company's decision to be listed on the stock market was made in line with the forward-looking approach to current global market trends and the positive outlook for the near future. It also supports the company's vision to expand investment horizons, specifically in terms of faltering family-owned companies on both regional and international levels, as it reaches the third generation, where majority of economic indicators show that public shareholding companies will dominate the investment scene in

the near future.

The company also stated that the official listing on the Kuwait bourse stems from its sense of responsibility as a leading company in the region in



**Company marks a historic milestone**

general, and in Kuwait specifically, which aims at adopting the principles of transparency and governance. It also seeks to expand its scope of work, which will contribute to creating unique employ-

ment opportunities for youth, while deploying the company's considerable capabilities and exceptional cadres that represent a further driving force enabling it to fulfill its stated objectives.

Fahad Ali Alghanim, Chairman of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, emphasized on the listing on the exchange, stating the outstanding demand by local and foreign investors witnessed during the subscription process clearly demonstrates their deep-rooted trust in the company. This in turn, poses a substantial responsibility on Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company to ensure stakeholder needs are diligently met.

"We take pride in being the first family-owned Gulf automotive company to be listed on one of the region's leading stock exchanges, and we hope to see other family companies follow suit, as we strongly believe in the added value and true benefits it brings to the national economies," Alghanim added.

Alghanim attributed the reasons behind taking this step to the challenges faced by family-owned

companies worldwide, clarifying that key indicators show that around 70-80 percent of family-owned companies on an international level are collapsing and faltering as they reach the third generation, as well as being subject to several issues as a result to the succession of generations and diversity of viewpoints.

"Accordingly, we found it prudent to make use of these experiences and list the company on Boursa Kuwait, taking into account the fact that listed companies enjoy a high level of transparency and governance. This supports the business' plans to expand inside and outside of Kuwait, and eventually increasing revenues and profits," he said.

Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive is the official agent for BMW, Land Rover, Rolls-Royce, McLaren, Geely and Great Wall Motors in Kuwait, in addition to owning renowned international agencies in the fields of oil, batteries and tires. The company is also a key shareholder in both BMW and Mini in Iraq and Egypt.



KUWAIT: Ali Thunayan Alghanim (center), Boursa Kuwait Board Member Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi (left) and CEO of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Fahad Ali Alghanim (right).



KUWAIT: Ali Thunayan Alghanim (left) and Boursa Kuwait Board Member Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi.



## Business

# Apple unveils message recall, other 'wish list' features

## Tech giant mum on any virtual reality offerings

CUPERTINO, US: Apple opened Monday its first in-person developers conference since the onset of the pandemic with chips, maps and a way to delete precipitously sent messages, but was mum on any virtual reality offerings. The tech giant touted new features and capabilities being built into the operating systems running iPhone, Apple Watch and more, along with a speedy new MacBook Air computer driven by a second generation of its custom chip.

Apple chief Tim Cook and his team showed off coming innovations during a keynote presentation at its first developers conference to be held at its campus in the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino—and the first in-person version of the gathering since COVID-19 struck.

"It's so good to see you all," Cook said from a stage set up on a lawn next to Apple's ring-shaped headquarters, as an audience of several thousand developers cheered in the morning sunshine. No updates, however, were forthcoming on a rumored virtual reality operating system or hardware.

Still, developers will get to meet with Apple engineers during the weeklong conference, and even work in a new building with soundproof rooms to let them discuss ideas without being overheard.

Aside from new MacBook models, the event was a deep dive into coming new generations of operating systems for Apple's line-up of offerings. Apple will start letting people delete and edit messages after they have been sent as part of the latest update to its operating software, as well as customizable options for the iPhone main screen.

Users of its digital wallet should soon also be able to pay for purchases in installments. Relying increasingly on custom made chips has enabled Apple to make its devices and software work more seamlessly together, and catch up a bit to features offered by rivals such as Google Maps and even Microsoft Xbox video game platform for Windows-powered computers.

Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Milanesi saw it as Apple filling "users' wish-list," adding capabilities to make its apps, services or hardware the natural option in an increasingly competitive market. "They are listening to what the users are saying and they're making changes," Milanesi said. As increased dependence on computers and the internet caused by the pandemic shows no sign of abating, and by better tuning hardware and software for convenience promises to keep people in Apple's money-making ecosystem, the analyst added. —AFP



CUPERTINO, US: Apple CEO Tim Cook (C) holds up a new MacBook Air inside the Steve Jobs Theater during the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) at the Apple Park campus in Cupertino, California on June 6, 2022. —AFP



## IBS honors graduates of Certified Sharia Auditor program

KUWAIT: The Director-General of the Institute of Banking Studies, Prof Dr Yaqoub Al-Refaei, honored the third batch of graduates (two groups) of the Certified Sharia Auditor Program. The first group was held from January 10 until March 3, 2021, and the second group was held from January 24 until March 21, 2021. 41 participants from different sectors joined these programs.

Professor Al-Refaei thanked Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Chairman of the Board

of Directors of the Institute of Banking Studies Basel A Al-Haroon, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Institute for their support of this program, as well as the directors of human resources in the participating banks, for their efforts and follow-up to achieve the success of its convening each year. The certified Sharia Auditor program is part of the "Kafaa" initiative, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks and the management of the Institute of Banking Studies. The program has the aim of strengthening governance in the work of sharia supervision in Islamic banks in the State of Kuwait, and of consolidating the foundations of sharia auditing in the work of these banks. The program reflects belief in the need to redouble the efforts and initiatives that contribute to raising the capa-

bilities of the sharia audit cadres in the State of Kuwait, and in the need to work on rehabilitating them scientifically and professionally.

One of the most prominent features of this certificate is that it pays great attention to the practical aspects in the field of sharia auditing, as half of the program's time is devoted to sharia audit procedures, and the other half of the program hours are devoted to foundational knowledge aspects and sharia standards specific to the Islamic financial industry. The preparation of this certificate program was guided by the best practices and the latest scientific materials in this regard. The Certified Sharia Auditor Certificate is accredited by the Central Bank of Kuwait, Capital Markets Authority, and the Kuwait Center for Islamic Economy.

## Swedish govt won't inject more cash into SAS airline

STOCKHOLM: The Swedish government will not inject more capital into struggling Scandinavian airline SAS, the country's industry minister said Tuesday. The announcement came a week after SAS said it was seeking to raise 9.5 billion kronor (\$968 million) in new capital.

"Given the government's mandate to reduce its stake (in SAS), we say no to an injection of capital in the SAS Forward (restructuring) plan," Industry

Minister Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson said at a news conference. He added that the state would not be a long-term shareholder in the company.

Sweden and Denmark are SAS's main shareholders, with each holding 21.8 percent stakes, which rose in the past two years following rescue plans linked to the COVID pandemic. The Swedish government will propose to the parliament that SAS be authorized to convert the debt it owes to the state into equity capital, Thorwaldsson said. In a statement, SAS said that move was "an important step toward the success" of its transformation plan.

In February, the airline launched a major cost-cutting plan dubbed "SAS Forward," which included a "re-designed fleet" and a "refocusing" on long-haul flights. Hit hard by the pandemic, SAS already cut 40 percent of its workforce — 5,000 staff in 2020.



The airline posted a net loss of 1.5 billion Swedish kronor (\$155 million) in the second quarter, compared to a net loss of 2.4 billion kronor a year earlier. —AFP

## Elmetwally wins ABK's Alfouz cash prize of KD 10,000

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Tarek Hasan Elmetwally as the winner of KD 10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on 6 June, 2022. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing rewards. With Alfouz, ABK customers will get a chance to win KD 10,000 in Kuwait's highest single weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD 5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years. Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD 100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will happen on Monday, 13 June, 2022. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

## Spain seeks to cut food waste by restaurants, supermarkets

MADRID: Spain's government on Tuesday adopted a draft bill aimed at reducing food waste by introducing fines for restaurants and supermarkets who bin leftovers, similar to existing legislation in France and Italy.

"This is a pioneering legal instrument to prevent wastefulness in the food chain, from producers to consumers, which leads to financial losses and impacts the environment, Food Minister Luis Planas said after a cabinet meeting.

"In a world where unfortunately hunger and malnutrition still exist, these are things which weigh on everyone's conscience," he said. The bill, which will need to be debated in parliament, seeks to reduce the 1.3 million tons of food and drink thrown away in Spain every year, amount-

ing to an equivalent loss of 250 euros (\$266) per person, according to government figures.

Under the new legislation, both supermarkets and restaurants will have to find ways of distributing leftover food to NGOs and food banks. In cases where, for example, fruit has become too overripe to be sold, it must be used for making jams or juices, or in cases where it is no longer fit for human consumption, it must be used for animal food or composted.

To avoid waste, restaurants will also have to provide customers with "doggy bags"-free containers to take home their leftovers, a practice which is uncommon in Spain.

The bill lays out fines for failing to comply, which range from 2,001 euros to 60,000 euros. Planas said the aim was not to create an "interventionist law" but one which would "raise awareness" about food waste. There would be no sanctions for private homes but they would be targeted by educational campaigns. Other countries such as Italy and France have already adopted laws in recent years targeting food waste. In line with objectives laid out by the United Nations, the European Union has committed to reducing by half food waste by both companies and consumers by 2030. —AFP

## Sweden, Denmark balk at new EU minimum wage rules

BRUSSELS: EU officials on Tuesday hailed an agreement on setting common rules for establishing minimum wages across most of the bloc, though Sweden and Denmark had opposed the move. The negotiations between EU member states and the European Parliament did not fix a nominal minimum salary to be applied, but rather what criteria must be used to ensure an "adequate" level is arrived at in each country.

The rules will be mandatory for 21 of the EU's 27 member countries once the directive from Brussels is introduced into national statutes, which will take another two years. Sweden and Denmark said they were against the directive, viewing it as political interference in their national wage-setting systems, based on collective bargaining.

But that is not enough to stop the measure going ahead, as more than 15 of the 27 EU countries back it, providing the necessary qualified majority. The directive will not apply to six EU countries where collective agreements between unions and employers set salary levels: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said the new rules "will protect the dignity of work and make sure that work pays" while respecting "national traditions and social partners' autonomy".

Among the criteria to set statutory minimum wages will be weighing them against median salaries in the country and the cost of living, while also ensuring they don't worsen gender pay gaps. Von der Leyen's commissioner on jobs and social rights, Nicolas Schmit, told journalists the timing of the agreement was important, coming as the EU grapples with skyrocketing inflation and tight labour markets.

"In the present context, where we have such strong inflation, those on the lowest wages should not be the victims of these inflationary trends," he said. He added employers had incentive to back "fair wages," which he said helped avoid "splitting the society (between) those who have, and those who have nothing".

EU countries have a wide range of minimum salaries, going from 332 euros (\$354) per month in Bulgaria to 2,202 euros in Luxembourg, according to official 2021 figures. —AFP

## German industrial orders fall again in April

FRANKFURT: German industrial orders fell for the third month in a row in April, official data published Tuesday showed, as Russia's war in Ukraine dampened the outlook for Europe's largest economy.

New orders fell by 2.7 percent over the previous month, according to figures provided by the economy ministry. The renewed drop was "primarily due to the escalation of the Ukraine conflict", the ministry said in a statement. Overall, incoming orders were 6.2 percent below their level of a year ago, when the coronavirus pandemic was weighing more heavily on industry.

The fall was seen particularly in capital goods, used in production, which decreased 4.3 percent compared with the previous month.

Orders for consumer goods were down 2.6 percent, while those of intermediate goods dipped 0.3 percent. Within Germany, the incoming volume of orders fell by 0.9 percent, while those from abroad fell by four percent, with demand from the eurozone suffering in particular, down 5.6 percent. —AFP



## Business

# Cash-strapped Sri Lanka urgently seeks \$6bn to keep economy afloat

## Blackouts, petrol shortage and record inflation have made daily life a misery

COLOMBO: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka on Tuesday asked the International Monetary Fund to arrange a creditor meeting for \$6 billion in loans to help keep the country afloat during its unprecedented economic crisis. Months of daily blackouts, long queues for petrol and record inflation have made daily life a misery in the South Asian island nation of 22 million people.

The government has already defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt, and a critical shortage of foreign currency has left traders unable to import adequate supplies of food, fuel and other essential goods.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the country needed \$5 billion for its daily needs in the next six months, along with another billion to stabilize Sri Lanka's rapidly depreciating rupee. "We call on the International Monetary Fund to hold a conference to help unite our lending partners," the premier told parliament.

He said a meeting under IMF auspices with China, Japan and India-Sri Lanka's three biggest bilateral lenders-would be a "great strength" in helping source more loans. Sri Lanka is already in talks with the IMF for a bailout and has

appointed international experts to help restructure its debt, about half of which is in international sovereign bonds.

Wickremesinghe again warned the country was heading for serious food shortages and said the United Nations had agreed to issue an urgent appeal on Thursday to raise humanitarian funds.

A disastrous ban on agricultural chemical imports, introduced by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last year, dramatically curtailed crop yields and led to protests by farmers. The policy was reversed months later, but Sri Lanka is now out of foreign currency to import fertilizer, pesticides and other much-needed farming chemicals. Wickremesinghe became premier in May after his predecessor, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, stepped down after months of protests against the government's economic mismanagement.

At least nine people were killed and many more wounded in riots that followed an attack on peaceful demonstrators outside President Rajapaksa's office in Colombo last month. —AFP



COLOMBO: People stand beside empty Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders as they block a road to protest against paucity of fuel and cooking gas in Colombo on June 7, 2022. —AFP

## Gulf Bank wraps up coding bootcamp for local youth

KUWAIT: As part of its 5-year strategy for the year 2025, Gulf Bank successfully wrapped up its new AJYAL Tech program in partnership with CODED, a local digital company that specializes in programming and coding. The program is a comprehensive coding bootcamp for Kuwaiti youth, and marks the first high-intensity coding bootcamp in the banking sector.

A group of young Kuwaitis passionate about technology and coding participated in the training camp. The participants were carefully selected to bridge the gap in coding skills in the banking sector, offering the industry the opportunity to recruit skilled Kuwaitis who are passionate about coding and technology. This new program is part of Gulf Bank's strategy for the year 2025, which aims to provide customers with an unprecedented banking experience based on digital transformation. Participants presented their projects towards the end of the training camp, with some of the Bank's departments conducting interviews with the trainees across various departments, including Information Technology, Digital Banking Services, and Cybersecurity.

Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources,

Salma Al-Hajjaj noted that the AJYAL Tech program is on track in meeting Gulf Bank's strategic objectives as part of its strategy for the year 2025. The strategy aims to consolidate Gulf Bank's position as the Kuwaiti Bank of the Future, with Gulf Bank spearheading its digital transformation through a variety of ongoing initiatives.

Al-Hajjaj indicated that the bootcamp program aimed to train and upskill a select group of Kuwaiti youth - including both new and existing employees - by providing them with the coding training that would qualify them to provide innovative technical solutions, and enable them to effectively contribute to the Bank's digital transformation plans.

She noted that the Bank's Human Resources and Talent Development teams continue to work to employ and upskill employees who will implement the Bank's 2025 strategy, becoming distinguished banking hires with competitive skills and expertise. Gulf Bank continues to consolidate its leading position as the Kuwaiti Bank of the Future, implementing a variety of programs aimed at training new graduates and upskilling new employees in line with global best practices. Gulf Bank aims to help candidates develop key banking skills, cultivating holistic bankers that can contribute to the Bank's culture of excellence and results-oriented performance.

Al-Hajjaj affirmed Gulf Bank's belief in the necessity of empowering Kuwaiti hires and local talents. She emphasized the necessity of upskilling local hires in accordance with the best international banking standards, and enabling them to contribute to achieving the Bank's goals and exceeding expectations in the



banking sector, adding, "We are proud to have witnessed many success stories within the Bank over the past few years."

She noted that the main objective of Gulf Bank's AJYAL Tech program is to develop participants' capabilities with the aim of promoting a performance-driven culture. In doing so, Gulf Bank is equipping its employees with technical solutions that will enable digital transformation at the Bank-wide level and risk management practices at the global level. In turn, all of these goals will ultimately provide customers with simple, streamlined and innovative services that will contribute to the Bank's sustainable growth. Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its

employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the Bank. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with the different relevant parties to achieve it.

## Australia hikes interest rates to rein in inflation

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank raised interest rates more than expected Tuesday and warned of more increases as officials try to rein in "significantly" high inflation. Governor Philip Lowe said the Reserve Bank's main lending rate would go up half a percentage point to 0.85 percent, surprising analysts who had tipped a quarter point lift. He also said "extraordinary" support for the economy via low rates would continue to be unwound.

The move comes as inflation has seen the price of lettuce increase 300 percent and sent already sky-high house prices in major cities soaring by a quarter since the start

of the pandemic. "While inflation is lower than in most other advanced economies, it is higher than earlier expected," Lowe said.

"Global factors, including COVID-related disruptions to supply chains and the war in Ukraine, account for much of this increase in inflation," he added, while warning that "domestic factors are playing a role too." The governor cited a tight labor market and widespread floods as local reasons helping inflation rise to 5.1 percent.

The pandemic forced Australia's economy into its first recession in a generation, and the recovery has been patchy. Rate rises hit hard in a country where debt levels from pricey mortgages are particularly high. Lowe said the bank would be looking closely to see if that dual shock causes consumption to decrease more than expected.

He also warned that there were concerns about the global out-



SYDNEY: A man walks past the Reserve Bank of Australia building in the central business district of Sydney on June 7, 2022. —AFP

look, with Russia's war in Ukraine pushing energy and agricultural prices higher. "There are also ongoing uncertainties related to COVID, especially in China," the bank said. —AFP

## Online car dealer Cazoo to cut jobs, blames inflation

LONDON: Online car dealer Cazoo on Tuesday announced plans to cut about 750 jobs across its European operations on fallout from surging inflation.

The New York-listed company said it would axe about 15 percent of its workforce, with most job losses expected to be in UK, home to about 80 percent of Cazoo staff. The group has operations also in France, Germany Italy and Spain and said in a statement that "approximately 750 roles (were) being impacted across the business".

Cazoo founder and chief executive Alex Chesterman added that "the combination of rising inflation and interest rates with supply chain issues caused by the pandemic and (Ukraine) war has driven up the cost of living and hit consumer confidence". Chesterman said "this perfect storm" had made conserving cash the priority for Cazoo, ahead of growing the company.

Inflation has soared to the highest levels in decades worldwide, pushing central banks to raise interest rates, in turn lifting borrowing costs for consumers. Founded in 2018, Cazoo said the job cuts along with other cost saving measures, including lower marketing spend, should save the group more than £200 million (\$250 million).

"Whilst growth remains strong and consumers continue to embrace the Cazoo proposition... the company is not immune to the rapid shift in the global economy and the possibility of a recession in the coming months," Tuesday's statement added. —AFP

## GWM division at NBK had a successful year in 2021: Al-Hamad

KUWAIT: Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO - Global Wealth Management at National Bank of Kuwait said that 2021 was a successful year despite the challenges faced by the ongoing pandemic and inflation related concerns that took a firmer hold towards the end of the year.

In an interview with Citywiremagazine, Al-Hamad said that Assets Under Management (AUM) stood at approximately \$17 billion in 2021, in addition to managing assets for clients on the custody side under NBK's brokerage platform and assets under advisement under the advisory platform. The bulk of assets are segregated mandates with an even split between regional and international exposure.

"NBK Group's assets under management continued to grow, leveraging our strong brand that is trusted by HNWI's across Kuwait and beyond." Moreover, our Wealth Management Division performed relatively well for the majority of our products relative to their respective benchmarks," Al-Hamad explained.

He pointed out that the newly launched NBK Global Wealth Management (GWM) division combines the extensive investment banking and asset management capabilities of NBK Capital with the expertise, client-

focused interfaces developed by the Private Banking Group. "Through GWM, we aim to grow our market share in Kuwait while further expanding our regional reach in various markets, including Saudi Arabia," he added.

### Navigating way to success

Al-Hamad expects 2022 to be a volatile year with the Ukraine war, pandemic and COVID related headwinds. "I think we still have risks related to the pandemic, especially when it comes to places like China, which might lead to a reduction in global aggregate demand. Additionally, the war in Ukraine is creating ripple effects on commodities and political insecurity around the globe," Al-Hamad added.

"The second risk that arose from 2021 and is becoming more of a clear and present danger is inflation and the expectations that all the central banks will start reducing quantitative easing and increasing interest rates. That said, we do believe that while there are a lot of risks, they can surely be hedged against by having diversification within the portfolio," he explained. Responding to a question on the biggest challenges faced by GWM as part of its endeavors to meet clients' expectations, Al-Hamad stressed that ensuring our correct awareness and understanding of the client's investment requirements and level of risk tolerance is the cornerstone of consolidating our relationships with clients.

Al-Hamad highlighted that the biggest challenges in terms of meeting clients' expectations include finding yielding products that provide some sort of liquidity

profile, educating clients on how to diversify outside of the home market and not to be emotional about investing, and pivoting from a trading mentality to investing and thinking about long-term structuring and succession (including letting go of some non-core assets).

When asked about the asset classes that provide the best opportunities, Al-Hamad explained that an overarching principle is that diversification is critical, that in addition to the correct risk profiling and understanding investment horizons are the foundation.

### Stock markets

In terms of equities, Al-Hamad believes that some parts of the GCC markets such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and some very specific names are quite appealing. For instance, the banking sector is still attractive, given the interest rate environment and their ability to maximize operating leverage.

Al-Hamad pointed out that developed markets also have some room for growth on a relative basis. "The US is obviously a market of importance, and we work with our partners to try to choose the right sectors and the right themes," he said.



Faisal Al-Hamad



Lifestyle | Features



Visitors view designs from the Talent Thai Project at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event.

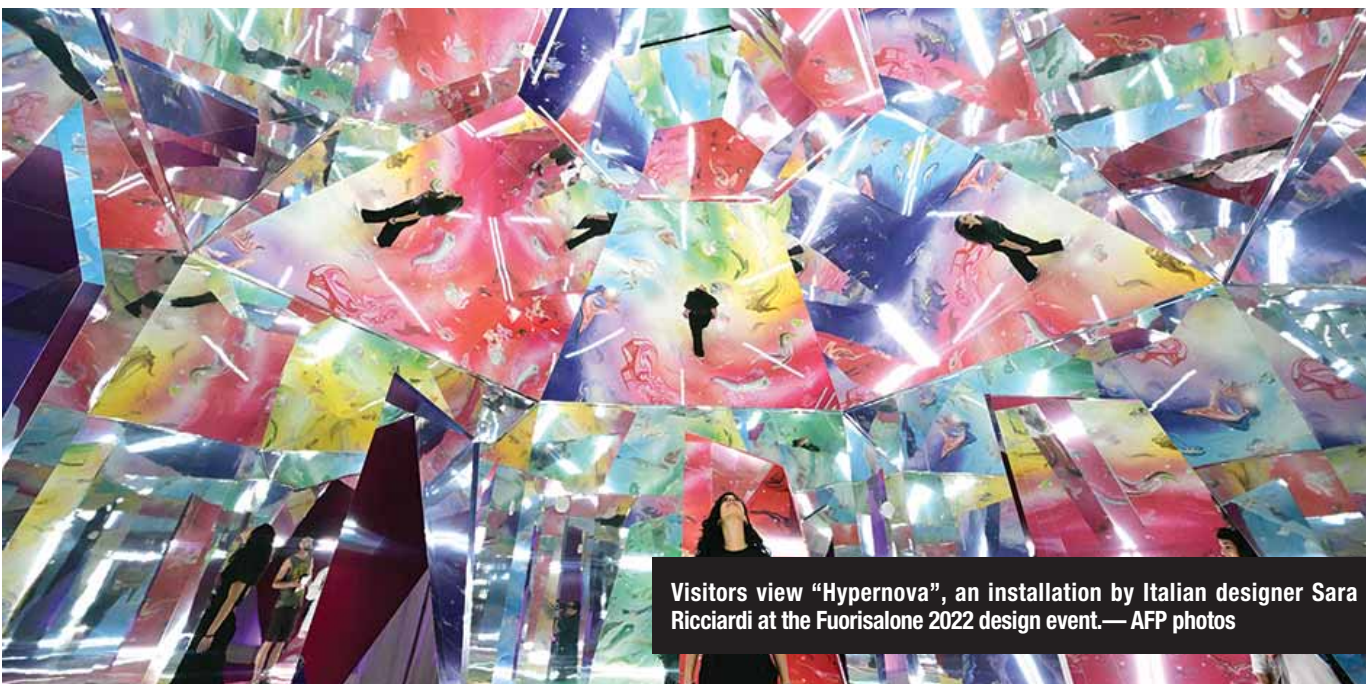
# Fuorisalone 2022 design event in Milan



A visitor walks past "Clean Water: Please", designed by Marco Nereo Rotelli with Ever in Art, a gondola overwhelmed by waste recovered from the depths of the Venetian lagoon and painted Klein blue, at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event.



A view shows "Echinoidea - Biophilic Pavilion" designed by Giacomo Garziano - GG-Loop with Rubner Haus, a sustainable wooden pavilion inspired by the species of sea urchins, which explores the archetype of the shelter to reflect on the relation between man and the natural environment as the foundation for the necessary regeneration of the planet, at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event.



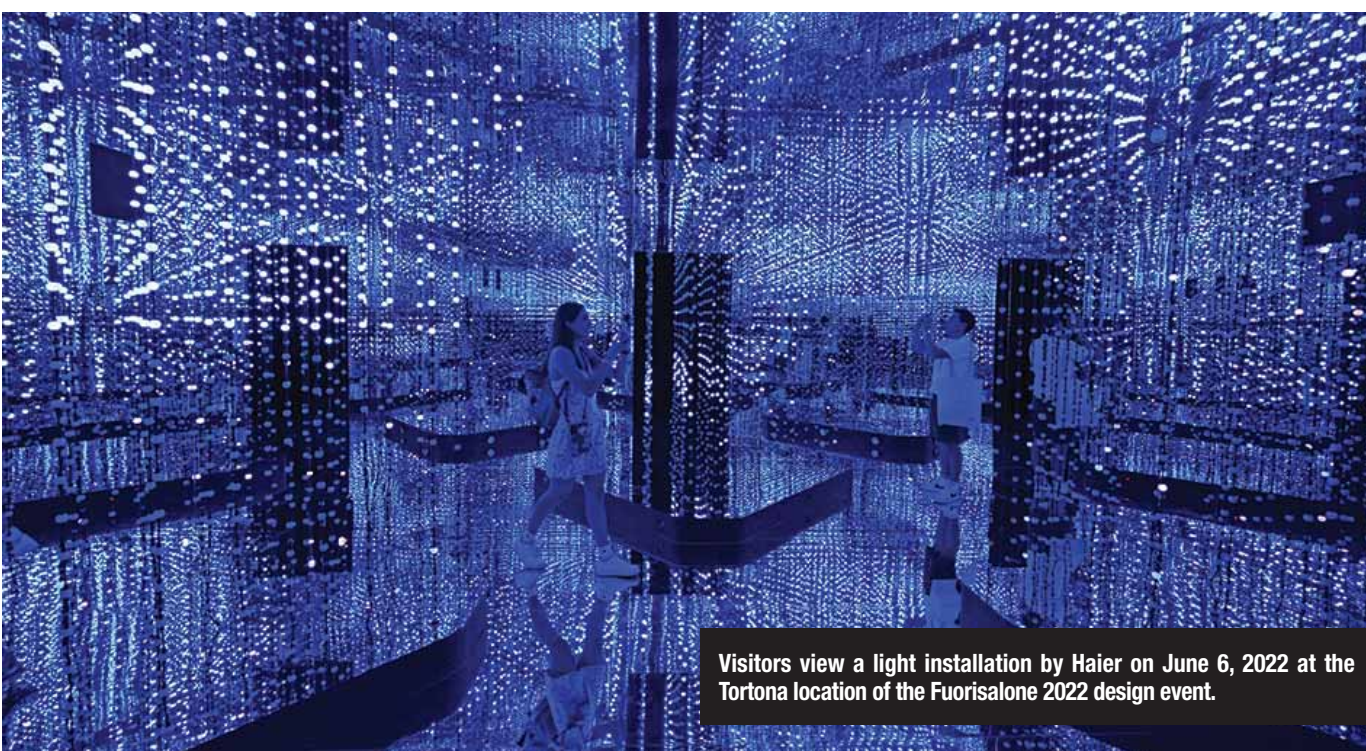
Visitors view "Hypernova", an installation by Italian designer Sara Ricciardi at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event. — AFP photos



Visitors sit on "Mega-Verso" oversized seats designed by Alberto Caliri with Missoni, at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event on June 6, 2022 in Milan.



Furniture by Italian design company "Stilnovo" are displayed at the Fuorisalone 2022 design event.



Visitors view a light installation by Haier on June 6, 2022 at the Tortona location of the Fuorisalone 2022 design event.

## Starck unveils new Dior chair, predicts end of design

Philippe Starck made his name making everyday objects extraordinary, but the French designer and architect believes the "dematerialization" of modern life will soon make such talents redundant. "What is the future of design? Well, there isn't one, because you must understand that everything has a birth, a life and a death and for design it is the same," he told AFP on the sidelines of the Milan Furniture Fair. He is here to present a new chair created for fashion house Dior, an update on Christian Dior's iconic 1947 version of the Louis XVI medallion chair. Starck, 73, is one of the most prolific inventors of his generation, designing everything from top hotels, luxury yachts and best-selling furniture to juicers and toothbrushes.

He believes, however, that the advance of technology means talents such as his may one day become redundant. "We make everything disappear," he said, adding: "Look at your iPhone—the number of products it replaces, it's extraordinary. "Before, the size of a computer—it was a building, a suburban house, now it is embedded under the skin." The process will reach its end, he says with a smile, when "man is naked on the beach, ultra-powerful, ultra-calculating, ultra-communicative".

### 'Say no'

The new Miss Dior chair is made entirely in aluminum, available in black chrome, pink copper or gold, while one of the three models rather whimsically has just one armrest. It comes two decades after Starck launched his best-selling ultra-modern plastic Louis Ghost model, also inspired by the 18th-century Louis XVI medallion chair with its distinctive oval back.

Unlike the plastic chair, however, which retailed around 350 euros (around \$370), the Miss Dior costs between 1,700 and 5,000 euros.

"Chairs are an interesting exercise because they are very difficult, despite appearances... slightly easier than going to the moon but not far off," Starck quipped. He wanted to ensure his new creation would last, so chose an "extremely solid, extremely technical material, a very ecological and totally recyclable aluminium". Starck is a keen advocate of ecological design, dreaming up electric bikes, intelligent thermostats and personal wind turbines among his many creations. "Ecology, above all, is saying: I want to buy this, but do I need it? If you are honest with yourself, 80 percent of the time you would say no," he said.



A "Miss Dior" Medallion chair designed by French designer Philippe Starck for Dior is displayed.

### 'Every 16 seconds'

It also means buying something "for always—it must last". Starck traces his pursuit of industrial minimalism to his father, who designed airplanes. "To make a plane fly, it must be light, you have to remove everything that serves no use," he said. He added: "All my life I've tried to find the centre of things, the sense of things, the soul of things." He says concern for the environment can be met "by not producing"—but he is not giving up yet. "I have an idea every 16 seconds," he says. He justifies making something by asking "if the object is right, if it deserves to exist, if it was made with the minimum of material and energy, if it is accessible to the maximum number of people, if it brings... happiness, laughter". If it also allows someone to "sit down, wash, eat—then in that case it is useful and I am proud of it," he said. — AFP



"Miss Dior" Medallion chairs designed by French designer Philippe Starck for Dior are displayed.



French designer Philippe Starck poses by models of "Miss Dior" Medallion chairs he designed for Dior are displayed as part of the "Dior by Starck" exhibition on the eve of the opening of the Salone del Mobile furniture fair in Milan. — AFP photos

## Pitt accuses Jolie of seeking to 'inflict harm' on him over vineyard

Brad Pitt accused his ex-wife Angelina Jolie of damaging the reputation of the wine business they bought together by selling her half to a stranger. The former couple had an agreement to not sell their interests in Chateau Miraval without the other's consent. However, by selling her stake

to a unit of Stoli Group, a spirits maker controlled by oligarch Yuri Shefler, the actress broke the agreement. Now, Brad Pitt has claimed that his ex-wife intentionally sought to inflict harm on him by selling half of the wine company.



Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie





People visit the exhibition on the ongoing war "Ukraine - Crucifixion" at the National Museum of the History.



People visit the exhibition on the ongoing war "Ukraine - Crucifixion".

# UKRAINE WAR ALREADY GETS ITS OWN MUSEUM SHOW

The dust has hardly settled. Not long ago Russian troops were bearing down on Ukraine's capital—now the story of this chapter of the invasion is already being told in a museum. Even as the war rages elsewhere in the country, Ukrainians are flocking to a new exhibition in Kyiv displaying artefacts recovered after the Russian army was forced to withdraw from areas it occupied around the capital.

Missiles, food rations, helmets and other objects abandoned in the region north of Kyiv are being shown in an exhibition at a World War II museum—known as the "Great Patriotic War" in Ukraine. Glass cases display personal notes and the credit cards of Russian soldiers killed on the front line in a vital early record of the bloodshed.

Their passports reveal how young they were. A smashed Siberian license plate proves some came from far away. There are also jars of halal borscht soup supplied to Muslim Chechen fighters enlisted by their



People visit the exhibition on the ongoing war "Ukraine - Crucifixion" at the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War, in Kyiv. — AFP photos

leader Ramzan Kadyrov, a fierce Vladimir Putin loyalist. Curator Yuriy Savchuk said he wanted "to respond to Russian propaganda", adding that Moscow has set up its own show "on the so-called fascism that

should be fought in Ukraine. "You can see and touch the war with your fingertips here," he added. "That's also the point: to shock people into realizing what's going on." It might seem strange

that Ukrainians should want a reminder of a war they are still living through. But not everyone in Ukraine witnessed the fighting first-hand—and many want to understand what took place. "It's actually really hard to look at this," said 26-year-old visitor Zoya Didok. "It's a good thing I didn't live in one of those villages when the Russians were there."

## Chilling testimony

In the museum's cellars, there's a reconstruction of a makeshift shelter from the town of Hostomel, close to Kyiv's airport. The original housed dozens of people for 37 days—among them children and a six-month-old baby. Two people died in the humid, unsanitary conditions. On a screen on the wall, the baby's mother gives chilling video testimony. On the first floor, a church gate ripped open by shrapnel opens to reveal a room displaying artwork inspired by the conflict.

Ukrainian artists have also reused material from Russia's invasion to express their pain. Burnt-out candles beneath a war-torn painting of Christ pay tribute to the dead, as well as to Ukraine's damaged religious heritage. A grenade hidden under a toy in a sandpit recalls that the childhoods millions of young Ukrainians have lost.

There is also a broken World War II memorial from Hostomel, drawing a powerful parallel between the two conflicts. Today's invaders are the descendants of yesterday's heroes. The exhibition, titled "Ukraine-Crucifixion", is housed in the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. The artefacts were collected between April 4 and May 5 — and the show's rapid opening on May 8 came with help from the Ukrainian army and government. — AFP



## Relief, caution in Beijing as city lifts COVID dine-in curbs

After staying home for more than a month, Chen Chunmei joined a long line of customers at a popular Beijing restaurant where diners tucked into massive bowls of crayfish following an easing of COVID restrictions in the Chinese capital. Last month, the city of 22 million stopped people from eating out, closed gyms and sealed off dozens of subway stations to try and stamp out a coronavirus outbreak. The curbs are now finally easing, including at restaurants.

"I'm very excited, mainly because we'd been sealed off for so long," Chen told AFP.

"I've been ordering takeout or cooking every day. I really wanted to come out for meals." At its peak, Beijing logged just dozens of infections every day. But authorities in China are committed to a zero-COVID strategy—using rapid lockdowns, mass testing and severe travel restrictions to eliminate even the smallest outbreaks. Chen, 28, said her compound was initially locked down for two weeks but when she was finally allowed to leave, the nearby subway station was closed.

"Since then, I'd been staying at home," she said. "At first I thought working from home was pretty good but after a while, I got bored." As Beijing's case numbers fell—it reported just two local asymptomatic infections on Tuesday—authorities told residents they could return to work this week, while schools would reopen from June 13. The Universal Beijing resort said it will reopen on June 15, while Chinese media reported that cinemas and gyms will run at 75 percent capacity from this week in most areas. Dine-ins at restaurants have also mostly resumed, although two districts still have restrictions in place because of recent COVID cases.



People dine at a restaurant in Beijing.

## 'Losing money'

While authorities have persisted with their zero-COVID policy, its economic costs have piled up. Businesses in Beijing told AFP that the last month bit a large chunk out of their earnings. "Our revenue for the

month of May fell around 65 percent on-year," said Zhang Shengtao, operations director at Beijing Huda Catering. He added that staff income at the restaurant chain, which employs nearly 800 people, also dropped by around 30 percent last month.

Some breathed a sigh of relief on Monday as restrictions on dining-in were eased. "I've been longing for the resumption," said Wu Ziwen, a manager at restaurant chain Nanjing Dapaidang. "There's no doubt that we were losing money," he told AFP, adding that the outlet has been relying on food deliveries to survive.

The dine-in resumption in Beijing is still partial, however: due to COVID controls, his restaurant can only accept up to 50 percent of regular capacity "even if customers flood in," Wu said. Beijing is requiring people to produce a negative test done within three days if they want to take public transport or enter office buildings.

The outbreak in the capital has also kept visitors like 33-year-old Sun Tao from returning home to Shanxi. The dine-in relaxation gave him some respite. "I'm nervous and alert," said Sun, who ventured out of the hotel where he was staying with his wife on Monday evening and waited for a table at a restaurant. "But I also wanted to feel my tastebuds again." — AFP



People wait outside a restaurant along a street in Beijing following an easing of COVID restrictions in the Chinese capital. — AFP photos



People dine at a restaurant in Beijing.



Lifestyle | Features

# Paramount sued over 'Top Gun: Maverick' copyright

The heirs of an author whose article inspired the 1986 film "Top Gun" have sued Paramount Pictures for copyright infringement, according to court documents. Three decades after the blockbuster original, which was based on Ehud Yonay's 1983 magazine article "Top Guns", Paramount released a sequel last month that has topped North America's box office.



In their complaint filed Monday to a California court, Shosh Yonay and Yuval Yonay, the writer's widow and son who live in the Zionist entity, allege that the story's copyright was returned to them in 2020, "but Paramount deliberately ignored this, thumbing its nose at the statute." "The Yonays contend and Paramount denies that the 2022 Sequel, like the 1986 Film, is derived from the Author's Story," the complaint reads.

The Yonays are seeking to prevent Paramount from distributing its sequel, as well as unspecified damages. A spokesperson for Paramount told multiple news outlets Monday that the claims were "without merit." "We will defend ourselves vigorously." "Top Gun: Maverick" picks up the story of the now-graying US Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, played by Tom Cruise, as he trains young aviators for a mission to attack a nuclear facility in a rogue state.

The 2022 action drama soared to a second huge showing in North American theaters this weekend, taking in an estimated \$86 million. That number placed it among the top 10 highest-grossing second weekends in domestic box office history. It took in \$151 million last weekend.

The film-whose release had been delayed two years by the COVID-19 pandemic-notched \$124 million for the first three days of the Memorial Day weekend in May, despite not playing in China or Russia. It was Cruise's first opening to top \$100 million. The Paramount/Skydance film has earned \$257 million abroad, the latest sign of Hollywood's recovery from a bleak pandemic period. — AFP



Syed Hyder from a stall at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market holds an iceberg lettuce.

# Australian KFC patrons clucking mad over lettuce-cabbage switch

Fried chicken chain KFC said Tuesday that high lettuce prices in Australia have forced it to switch to a cabbage mix in burgers and other products, prompting customers to complain the result is less than "finger lickin' good". The local price of the verdant leaf has soared by as much as 300 percent in recent months, forcing the fast-food chain to tweak the Colonel's recipe in some stores.

"We're currently experiencing a lettuce shortage. So, we're using a lettuce and cabbage blend on all products containing

lettuce until further notice," the company told customers. The company blamed widespread flooding in the country's east for the problem.

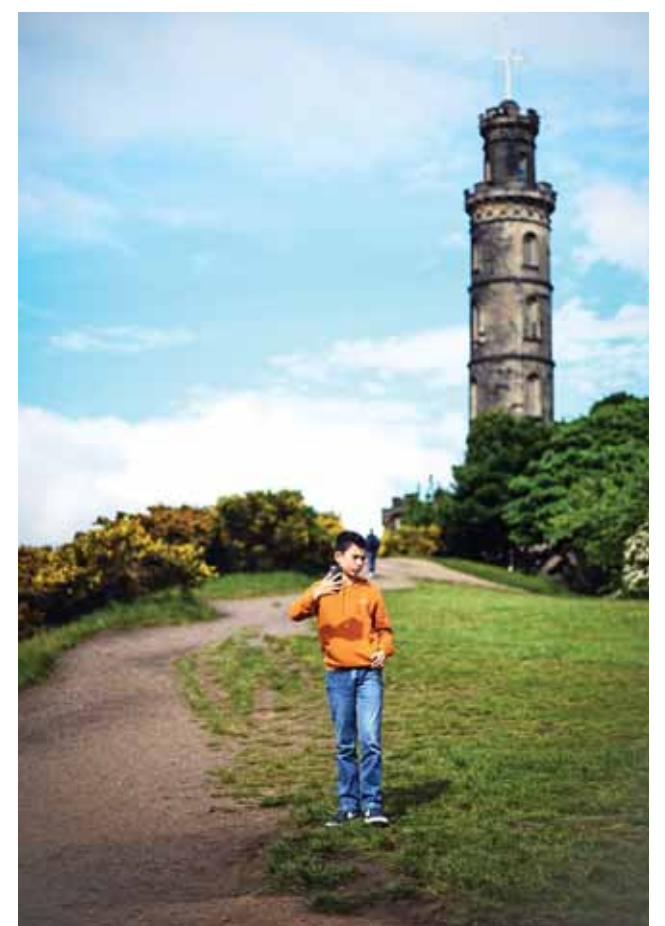
But supply chain expert Flavio Macau of Edith Cowan University said Russia's invasion of Ukraine was also a factor, pushing up diesel and fertilizer prices. A single head of iceberg lettuce in Sydney or Melbourne that once sold for about \$2 now goes for close to \$8.

The company told customers: "If that's not your bag, simply click 'customize' on

your chosen product and remove lettuce from the recipe :)" The change was certainly not the "bag" of some social media users. "The fact that you are replacing lettuce with cabbage makes me rethink my whole meal at KFC. There's 4 or 5 other things I would eat before cabbage. It's such a weird choice," said one disgruntled tweeter. "Feels like a sign of the apocalypse," said another. — AFP



Pupils from the secondary school "College Victor Hugo" of Colmar, in northeastern France, visit the city of Edinburgh, in Scotland, as part of a school exchange. — AFP photos



A pupil from the secondary school "College Victor Hugo" of Colmar, in northeastern France, takes pictures during a visit of the city of Edinburgh.

# ENGLISH-LANGUAGE STUDENTS SWERVE UK POST BREXIT

At the top of Calton Hill overlooking Edinburgh and the North Sea, a visiting English language student from France is in no doubt about the view: "Amazing!" he exclaims. COVID has meant that the number of foreign students on such visits to the UK has fallen sharply. But Britain's departure from the European Union is not helping the recovery, as post-Brexit administrative requirements have raised travel costs.

About 50 college students from France's Alsace region have taken advantage of the lifting of UK Covid restrictions. Others, however, have opted to learn English in EU nations such as Ireland or Malta-or simply sign up for language courses at home. Teacher Sarah Lepioufle, accompanying her college's Edinburgh trip, said the changes introduced since Brexit-the extra paperwork involved-had made applying for courses an "obstacle course". Non-EU students living in France are suddenly facing visa costs of £100 (118 euros, \$126), whereas

before Brexit they could travel on a collective travel document. "I had to give up because I am Russian," said Elisabeth Shpak, left out of the Scotland trip because of the fees involved.

### Major financial losses

The British Educational Travel Association, whose members help organize such visits, estimates that Brexit could cost the sector up to £3 billion annually. Having spoken to stakeholders in the sector, they felt voyages would be 60 to 70 percent down compared to before Brexit and the pandemic, said Steve Lowy at BETA. Before Britain's EU exit, Britain welcomed "well over one million" such students per year, he said.

Now "there is a perception of us not being welcoming, and not open to people from Europe. And that is a harder thing to overcome". While a BETA poll showed Britons favored relaxing the post-Brexit travel rules, Lowy argued that overcoming the new negative perception was "potentially a long-term issue". For those students who have managed to travel to Scotland, the experience is celebrated, especially coming out of Covid restrictions. "There have been no trips, everything has been cancelled because of lockdowns," said 13-year-old Aaron Schaezel.



Collective travel

The UK authorities say they can already offer students a so-called "collective passport". But this document-the product of a 1961 European treaty-has not been signed by all current EU members. As for the French travel sector, it is

waiting on its own government's guidance regarding use of the collective passport for the first time. The UK government, meanwhile, cites security risks for some students now needing individual visas, something Lowy finds hard to accept. "Youth travel is low risk," he insisted. "These students and their teachers are here for cultural and educational purposes, and that is only good for the UK-not just the initial revenue they bring but for the long-term impact."

On Calton Hill, tour guide Marilyn Hunter passionately tells the French students about Scotland's landscape, its history and major exports whisky and salmon. But Brexit seems to have spoiled the opportunity for some EU-based students to visit the UK. The previous week, a group visiting from Germany had been forced to leave behind four students who had not obtained their visas in time. — AFP



Pupils from the secondary school "College Victor Hugo" of Colmar, in northeastern France, sit in a bus while visiting Edinburgh, in Scotland.



Pupils from the secondary school "College Victor Hugo" of Colmar, in northeastern France, visit the city of Edinburgh, in Scotland.



Pupils from the secondary school "College Victor Hugo" of Colmar, in northeastern France, sit in a bus while visiting Edinburgh, in Scotland.



## Sports

# Ice skating raises minimum age from 15 to 17 in 'historic' move

## Decision comes after drug scandal involving teenage Russian

**BANGKOK:** Ice skating's governing body voted Tuesday to raise the minimum age for senior competition to 17, months after an Olympics drug scandal involving teenage Russian Kamila Valieva. The decision by the International Skating Union (ISU) congress in Phuket, Thailand lifts the age limit from 15 and will be phased in gradually, reaching age 17 in the 2024/25 season. "It's a very historic decision," ISU president Jan Dijkema said, after 100 countries voted to support the measure, with only 16 opposed.

Figure skater Valieva, then 15, was allowed to compete at February's Beijing Winter Olympics despite failing a drugs test beforehand, but broke down after falling multiple times during her final performance. With the global spotlight on her and favorite for gold, she finished outside the medals. Questions swirled about the influence of her entourage following a tense and tearful post-routine encounter with her coach.

The ISU said that raising the age limit was on its agenda well before the Valieva case and acknowledged it had a duty of care to elite adolescent athletes. Ahead of the vote, director general Fredi Schmid said the ISU had faced media pressure and a "major attack" in the wake of the Olympics and reminded delegates the global body's reputation was at stake. "The moment of truth is obviously today because the credibility of the ISU will also be scrutinized. The media and the public will watch us very closely so don't forget this," he warned.

Top names in Russian figure skating played down the decision - which will be in place for the Winter Olympics in 2026 - with former coach turned media personality Tatiana Tarassova telling the TASS agency: "We will win anyway." Former skating star Alexander Zhulin, now a coach, told TASS: "The decision is mainly directed against us. It is obvious to everyone that at 15-16 years old our girls cannot

be beaten. Everyone is against us now so this decision was not surprising." Russian teenagers Anna Shcherbakova and Alexandra Trusova won gold and silver in Beijing. Valieva was fourth.

### 'Children first'

The ISU's medical advice backed raising the minimum age to 17 arguing it would benefit young skaters physically and mentally, and help extend their careers. "I feel as administrators of the sport of skating it is your moral obligation and duty to provide these young skaters with the opportunity and time to develop... the skills they require in order to be successful at the senior level," Dr Jane Moran from the body's medical commission said. "They have the right to develop themselves as people during their adolescent age... They don't need us to be forcing them to compete."

A medical report said the change would allow

junior athletes time to reach skeletal maturity. It also warned that some elite adolescent athletes could experience a puberty delay for an average of two years as a result of the physical demands of training.

It noted some were at greater risk of developing eating disorders. The athletes' commission surveyed close to 1,000 athletes and coaches, and 86 percent were in favor of lifting the age limit.

Some representatives from smaller countries argued the changes would have a negative impact on their talent pool of skaters and ability to send athletes to elite competitions. But other smaller skating nations such as Iceland and Ireland argued the focus should be on protecting youngsters. "We have to remember they are children first and athletes second," Ireland's representative in Phuket said. An amendment to raise the minimum age to 16 and then wait until after the 2026 Olympics in Milan-Cortina to revisit the issue was rejected. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Injured Salah lifts Egypt

**JOHANNESBURG:** Injured Liverpool star Mohamed Salah defied his club and captained Egypt to a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying victory over Guinea in Cairo at the weekend, according to national coach Ehab Galal. "Salah was hit by an injury, but played through it," said Galal following his debut after Portuguese Carlos Queiroz quit because he could not agree terms for a new contract. Galal told a press conference that Salah rejected a Liverpool request to have a pre-match scan on the undisclosed injury, but "that will be done now". Egypt face Ethiopia on Thursday in Malawi capital Lilongwe because their opponents do not have any international-standard stadiums. Two-time African Footballer of the Year Salah has experienced two major disappointments with record seven-time Cup of Nations winners Egypt this year. They lost the Cup of Nations final to Senegal on penalties in February and the following month fell to Senegal again in a shootout, this time in a 2022 World Cup play-off. — AFP

#### NZ Rugby makes apology

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand Rugby publicly apologized on Tuesday to Te Kura Ngata-Aerengamate, whose criticism of the environment in the women's national team led to a scathing review and overhaul of its coaching staff. The experienced hooker had accused management of overseeing a culture that failed to support player wellbeing on their unsuccessful tour of Europe last year, during which she said she suffered a mental breakdown. The 30-year-old's social media post in December highlighting her treatment-including accusations that coach Glenn Moore made disparaging remarks to her-sparked an independent review. The review backed up Ngata-Aerengamate's claims and found staff made culturally insensitive comments to the country's top players and indulged in favoritism and body-shaming. Moore stood down in April, within a week of the review's release, and was replaced by former All Blacks coach Wayne Smith, six months out from the World Cup being staged in New Zealand. — AFP

#### N Zealand to face Australia

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's men's football team will play in front of their home fans for the first time in nearly five years when they host Australia in a milestone friendly in September. The All Whites face the Socceroos at Auckland's Eden Park on September 25, marking the 100-year anniversary of the first international fixture between the neighbors. It will be the rugby venue's first senior football international, with the game falling one day after a Bledisloe Cup rugby Test between the nations there. The Socceroos will also host New Zealand as part of a two-game series, with that date and venue to be decided. They have not played each other in more than a decade. This week both nations will have thoughts only on World Cup qualifying. Australia face the United Arab Emirates in an Asian playoff later Tuesday in Doha, with the winners to meet Peru on June 13 for a place at the World Cup Finals in Qatar later this year. — AFP

#### E Guinea too strong for Libya

**JOHANNESBURG:** A much-changed Equatorial Guinea side recovered from a thrashing in Tunisia last week by beating Libya 2-0 on Monday to get back into contention for a place at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in the Ivory Coast. It was a must-win match for the National Thunder after a 4-0 loss to Tunisia in Group J and coach Juna Micha made six changes for the second round clash in Malabo. The new-look team delivered with Mohammed Touhami deflecting a Santiago Eneme shot into his own net on 51 minutes and Federico Bikoro converting a penalty six minutes from time. Libya thought they had taken the lead late in the opening half, but TV replays suggested the match officials correctly called a marginal offside decision. Tunisia top the standings with four points after a goalless draw in Botswana on Sunday, Equatorial Guinea and Libya have three each and Botswana one. — AFP



## West Asia Futsal Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Futsal team hope to win against their Palestinian counterpart on Wednesday (4:00 pm) in the third and final round of the first group in order to qualify for the semi-finals of West Asia Futsal Championship. Saudi Arabia will play Iraq (7:30 pm) in a highly important match for both sides. Kuwait and Iraq share the lead of group one with four points; Saudi Arabia maintain the third position with three points as the Palestinian team remained at fourth place - without a point.

Also, Kuwait beat Saudi Arabia on Monday 5-4 in the second round in a match that was difficult but exciting. Kuwait players worked hard to come from behind - bearing in mind that Kuwait goalkeeper Mohammad Al-Hazim got a red card. Iraq defeated Palestine 6-4 in the other match.



## 38th Gulf Handball Cup

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The match between Bahrain's Najma handball team and Saudi Arabia's Mudar team gave the 38th Gulf Handball Cup winners a new excitement. The match ended in favor of Najma 33-26. The match was held at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Halls complex on Tuesday. Najma are now on top of the first group with two points, followed by Mudar with the same number of points but with goal difference. Salmiya remain pointless in third place. In the first group, UAE's Aljezeera had their first win in the tournament against Muscat team 27-26.

### Semi-finals Thursday

There will be no match on Wednesday. The semi-finals will be played on Thursday when the first team of group one meet with second team of the second group. Also, the first team of the second



group will meet the second team of group one, and the winners will play for the title on Sunday. The losers will play for third and fourth places on the same day. Meanwhile, Najma team goalkeeper Mohammad Abdelhussein congratulated the team's fans for their victory, adding "it was difficult to go through the first match against Mudhar team."



## Athletics team of mentally disabled head to Turkey

**KUWAIT:** Athletics team of the mentally disabled from Tomooh Sport Club left for Turkey to join a training camp in preparation for the Sixth Downs Athletics Championship in the Czech Republic from 19 to 26 June. The delegation has 14 athletes of both genders in addition to technical and administrative officials and is headed by Treasurer Hanaa Al-Zawawi who expressed confidence in the athletes'

ability to perform well, adding Kuwait is the only Arab country participating in this Championship along with 12 countries from around the world.

She said "our athletes are preparing for the event in daily training and local camps for the past two months in addition to participating in the Tahaddi (Challenge) Club Championship last week. Al-Zawawi said the participation is within the agenda of international participations. She also lauded the support of Tomooh Club board and its Chairwoman Rehab Buresli. She also thanked Director General of Public Authority for Sport Dr Humoud Fulaiteh and His Deputy for Competitive Sport Dr Saqer Al-Mulla for their support and facilitating all that is necessary to have the camp and participate in the championship.

## Confident Pakistan seek Windies rout to boost WCup hopes

**MULTAN:** High-flying Pakistan aim to boost their chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup with a clean sweep against an inexperienced West Indies side when their three-match one-day international series starts in Multan on Wednesday. A 3-0 win will lift the Babar Azam-led team to third from their current 10th place in the 13-team World Cup Super League, the qualification process for 2023 World Cup.

The West Indies, led by wicketkeeper-batsman Nicholas Pooran, are fourth after winning 3-0 in the Netherlands, but have just six of their 24 qualifying ODIs remaining. Defeat in the oppressive heat of Multan will put West Indies in danger of needing to play in the qualifying round, while Pakistan have a further nine ODIs after the series to secure direct passage.

Hosts India and the top seven teams will qualify automatically, while the remaining five will have to battle for the last two berths later this year. Pakistan's confidence is sky high after a 2-1 home series win over Australia two months ago, and skipper Azam is hoping for a similar display of intensity from his side. "As a team, as a captain, you go into the series thinking about a clean sweep, whoever the opponent is," said Azam. "The intent is the same, but it's not like we are underestimating the West Indies." — AFP



Sports

# Fallen football chiefs Blatter and Platini face fraud trial

## Duo linked to fraudulent payment that shook soccer

LAUSANNE: Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini, once the chiefs of world and European football, face trial on Wednesday over a suspected fraudulent payment that shook the sport and torpedoed their time at the top. Former FIFA president Blatter, 86, and Platini, 66, start a two-week trial at Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court in the southern city of Bellinzona, following a mammoth investigation that began in 2015 and lasted six years.

The pair are being tried over a two million Swiss franc (\$2.08 million) payment in 2011 to Platini, who was then in charge of European football's governing body UEFA. They are accused of having, to the detriment of FIFA, illegally obtained the payment, plus social security contributions of 229,126 francs, in favor of Platini. The former French football great "submitted to FIFA in 2011 an allegedly fictitious invoice for a (alleged) debt still existing for his activity as an adviser for FIFA in the years 1998 to 2002," according to the court.

The defendants are both accused of fraud and forgery of a document. Blatter is accused of misappropriation and criminal mismanagement, while Platini is accused of participating in those offences. The indictment was filed by the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG). The trial will conclude on June 22, with the three judges

delivering their verdict on July 8. The defendants could face up to five years' imprisonment or a fine. Both FIFA and UEFA are headquartered in Switzerland, in Zurich and Nyon respectively.

### 'Oral contract'

Platini and retired Swiss football administrator Blatter were banned from the sport at the very moment when Platini seemed ideally-placed to succeed Blatter at the helm of world football's governing body. The two allies became rivals as Platini grew impatient to take over, while Blatter's tenure was brought to a swift end by a separate 2015 FIFA corruption scandal investigated by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In the Bellinzona trial, the defense and the prosecution agree on one point: Platini was employed as an adviser to Blatter between 1998 and 2002. They signed a contract in 1999 for an annual remuneration of 300,000 francs. "The compensation agreed in accordance with this contract was invoiced by Platini on each occasion and paid in full by FIFA," said the OAG.

However, more than eight years after the end of his advisory role, the former France captain "demanded a payment in the amount of two million francs", the OAG alleged. "With Blatter's involve-

ment, FIFA made a payment to Platini in said amount at the beginning of 2011. The evidence gathered by the OAG has corroborated that this payment to Platini was made without a legal basis. This payment damaged FIFA's assets and unlawfully enriched Platini," the federal prosecution alleges.

The men insist that they had, from the outset, orally agreed to an annual salary of one million francs. "It is outstanding salary, owed by FIFA, under oral contract and paid under conditions of the most perfect legality. Nothing else! I acted, as in all my life and career, with the utmost honesty," Platini said in a statement sent to AFP. As a civil party, FIFA wants to be reimbursed the money paid in 2011 so that it is "returned to the one and only purpose for which it was intended: football", its lawyer Catherine Hohl-Chirazi told AFP.

### Ballon d'Or winner

Joseph "Sepp" Blatter joined FIFA in 1975, became its general secretary in 1981 and the president of world football's governing body in 1998. He was forced to stand down in 2015 and was banned by FIFA for eight years, later reduced to six, over ethics breaches for authorizing the payment to Platini, allegedly made in his own interests rather than FIFA's. Platini is regarded among world foot-



PARIS: A combination of photos shows former FIFA ex-president Sepp Blatter (left) and UEFA leader Michel Platini. —AFP

ball's greatest-ever players. He won the Ballon d'Or, considered the most prestigious individual award, three times—in 1983, 1984 and 1985. Only Lionel Messi (seven) and Cristiano Ronaldo (five) have won more Ballons d'Or than Platini. Platini was UEFA's president from January 2007 to December 2015. Platini appealed against his initial eight-year suspension at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which reduced it to four years. —AFP



## GAZOO Racing clinches one-two finish for Rally1

KUWAIT: The GAZOO Racing (GR) World Rally Team (WRT) recently celebrated a fantastic one-two finish for the GR YARIS Rally1 vehicle on its gravel debut at the Rally de Portugal, the round four of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Kalle Rovanpera scored his third win in a row just ahead of team-mate Elfyn Evans, with Toyota extending its lead for the Manufacturers' Championship by 59 points.

In the first test of the new generation of hybrid electric-powered vehicles on gravel roads, the GR YARIS Rally1 was the vehicle to beat, winning 15 of the 19 stages across the rally. The first day proved thrilling with an intense battle between Evans in the No 33 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 and Rovanpera who doubled up as championship leader for the first time in his career in the No 69 Toyota GR YARIS Rally 1. The pair were in a league of their own through the second day, and the lead moved into Rovanpera's hands in difficult mixed weather conditions during the afternoon.

But Rovanpera and co-driver Jonne Halttunen went on to win the penultimate stage as well as the rally-ending Power Stage, ensuring another maximum points haul to increase their championship lead to 46 points after wins in three of the first four events. Evans and co-driver Scott Martin finished 15.2s away from the victory as they returned to the podium for the first time this season.

Akio Toyoda, President, and CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation commented: "Kalle, Jonne, congratulations! It is amazing to achieve three consecutive victories, especially as it was done on snow, asphalt, and gravel rallies. I truly thank them for proving that the GR YARIS Rally1 is the vehicle that can win on any



type of road. Also, it was great to have a one-two finish and I thank Elfyn, Scott and everybody on the team for the outstanding performance that saw Toyota completing the first third of the season leading the championship standings. I appreciate our fans' continuous support that inspires us to strive to make our vehicle the strongest at the end of the season."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nurburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GR, to consolidate all of its motorsport's activities under one in-house brand.

Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone. The fifth round of the 2022 FIA WRC is Rally Italia Sardegna, which will take place from June 2-5, with stages involving fast but narrow tracks.

## Kuwait Police Shooting team win General Excellence Cup



— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Police Shooting team won the General Excellence Cup of the GCC police second shooting tournament that was held at the shooting ranges of Hunting and Equestrian Club in Sabhan area. President of Kuwait Olympic committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and president of police Association and Chairman of the organizing committee Brig Waleed Al-Shihab and other dignitaries awarded the top winners in various competitions.

Saudi Arabia's Sergeant Mohammad Al-Enezi won first place in the Fixed Pistol Singles; fol-

lowed by Kuwait's Lt Colonel Thamer Al-Mutairat and Oman's Corporal Abdelrahman Al-Nassiri took the third position. Oman's team won the first place in the Pistol Teams event; Kuwait took second while Saudi Arabia grabbed the third place.

Brig Al-Shihab congratulated Kuwait's shooters for winning first place in the Excellence Cup for winning the largest number of gold medals in various competitions and dedicated this victory to the Interior Ministry that was represented by First Deputy Premier, Interior Minister, chairman of the international Police Sports Association Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf.

## Dustin Johnson quits PGA Tour to play in breakaway series

ST ALBANS: Former world number one golfer Dustin Johnson confirmed on Tuesday he has resigned his membership of the US PGA Tour to play in the breakaway LIV Golf Invitational Series. The decision effectively rules the American two-time major winner out of participating in the Ryder Cup, which pits the United States against Europe every two years.

Johnson was speaking at a press conference at Centurion Club, near London, ahead of the opening

event of the Saudi-backed series, which starts on Thursday. The world number 15 said in February he was committed to playing on the PGA Tour, which has refused releases for members to play in LIV Golf's opener, which clashes with the Canadian Open. But he has now quit, following a similar decision by veteran US golfer Kevin Na, who is also in the field for the event in St Albans.

"I'm very thankful to the PGA Tour and everything that it's done for me... but this is something I felt was best for me and my family and I'm very excited about playing," said Johnson. The 37-year-old, who is reportedly receiving \$150 million in appearance fees to play in the series, said it was difficult to predict the consequences of his decision. "Right now, I've resigned my membership from the Tour," he added. "I'm going to play here for now and that's the plan." —AFP

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

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

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

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DENVER: Connor McDavid #97 of the Edmonton Oilers has his shot saved by Pavel Francouz #39 of the Colorado Avalanche during Game Two of the NHL Western Conference Final at Ball Arena in Denver, Colorado. —AFP

## Avalanche sweep Oilers, advance

### NHL Bruins fire Cassidy as coach after playoff ouster

**MONTREAL:** Artturi Lehkonen scored 79 seconds into overtime and the Colorado Avalanche advanced to the Stanley Cup Final with a 6-5 victory over Edmonton on Monday in the NHL playoffs. Colorado swept the host Oilers 4-0 in the best-of-seven Western Conference final to reach the championship series for the first time since winning the title in 2001. The Avalanche will face either the two-time defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning or New York Rangers for the Stanley Cup. The Rangers lead the Eastern Conference final 2-1.

No Canadian team has won the Stanley Cup since the 1993 Montreal Canadiens, the longest such drought in NHL history. Colorado will try to claim a third Stanley Cup, having also lifted the trophy in 1996. The winning goal came when Finnish left wing Lehkonen tipped a shot from defenseman Cale Makar past Oilers goaltender Mike Smith.

"Cale took the shot. I just deflected it," Lehkonen said. "It landed straight on my blade. I had an empty net in front of me." The Avalanche rallied from two goals down in the third period and briefly seized the lead before being forced to play overtime to subdue

the stubborn Oilers. "It was a great comeback win for sure," Lehkonen said. "We were talking in the second intermission that we just had to find our game and we could pull through this."

Colorado defenseman Makar opened the scoring 3:46 into the game on a power play goal off a pass from Lehkonen. Zach Hyman equalized for Edmonton on a backhand shot off a pass from Leon Draisaitl 7:39 into the second period. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins lifted the Oilers ahead on an unassisted backhand goal with 3:03 remaining in the second period. Connor McDavid followed with a power play goal off a Draisaitl pass only 66 seconds before the end of the period to put Edmonton ahead 3-1 after 40 minutes.

Just 31 seconds into the third period, defenseman Devon Toews lifted the Avalanche within 3-2 on a short-handed goal from a shot that deflected in off an Oiler defenseman. But Hyman answered for Edmonton, taking a Draisaitl pass and firing an off-speed shot from the left face-off circle that beat Colorado goalie Pavel Francouz to give the Oilers a 4-2 edge with 16:05 to play. Colorado's Gabriel

Landeskog poked in a loose puck from the crease past Smith to pull the Avalanche within 4-3 with 11:02 remaining in the third period.

Avalanche star Nathan MacKinnon netted the equalizer with 6:30 remaining, firing just under the crossbar inside the near post for his 11th goal of the playoffs. Mikko Rantanen scored a power play goal with 5:13 remaining to put Colorado ahead 5-4, giving the Avalanche three goals in five shots over a 5:49 span to seize the lead. But the Oilers, facing elimination, were not done yet as Zack Kassian knocked in a loose puck in the crease to equalize at 5-5 with 3:22 remaining in regulation time.

#### Bruins fire Cassidy

Meanwhile, Bruce Cassidy, who guided the Boston Bruins to the 2019 Stanley Cup Final, was fired Monday as coach of the NHL club after it made a 2022 first-round playoff exit. Cassidy went 245-108 with 46 overtime losses after a mid-season take over as coach in February 2017, just months after being promoted to assistant coach after eight years coaching Boston's top developmental club.

"Today I informed Bruce Cassidy that I was making a head coaching change," Bruins general manager Don Sweeney said. "After 14 years working with Bruce, this was an extremely difficult decision." The move came after the Bruins went 51-26-5 this past season but lost to Carolina in seven games in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. "After taking some time to fully digest everything, I felt that the direction of our team for both this season and beyond would benefit from a new voice," Sweeney said.

Sweeney's task is now to find the coach whose voice will try to lead the Bruins to their first NHL crown since 2011. "I have the utmost confidence in Don to conduct a thorough search to identify the best candidate that is going to help our team reach its full potential," said Bruins president Cam Neely. The Bruins made the playoffs in every season under Cassidy but only once went beyond the second round. That was in 2019 when Boston ousted Toronto, Columbus and Carolina to reach the final before falling to the St. Louis Blues in a seventh-game showdown for the Stanley Cup. —AFP

### Inoue stops Donaire to grab more titles

**SAITAMA:** Japan's unbeaten Naoya Inoue stopped Nonito Donaire of the Philippines in the second round Tuesday to add the WBC bantamweight world title to his WBA and IBF belts. Inoue, who also beat Donaire in a 2019 classic, floored the 39-year-old veteran at the end of the first round and stopped him 1 min. 24 sec into the second to take his record to 23 wins, 20 of them by knockout. Inoue and Donaire's previous bout in Saitama, north of Tokyo, was voted fight of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America, with the Japanese fighter recovering from a fractured eye socket and double vision to claim a unanimous points win.

The hotly anticipated rematch at the same venue turned out to be a completely different contest, with Inoue living up to his "Monster" nickname by dominating the Philippines veteran. Inoue sent Donaire to the canvas with a right hand at the end of the first round, then picked up the pace when the bell rang to start the second. He landed a heavy shot that wobbled Donaire on his feet, before a barrage of punches sent the "Filipino Flash" to the floor and convinced the referee to stop the fight.

Inoue can now aim to become the undisputed bantamweight world champion after taking Donaire's WBC belt, with Britain's current WBO title-holder Paul Butler the only obstacle left in his way. He has said he wants to become the undisputed champion before the end of the year. Butler captured previous champion John Riel Casimero's vacant WBO title when he beat Jonas Sultan by unanimous decision in April. Butler was elevated from interim to full champion last month when the WBO stripped Casimero of the full title.



SAITAMA: Japan's Naoya Inoue (left) fights against Philippines' Nonito Donaire during their Bantamweight unification boxing match at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama on June 7, 2022. —AFP

#### Unbeaten Charlo injured

Meanwhile, undefeated Jermall Charlo suffered a back injury that has forced the postponement of his scheduled June 18 World Boxing Council middleweight title bout against Poland's Maciej Sulecki, promoters announced Monday. The 32-year-old American was injured in training to prepare to face Sulecki, 30-2 with 11 knockouts, at Houston, Texas. No new date for the 12-round fight was announced pending a medical assessment of when Charlo could resume training.

Charlo, 32-0 with 22 knockouts, had been set to defend his title for the fifth time in his career a full year after his most recent bout—a unanimous decision victory over Mexico's Juan Macias Montiel at Houston. The setback delays any possible unification fight for Charlo with the 160-pound (72.6kg) division's top star, Kazak fighter Gennady Golovkin, who owns the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation middleweight crowns. Charlo's identical twin brother, Jermell Charlo, is the undisputed world junior middleweight champion after a knockout victory last month over Argentina's Brian Castano. —AFP

### Canada's women hockey struggling

**TORONTO:** In Canada, hockey is king but there are few queens. In many regions, women's teams do not exist and there is no women's professional league. But many are fighting to change that. "The next five years will make up for the last 15. I think now is the time," said Daniele Sauvageau, former Canadian national team coach and now director of the high performance center. "We're going to see changes and more visibility, probably more women's sports on TV than we've seen," she added. It's quite the paradox that despite another Olympic gold medal in Beijing, Canadian female hockey players are still not very visible in their country and hockey remains mainly a sport for men. Women still represent less than 20 percent of players in Canada (less than 10 percent in Quebec). The introduction in 2017 of a form of salary in the Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL) could have marked a turning point. But barely two years later, the announcement of its bankruptcy put an end to the professionalization movement that seemed to have begun.

"We come back to the forefront with the Olympic Games. But everything has to be redone every four years," said Marie-Philip Poulin, captain of the Canadian team and three-time Olympic champion. The latter founded, together with other Canadian and American players, the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA). Their goal: to create a cross-border league where female athletes can be paid as professionals without having to work on the side. "We believe in it. We are fighting to create a league not only for ourselves, but for the next generations of players. It takes patience," she added.

#### 'Boys can be mean'

In the women's clubs, the girls know little about these champions. "There's still the perception of only boys playing hockey, but I think it's started to change now," said Kim McCullough, head of a women's hockey club in Toronto. According to a recent poll, more than 92 percent of Canadians believe that girls should be encouraged to play sports as much as boys, but more than 33 percent still consid-



TORONTO: Young players run drills during their Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association's youth house league skills practice in Toronto, Ontario. In Canada, hockey is king but there are few queens. In many regions, women's teams do not exist and there is no women's professional league. But many are fighting to change that. —AFP

er that certain sports are not suitable for women.

In recent years, "we've seen growth at a lot of different levels, which I think is awesome. The more players we can get, the better it is for our sport," added McCullough, wearing a red Team Canada cap. On the ice, beginners aged seven to 14, green or pink jerseys on their backs, skated at full speed from one end of the rink to the other, forwards and backwards, sometimes falling, under the watchful eyes of their parents, who capture the moment in images on their smartphones from behind the safety glass that surrounds the rink.

Jamie Bliss, 43, accompanied his daughter Kira, 12, to training: "It's great having all the girls on ice but also having the coaches being women. I think it's great for them to see others girls and women coaching them, encouraging them, that really helps to build their confidence." Having a role model is what motivated 10-year-old Hallae. "I was inspired by my dad's girlfriend, she did a lot of hockey," she said, adding that she loves the sport. At this all-girls club in Toronto, many say it makes them feel more comfortable. "It's easier because some boys can sometimes be mean when you mess up," said eight-year-old Riley. But not all provinces offer the opportunity for girls to play on women's teams to discover hockey. In Quebec, most of the time the girls are integrated into the boys' teams. —AFP