

2

Schengen visa waiver for Kuwaitis 'on right track'



5

Protests mount as Bolsonaro mum on Brazil election loss



12

Rapper Takeoff, member of Migos, shot dead at 28



15

The other World Cup: Qatari brothers inspire padel boom





Call for unity as Arab Summit opens

Palestinian crisis, food security and Arab League reforms on agenda



ALGIERS: Arab leaders, including HH the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, pose for a group photo on Nov 1, 2022 during the Arab Summit. — AFP

ALGIERS: The Arab Summit kicked off on Tuesday with the attendance of 13 leaders, eight delegation heads and the Arab League chief. Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is heading Kuwait's delegation at the summit. This year's summit is themed "Arab reunification", with the Algeria Declaration expected to focus on the Palestinian crisis, food security and Arab League reforms.

Algeria's President Abdelmadjid Tebboune called Tuesday for Arab unity to face escalating "tensions and crises" as he opened the summit. Tebboune told the meeting's inaugural session that "our central and primary cause remains the Palestinian cause". The Algerian president also warned that "exceptional global conditions are creating polarization... which is impacting our food security", without directly mentioning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The regional and international context (is) marked by rising tensions and crises, particularly in the Arab world, which in its modern history hasn't seen a period as difficult as the one it is currently undergoing," he added. Tuesday's summit, the first since 2019, had been postponed multiple times due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Continued on Page 6

News in brief

Kuwait stands with Qatar World Cup

KUWAIT: Kuwait Football Association launched a campaign dubbed 'we stand with the World Cup in Qatar 2022' to support Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup against a wave of criticism it's received from European countries and other entities.

\$8 monthly for Twitter blue tick

SAN FRANCISCO: New Twitter head Elon Musk said Tuesday the site will charge \$8 per month to verify users' accounts. "Power to the people! Blue for \$8/month," the billionaire entrepreneur tweeted in reference to the platform's famous blue checkmark, saying the new plan would upend the "current lords & peasants system" and create a new revenue stream for the site. — AFP

Canada ups immigration targets

OTTAWA: Canada will boost its immigration targets, hoping to welcome a record number of newcomers in order to address a worker shortage in the country, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced Tuesday. "Canada needs more people," Fraser told a news conference. Last year, Canada welcomed over 405,000 immigrants, the most ever in a single year. This year, said Fraser, the government hopes to double its intake from 2014 levels to 431,000. It has also revised upward its targets for next year to 465,000, 485,000 in 2024 and 500,000 in 2025. — AFP

Lebanon seizes Captagon pills

BEIRUT: Lebanese security forces seized over five million Captagon pills hidden inside construction material, the interior minister said Tuesday, in the latest bust of the amphetamine-type stimulant. Officers seized "a large quantity of Captagon" during a raid on a warehouse in the southern Lebanese city of Ghazieh, Bassam Mawlawi said in a statement. The illegal shipment of pills was labelled as heading to Sudan via Ivory Coast, but it is unclear if that was the true destination. — AFP

Assembly passes deficit budget

MPs call for raising wages after inflation hits 4.2%, highest in Gulf

By B Izzak & KUNA

KUWAIT: The National Assembly on Tuesday passed the state budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which forecasts a deficit for the eighth year in a row, after the government accepted demands by MPs to increase welfare spending. The initial draft budget projected a KD 333 million surplus for the first time since the 2015/2016 fiscal year, but the government accepted demands by newly-elected lawmakers to add more than KD 450 million to expenditures to account for some populist policies.

The new budget projects revenues at KD 23.399 billion, while spending is estimated at KD 23.523 billion, leaving

a deficit of KD 124 million, according to budget figures approved by the Assembly. Fifty-three members voted for the budget while four MPs voted against, with one abstention. MPs refused to pass the budget last week, demanding that the government add some KD 300 million to pay for government staff willing to cash their annual leave, and around KD 157 million to pay frontline workers during the coronavirus pandemic. MPs also voted to pass the budgets of dozens of independent government agencies.

MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa said last week the Assembly was debating a budget with a surplus of KD 333 million, but "today we are debating a

Continued on Page 6



KUWAIT: MPs attend a National Assembly session on Nov 1, 2022. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

US, UAE in clean energy partnership worth \$100bn

WASHINGTON: The United States announced a clean energy partnership on Tuesday with the United Arab Emirates worth \$100 billion, the White House said. The Partnership for Accelerating Clean Energy (PACE) will aim to develop low-emission energy sources to distribute 100 gigawatts of clean energy worldwide by 2035, White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement. The two countries will also invest in managing harmful emissions such as carbon and methane, as well as in developing nuclear technology and decarbonizing industrial and transportation sectors.

Funds will also go toward supporting "emerging economies whose clean development is both underfunded and essential to the global climate effort," the statement said. "PACE also reflects our unwavering commitment to working closely with allies and partners to accelerate the clean energy transition and deliver the climate action our shared future depends on."



ABU DHABI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and US National Security Council Coordinator for MENA Brett McGurk watch as US Senior Advisor for Energy Security Amos Hochstein and UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Al-Jaber sign an agreement on Nov 1, 2022. — AFP

The announcement comes days before world leaders convene in Egypt for the UN COP27 climate summit. The UAE, a major oil producer, will host the COP28 in 2023. The head of UAE oil giant ADNOC and the Gulf state's special envoy for climate change, Sultan Al-Jaber, said at an oil conference on Monday that oil remains a cornerstone of energy supply but that the UAE was also working to lower emissions and increase production from renewable or less-polluting sources. — AFP

Pope's Bahrain visit to cement ties with Islam

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis will become the first pontiff in history to visit Bahrain, in a trip this week that is hoped will cement ties with Islam. The Thursday-to-Sunday visit - the 39th international trip of Francis' papacy - comes three years after his historic trip to the United Arab Emirates in 2019, where he signed a Muslim-Christian manifesto for peace.

The Argentine pontiff, 85, has made outreach to Muslim communities a priority during his papacy, visiting Middle Eastern countries including Egypt in 2017 and Iraq last year while pledging interfaith dialogue with leading Muslim clerics. On Friday, Francis plans to meet with Sunni Islam's highest authority, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's prestigious Al-Azhar mosque and center of Islamic learning, at Sakhr Palace in the center of the country.

Continued on Page 6

Schengen visa waiver for Kuwaitis 'on right track'

European Parliament vice president meets Kuwaiti officials, EU ambassadors

KUWAIT: Vice President of the European Parliament Eva Kaili briefed EU ambassadors on the Schengen visa waiver for Kuwaiti nationals, which was also a main topic of discussion in her meetings with Kuwaiti officials during her official visit on Sunday. She added the Schengen visa waiver file at the European Parliament is on the right track. Once the European Parliament votes on the visa waiver, and if passed, it would have still to be agreed by the Council as per the European Union's Ordinary Legislative Procedure.

If the visa waiver for Kuwaiti nationals is adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, the European Commission will start negotiations for a visa waiver agreement with Kuwait to ensure full reciprocity for EU citizens. Visa-free travel to the EU for nationals of Kuwait will start applying once the visa waiver agreement enters into force.

The aim of Kaili's meeting with ambassadors of EU member states represented in Kuwait was to brief them about her discussions with high-level Kuwait government and National Assembly officials, including National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun, Prime Minister HH Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Dr Bader Al-Mulla, Minister of Public Works, Electricity, Water and Renewable Energies Dr Amani Buqammaz as well as Ambassador Waleed Al-Khobeizi, Acting Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During her visit to the National Assembly, Eva Kaili was received by Saadoun, Deputy Speaker Mohammed Al-Mutair and MPs Dr Jenan Bushehri and Alia Al-Khaled. Kaili also met the foreign affairs committee. Kaili informed EU ambassadors about her discussions in Kuwait on how to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas such as people to people contacts, energy transition, research and innovation, economic diversification, investments and education.

Kaili also discussed women's empowerment and human rights matters with her interlocutors, as well as issues faced by European Union citizens residing in Kuwait. The visit of Kaili strengthens political and inter-parliamentary ties between the European Union and Kuwait and builds on the successful visit of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the Arabian Peninsula to Kuwait last year.



Movember raises awareness of prostate cancer

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Every year in November, countries around the world celebrate Movember, which aims to raise awareness of men's health issues, especially prostate cancer, which is the most prevalent cancer among men in Kuwait. Speaking to Kuwait Times, Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem, consultant urologist and head of the urology unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Military Hospital, said that the month of November is a good opportunity to remind and raise awareness of the danger of prostate cancer to do necessary medical examinations.

He affirmed that with age, it occurs in most men, calling on men over the age of 50 to adopt healthy habits and undergo periodic examinations for any signs of prostate cancer. "Men must undergo a PSA blood test that can indicate the beginning of a cancerous tumor. If the PSA test result is abnormal, other laboratory and clinical tests should be conducted, such as a prostate biopsy and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). If an increase in this indicator is detected, this may be a nearly-stage discovery. The tests guarantee the speed of treatment and high chances of a full recovery," he explained.

Dr Ghanem stressed that the causes of this type of cancer are not clear, and heredity plays a role, as prevalence doubles in first-degree rela-



Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem

tives, in addition to advancing age, obesity and geographical and spatial distribution, as an American study revealed that cancer affects men of African origin more than others. Regarding symptoms, he said: "In its early stages, prostate cancer often has no symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they can be seen in late stages, like difficulty urinating, interrupted flow of urine, trouble emptying the bladder completely, pain or burning during urination, and blood in the urine."

Ghanem indicated that the treatment of this disease is carried out in several ways, including surgery, as well as other treatments such as radiation and hormone therapy to stop the male hormone testosterone from being produced or reaching prostate cancer cells, in addition to chemotherapy and biological treatment for cases in which the tumor has spread outside the prostate area.

Dr Ghanem advised men to check with their family doctors for early detection of cancer, and check with urologists for advanced stages. According to a report, prostate cancer ranked first as the most common cancer among Kuwaiti men in 2015, at a rate of 15 persons per 100,000 inhabitants. The prostate tumor is often slow-growing, but for a small percentage of patients, the tumor is fierce and fast-spreading, so there must be awareness to save the lives of thousands of people.

Jordan king, Kuwait minister hold talks

AQABA: Jordanian King Abdullah II on Tuesday met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's Representative, Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the military expo SOFEX 2022. During the meeting, they underlined deep relations between Kuwait and Jordan and ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in military and defensive domains in order to strengthen regional security and stability, according to a royal statement.

They also discussed opportunities created by the event for the latest developments of special opera-

tions and defensive industries, along with exchange of expertise among participants, it said. SOFEX 2022 kicked off in Aqaba earlier on Tuesday, with more than 300 specialized companies from 38 countries partaking.

SOFEX provides an ideal platform to present and demonstrate new and innovative equipment and technologies in order to deliver swift, decisive and effective solutions that will help international Special Operations and Homeland Security decision makers and armed forces maintain the security and safety in their countries, regions and around the world. SOFEX is a four-day event that kicks off with a prominent full-day conference that includes a series of comprehensive and topical seminars delivered by top military officials from around the world, tackling a wide range of issues pertinent to current counter-terrorism and homeland security issues. — KUNA



DHAMAN opens 5th Primary Healthcare Center in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The new health center in Fahaheel is the largest in its network and contains 30 family medicine clinics, 12 dental clinics, 5 pediatric clinics, 3 treatment rooms, 3 observation rooms, 4 x-ray rooms, a laboratory and a pharmacy. Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) has inaugurated its fifth Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) in the Fahaheel area in the Ahmadi Governorate.

This inauguration represents a significant new step towards achieving the company's strategy to serve the high-density clusters of the target segment and provide them with integrated healthcare services. On this occasion, DHAMAN Chairman, Mutlaq Mubarak Al-Sanea, said, "Today we are inaugurating DHAMAN's fifth primary healthcare center and the largest in the country in terms of the number of clinics operating to meet the needs of healthcare services."

These centers are an essential element in our plan to establish an integrated health network, which includes hospitals with a bed capacity of not less than 600 beds and a number of primary healthcare centers distributed in all governorates to serve the national strategy for healthcare in Kuwait, which aims to raise the level of health services while also reducing the financial and administrative burdens on Kuwaiti government entities."

He added, "We are currently working on finalizing the requirements for the opening of two hospitals in the Jahra and Ahmadi governorates at the beginning of the first quarter of next year, which will be operated in cooperation with the Spanish company Ribera Salud, which is an expert in providing healthcare for more than 30 years in Spain and a number of other countries."

Furthermore, Al-Sanea stressed that "DHAMAN is

the largest project of the development plan in Kuwait in terms of capital amounting to KD 230 million, and the first initiative to support the medical sector in Kuwait. This is considered one of the largest sectors that drains the state budget, as DHAMAN seeks to improve the country's healthcare indicators and benchmarks, achieving a qualitative leap for the health sector, reducing financial and administrative burdens on government entities, in addition to supporting economic diversification through healthcare, by providing healthcare services to expatriates working in the private sector (Article 18) and their families".

For his part, DHAMAN CEO, Thamer Arab, said: "The opening of the new center represents a new success towards completing DHAMAN health network, which will undoubtedly be followed by other steps until we reach our ultimate goal of achieving the company's vision and strategy in building and managing a comprehensive and integrated health network that includes all medical activities and services, including assurance, treatment, follow-up and awareness, adding that DHAMAN seeks to raise healthcare indicators through preventive health, by adopting the integrated health maintenance organization (HMO) model".

Arab added that citizens and residents in the Ahmadi Governorate, specifically the Fahaheel area, can now quickly obtain integrated and high-quality healthcare services, including family medicine, dental and pediatrics. DHAMAN is currently operating four primary healthcare centers in the areas of Hawally, Farwaniya, Jahra and Dhajeej, which are currently operating as private centers that receive all segments that need healthcare services in preparation for the opening of the DHAMAN network and receive the main segment that will benefit from its services.

Members of DHAMAN's Board of Directors and Executive Management along with dignitaries from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ahmadi Governorate. DHAMAN Fahaheel Center is considered the largest DHAMAN primary healthcare center and is distinguished by its expansion over an area of 4,660 square meters.

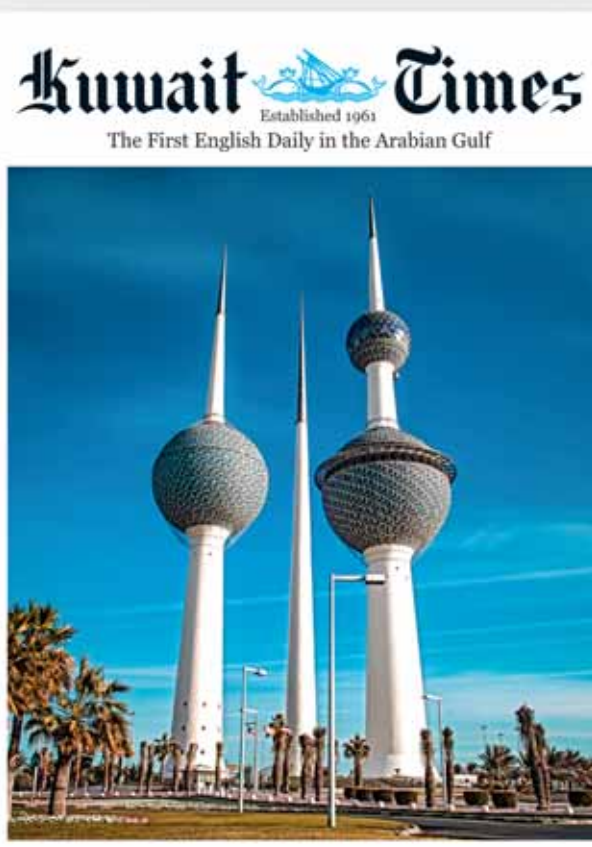


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Local

Audit Bureau report warns of negative effects of unskilled expatriate workers

Bureau makes observations, predicts consequences

By Khaled Al-Abdulhadi

KUWAIT: A report by the Audit Bureau for the year 2021/22 warned of the spread of unskilled workers in Kuwait, with negative political, social and economic effects, as well as for national security, without excluding the negative effects it has on foreign workers as well. The Audit Bureau's fourth edition of its report for nationals titled 'And life has returned to its nature' recognizes the negative effects that the country and expatriate workers are suffering from.

In its report, the bureau has made observations, predicted consequences, and put forth important solutions to fix these issues in the hope to ensure Kuwait remains a state that recognizes human rights and upholds it. The Audit Bureau's report falls back to the eighth objective of the sustainable development strategy, which hopes to strengthen economic development that includes all residents of Kuwait. The bureau sees that this objective is not being followed, and therefore made these observations:

(1) The spread of iqama and human trafficking

conflicts with the principal role of Kuwait in the field of humanitarian work, especially since the average income of unskilled workers is not adequate for a quality life. (2) A large number of unemployed expats increases crime and violations. (3) Workers do not have assurance for what they paid for the visa to come to the country.

The bureau recognizes the most important negative social, economic, political and security consequences: (1) The negative implication on the reputation of Kuwait in international law organization reports and defamation resulting from protests over the living standards of unskilled workers. (2) Negative effects due to the imbalance of population demographics and its effect on the country.

(3) The increase in subsidies given to expatriates for electricity, water, transportation and medical services, among others. (4) The increase of crimes, which have been dangerously spreading. (5) The inability to control unskilled workers due to the inability of reaching them in one place.

The bureau gave these recommendations to fix the issue: (1) Confirming a clear policy through

which the needs of the country are specified when bringing in workers. (2) Affirming a set of laws and regulations that organize expatriate affairs in the country and living and financial rights of the workers. (3) Working to reduce obstacles for expatriate workers on the humanitarian, legal and financial levels.

(4) The importance of the Public Authority of Manpower to review and observe diligently the situation of expatriate workers through issuing routine reports to the executive and legislative branches to request solutions to fix the situation. (5) The importance to apply law 32 for 2016, which criminalizes human trafficking and increasing the punishment on those who commit these crimes. (6) Working to improve the electronic connection between government departments for its positive effects on fixing the situations of expatriates. (7) The importance for PAM to show the challenges it faces in order to achieve the eighth objective for sustainable development, so that necessary steps are taken to face them.

On the introduction of the report, Head of the

Audit Bureau Faisal Al-Shaya stressed that as part of collective national responsibility, it is important that cooperative action must be taken to raise the position of Kuwait globally, as the bureau is strengthening its supervisory role for the protection of public funds and to increase the quality of all institutions in the country. "The bureau, through this report, aims to continue its efforts to communicate with nationals and civil institutions to improve awareness about the important role of the Audit Bureau in protecting public funds," Shaya said during the introduction of the report.

In conclusion, the bureau sees that some local human traffickers have caused an immense imbalance in population demographics, which negatively affected citizens and foreign residents in Kuwait. Therefore, it finds it necessary to work for solutions it finds helpful, as it could help Kuwait uphold its international reputation as a humanitarian state, improve the relationship between locals and foreigners as well as improve the living standards of expatriate workers, while reducing the harm on the country's economy.



Sheikha Shaimaa Al-Sabah honors Ibrahim Al-Koni.

Sheikha Suad Al-Sabah honors Libya's Al-Koni

BERN: The Libyan scholar Ibrahim Al-Koni has lauded the initiative by the eminent Kuwaiti writer and poet Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah "Yom Al-Wafaa" (the faithfulness day) - honoring iconic Arab cultural personalities. Al-Koni lauded the initiative while he was being himself honored within framework of "Yom Al-Wafaa," sponsored by Sheikha Suad in Bern (October 31-November 1st).

He was handed an award on behalf of Sheikha Suad by Sheikha Shaimaa Al-Sabah. Jamal Al-Arbawi, the moderator of the ceremony, addressed a statement for Sheikha Suad, stating that the award is granted to "those who have sacrificed their eyes and ink" for creative works. The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Switzerland Yaaqoub Al-Sanad in remarks to KUNA thanked Sheikha Suad, for honoring Al-Koni, "a minaret of culture," in Bern, "the serene city of love and the hub of culture and literature."



He added that the broad presence of literature aficionados and scholars depicted Switzerland's interest in boosting relations with Kuwait at the cultural level. Organizations in Geneva, said Sheikha Suad has always been in the lead for honoring distinguished Arabs. Kuwaiti permanent Ambassador to Geneva Naser Alhayan told KUNA on the ceremony's sidelines that he had responded to the attendance invitation in line with special concern by the Kuwaiti political leadership for culture. The honored Libyan scholar Al-Koni was born in Libya in 1948. He studied comparative literature in Russia, lived in several European countries before settling in Switzerland where he became a widely acclaimed novelist and writer with over 100 books. — KUNA

delegations have concerns regarding threats to Arab national security, but he stressed that "a spirit of understanding prevailed at the discussions, which allowed for consensual solutions to be reached that take into account addressing these concerns."

Similarly, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki also stated that "there is consensus on all the draft resolutions submitted by Palestine to include them on the summit agenda." The Palestinian minister did not fail to address the central issue of the West, stressing that "the Palestinian issue will be at the top of the summit's agenda" and that it was the subject of absolute consensus in all the preparatory meetings and the ministers' consultations across all the meetings.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra had previously affirmed, in statements at the end of the meeting, that "the consensual results reached by the Arab foreign ministers will facilitate the work of Arab leaders at their 31st regular summit." He thanked his Arab counterparts for what he described as "their patience and their contribution to the consultations, and for the positive and constructive spirit that prevailed at the preparatory meeting."

Preparatory meetings at the summit level were concluded amid clear signs of the success of Algeria's reunion date. Prior to the summit, Arab foreign ministers had no choice but to discuss the draft Algeria Declaration, which Algeria, as the host country, is preparing in consultation with the visiting Arab countries that wish to see it. Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki suggested that the "project will be subject to consensus," referring to the "atmosphere of cordiality and respect that dominated the discussions of the preparatory meetings over the past few days." —KUNA

Kuwait adopts moderate, balanced foreign policy

BERLIN: Kuwait Ambassador in Germany Najeeb Al-Bader on Tuesday said that his country has always adopted a moderate and balanced foreign policy based on promoting international security and peace, citing its mediation in Gulf, regional and world domains. The ambassador made the remark in a lecture he gave during a conference held by the German Academy for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin. He added that Kuwait attaches much significance to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a strong and influential entity in face of numerous political and security challenges, recalling its role in the creation of the GCC and response to the bloc's crises.

On Palestine, the Kuwaiti ambassador empha-



Kuwait Ambassador in Germany Najeeb Al-Bader

sized that Middle East problems could be only resolved should a fair and just settlement to the Palestinian cause be reached. On Ukraine, he said that the State of Kuwait, from the very beginning, had rejected the Russian-Ukrainian war, reiterating its unwavering position that opposes any interference in countries' internal affairs. — KUNA

Kuwaiti women MPs honored

KUWAIT: The Arab Women Union said Kuwaiti women have proven their status in the society after Jenan Bushehri and Alia Al-Khaled were elected to Abdullah Al-Salem Hall in the National Assembly. Shatti, who was the master of ceremonies at the event held by members of the Arab Women Union to celebrate the victory of Bushehri and Khaled, said electing the two women reflects the belief of a large group of

Kuwait society in the role of the woman and her ability to deliver people's views, particularly women, to both the executive and legislative authorities.

The ceremony was attended by Sheikha Nawal Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Dr Khadija Al-Mahmeed. MP Bushehri said she is ready to cooperate with everyone, especially over women's issues. MP Khaled said she will work hard for the sake of Kuwait's children and grandchildren. She said a woman is the best representative of women as she knows the types of women's issues and their backgrounds.



KUWAIT: MP Alia Al-Khaled being honored at the ceremony.



KUWAIT: MPs Dr Jenan Bushehri and Alia Al-Khaled pose for a group photo with other top dignitaries.

PAM Acting Director receives Philippines Charge d'Affaires

KUWAIT: Acting Director of the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) Mubarak Al-Azmi received Philippines Charge d'Affaires Jose Cabrera. Azmi lauded the historic and distinguished relations between the two countries at the highest level and

keenness on maintaining good relations at all times. Azmi said Kuwait provides legal protection to all expat workers regardless of their nationality.

He said the two sides are keen on joint cooperation with regards to Filipino workers and discussed some issues related to them, hoping the percentage of Filipino workers in Kuwait increases. The meeting was attended by director of domestic help department Nasser Al-Mousawi, supervisor of labor relations Ali Al-Delmani, political science researcher Khalid Fadhel Al-Sabah, as well as the Philippine Embassy's deputy consul, acting labor attache and care officer.



Car purchase store closed

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has shut down an office which buys and sells vehicles in Sharq area for violating the laws of the ministry. An emergency team has initiated legal procedures against the violators.

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News in brief

Kuwait crude oil drops

KUWAIT: Kuwait crude oil dropped \$2.38 during Monday's trading sessions to reach \$93.87 per barrel compared with \$96.25 pb the last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday. Brent futures lost 94 cents to \$94.83 pb and West Texas Intermediate declined \$1.37 to \$86.53 pb. Meanwhile, value of trade exchanges between Egypt and Arab countries in first half of 2022 reached \$14.4 billion, vis-a-vis \$12.1 billion in the same period last year, the official general mobilization and statistics agency said in a statement on Tuesday. Value of the exports to Arab countries amounted to \$5.9 billion during the same duration, compared to \$5.4 billion in 2021. Remittances by Egyptians abroad reached \$8.5 billion against \$6.6 billion, also comparing the same periods. Those by Arabs working in Egypt rose to \$21.9 billion in 2020- 2021 against \$18.8 billion in 2019-2020.

Registration for academies

KUWAIT: Kuwait Youth Public Authority on Tuesday announced the opening of registration for Youth Centers Football Academies. In a press release, the Authority said that that the registration is opened for youngsters and youth between the ages 7 and 13. The program is held under the supervision of qualified Kuwaiti specialists and will run for three days a week for six months. The authority called for youth to register through the website (www.youth.gov.kw) to encourage them to play sports, mold their talents and occupy themselves in a beneficial way. — From KUNA

Photo of the Day



A cockatiel and two cascos soar in the Kuwaiti skies. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

DGCA underlines importance of developing Mideast civil aviation

GCC heads of meteorological facilities conclude meeting in Jeddah

KUWAIT: Directorate General of Civil Aviation Chief Yousef Al-Fouzan on Tuesday underlined the importance of cooperation between International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and civil aviation bodies in the region, to further develop the sector. This came in Al-Fouzan's statement on the sidelines of participating in the sixth meeting between civil aviation general directors of the Middle East, taking place in Abu Dhabi. The three-day meeting, he mentioned, will examine civil aviation issues, topics of common interest, and modes of bolstering and facilitating cooperation in the area. The event, hosted by Emirati civil aviation directorate alongside the regional office of ICAO, is considered quite significant as it is an opportunity to discuss future plans relating to this vital sector.

Meeting in Jeddah

In another development, the 14th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's heads of meteorological and climate services concluded Monday that was



DGCA's delegation participated in the sixth meeting between civil aviation general directors of the Middle East. —KUNA

held over two days in the city of Jeddah. The meeting was led by Saudi Arabia represented by its National Center for Meteorology (NCM), in the presence of heads of meteorological services in the GCC member states and the Secretariat and with the participation of the World Meteorological Organization's representative in the Arab region, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

It said the meeting reviewed the visual presentation submitted by the NCM that includes great efforts exerted to follow implementing the "Green Saudi Arabia" and "Green Middle East" initiatives launched by Saudi Arabia. The gathering discussed

common topics in the GCC framework of action, follow-up the strategic cooperation plan and joint action in meteorology and climate, it stated.

The conferees also discussed developments related to the unified meteorological law, cooperation with the WMO, and the proposed projects, including the Gulf climate statistics project, in addition to dust storms and their effects on the GCC countries, according to the agency. The participants further dealt with air quality standards and the results of the workshop in this matter in GCC member states. They affirmed their full support for the UAE in hosting the Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Abu Dhabi in 2023. —KUNA

Kuwait Times

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Kuwait, Years From Now

Student Art Competition 2022

10 October - 13 November 2022

We are excited to welcome each and every youngster to our Student Art Competition 2022. We hope everyone is ready to showcase and create beautiful artworks of Kuwait in the future. We're searching for great art – so get your paintbrushes, color pencils and markers ready. Let your talent flow and start painting. Good luck to our young artists!

- The competition is open to students aged 6-18 years under the categories of 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years, 15-18 years and special abilities students.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (government and private).
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools and individuals interested in participating in this competition are welcome.
- You can use any drawing sheet, but of A3 size.
- All artworks must be hand drawn and not computer generated.
- All paintings should be submitted by email at art@kuwaittimes.com in PDF format only.
- Kuwait Times reserves the right to retain the drawings for future use.
- Participants should include on the bottom of the artworks the following: Name, age, email address, phone number and school in legible font.

Strategic Partner



Indian Embassy marks 'National Unity Day'

KUWAIT: Embassy of India, Kuwait, organized the 'National Unity Day' on Monday at the Embassy. Delivering the inaugural remarks, Indian Embassy First Secretary Dr Vinod Gaikwad extended warm greetings to all Indians in Kuwait and friends of India in Kuwait on the occasion of National Unity Day. National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, first home minister of India.

A national unity pledge was administered by Indian

Embassy First Secretary Smita Patil. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national unity day address was played on the occasion wherein he reiterated the central virtue of unity as one of five principles to guide the next 25 years of 'AmritKaal', ahead of the centennial celebration of Indian Independence in 2047.

A cultural program with patriotic dance and songs and an exhibition of Sardar Vallabhai Patel was also organized on the occasion. In the run-up to National Unity Day, the Embassy of India, Kuwait in association with Indian schools in Kuwait organized several events including special unity human chains and unity runs in which hundreds of Indian students participated. A digital exhibition was held across the embassy's social media platforms along with a special session dedicated on the life of Sardar Patel. The event witnessed enthusiastic response with people from different walks life in Kuwait.

Team draws genetic map of polycystic kidney disease

KUWAIT: The Dasman Diabetes Institute on Tuesday announced that a scientific team was able to draw the genetic map of polycystic kidney disease in Kuwait after years of work with the participation of scientists and specialists from Kuwait University and the support of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

In a statement, the team director Dr Hamad Yaseen said that the study was published in Clinical Kidney

Journey magazine, one of the well-known magazines that specializes in kidney and Urinary tract diseases. He added that the study included 126 patients diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney disease, examined thoroughly with latest technologies to break the genetic chain in the labs of Dasman Diabetic Institute.

He noted that 29 genetic mutations that cause the disease have been identified, including 20 that are discovered for the first time, as well as an uncommon gene that causes the disease, IFT140, in which the symptoms of the disease are inherited. He pointed out that the study showed a relationship between the nature of the genetic mutation and the degree of severity and nature of symptoms, which enables doctors to predict the course of the disease, promote and direct therapeutic intervention. —KUNA



S Korea police admit crowd surge response was 'insufficient'

Iranians stage new protest actions in defiance of crackdown



PALHOÇA, Brazil: Supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro, mainly truck drivers, block BR-101 highway in Palhoça, in the metropolitan region of Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State, Brazil. — AFP

Bolsonaro mum on election loss

Brazil's Supreme Court orders police to disperse blockades immediately

RIO DE JANEIRO: Supporters of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro blocked major highways for a second day as tensions mounted over his silence after narrowly losing re-election to bitter rival Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Thirty-six hours after official results showed he had lost Sunday's presidential run-off with only 1.8 percentage points, Bolsonaro has yet to concede defeat, fanning concerns he may try and challenge the result after months of attacking the electoral system as fraudulent.

Federal Highway Police (PRF) on Tuesday reported more than 250 total or partial road blockages in at least 23 states by Bolsonaro supporters, while local media said protests outside the country's main international airport in Sao Paulo delayed passengers and led to several flights being cancelled.

Protesters wearing the yellow and green of the Brazilian flag — which the outgoing president has adopted as his own — said they would not accept the outcome of the election.

"We will not accept losing what we have gained, we want what is written on our flag, 'order and progress'. We will not accept the situation as it is," Antoniel Almeida, 45, told AFP at a protest in Barra

Mansa, Rio de Janeiro. On Monday night Judge Alexander de Moraes of the Supreme Court ordered police to disperse the blockades immediately. He was acting in response to a request by a transport federation that complained it was losing business.

Lula gets to work

The mounting tension follows a dirty and divisive election campaign between the hardline conservative Bolsonaro and his nemesis Lula, who returns to office in a dramatic comeback.

Brazil's president between 2003 and 2010, Lula crashed into disgrace in a corruption scandal that landed him in jail before his conviction was thrown out due to bias from the lead judge. However, he was not exonerated. The election outcome showed just how polarized the country is between the two very different leaders. Lula scored 50.9 percent to Bolsonaro's 49.1 percent — the narrowest margin in Brazil's modern history.

With a massive to-do list, Lula leaped into action, meeting Argentine President Alberto Fernandez in Sao Paulo and holding a series of phone calls with US President Joe Biden, France's Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Olaf Scholz, UN Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres and others.

However Bolsonaro's silence after months of alleging fraud in the electoral system and a conspiracy against him had the country on a knife-edge.

"Anyplace else in the world, the defeated president would have called me to recognize his defeat," Lula said in his victory speech to a euphoric sea of red-clad supporters in Sao Paulo on Sunday night.

There are fears Bolsonaro, 67, could attempt a Brazilian version of the US Capitol riots which rocked that country after his political role model, former US president Donald Trump, refused to accept his election defeat in 2020.

But the Brazilian leader may find himself isolated. Some key Bolsonaro allies have publicly recognized his loss, including the powerful speaker of the lower house of Congress, Arthur Lira. And international congratulations for Lula poured in from the US, China, India, France, Britain, South Africa and numerous others.

Immense challenges

Lula acknowledged the "immense" challenges facing his government when he is sworn in on January 1, citing a hunger crisis, the economy, bitter

political division, and deforestation in the Amazon.

He is likely to face a hostile Congress packed with allies of Bolsonaro. "Lula will have to show a lot of political skill to pacify the country," said political scientist Leandro Consentino of Insper university in Sao Paulo.

Bolsonaro became the first incumbent president in Brazil not to win re-election in the post-dictatorship era after a four-year term in which he came under fire for his disastrous handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, which left more than 680,000 dead in Brazil. He also drew criticism for his vitriolic comments, polarizing style and attacks on democratic institutions and foreign allies.

Lula's victory has been hailed by environmentalists and governments hoping he will make halting Amazon destruction a key priority.

The European Union's leadership voiced hope Lula's win would lead to ratification of a trade deal with South American bloc Mercosur, long stalled over concerns about rampant deforestation under Bolsonaro. Norway announced it would resume paying nearly \$500 million in aid for protecting the world's biggest rainforest, which it halted in 2019 over. —AFP

Power, water restored in Kyiv after strikes

KYIV: Water and power supplies were fully restored in Kyiv on Tuesday a day after Russian missile strikes, as grain exports from Ukraine continued despite Moscow pulling out of a deal to let ships through.

Russian authorities meanwhile announced that tens of thousands more civilians would be "evacuated" from the Russian-occupied southern Ukrainian region of Kherson amid a counter-offensive from Kyiv. Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovich said Monday's bombardment was "one of the most massive shellings of our territory by the army of the Russian Federation".

Following the strikes, aerial views showed Kyiv plunged in darkness overnight, with the only lights coming from cars driving through. In a town near Kyiv on Monday, the powerful explosions had woken up Mila Ryabova, 39.

Ryabova told AFP that she and her family were "worrying and talking about opportunities to move abroad, because there is a cold winter ahead. We may not have electricity, heat supply." Monday's shelling had left 80 percent of the capital's consumers without water and 350,000 homes without electricity.

On Tuesday, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said water and electricity supplies had been "fully restored" in the capital. Klitschko warned that there would still be planned power cuts in the city "because of the considerable deficit in the power system after the barbaric attacks of the aggressor."

The Ukrainian army said Russia launched 55 cruise missiles on Monday, mainly at energy infrastructure. Russia has pivoted to systematically attacking Ukrainian power sta-

tions after setbacks on the battlefield, where the Russian army is facing pushbacks on the eastern and the southern fronts.

In the south, Kyiv's forces are preparing for fierce battles to recapture the city of Kherson and its surrounding region. Kherson is one of the four regions-along with Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Lugansk-that Moscow claims to have annexed but does not fully control.

Russian occupation authorities in Kherson said Tuesday that tens of thousands more people would be "evacuated" from the region amid Kyiv's counter-offensive. This comes after 70,000 people already left their homes in Kherson, Moscow-installed local authorities said last week.

The Russian-installed leader of the Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, said Tuesday new resettlements were being carried out because of the risk of a "massive missile attack" by Ukrainian forces on a local dam. — AFP



BAKHMUT, Ukraine: Ukrainian servicemen rest in an underground shelter in the frontline town of Bakhmut, in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region. — AFP

Danes vote in knife-edge election

COPENHAGEN: Danes voted Tuesday in a knife-edge election with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen fighting for political survival against the right and far-right in polls that could turn a moderate ex-premier into a kingmaker.

The election was triggered by the "mink crisis" that has embroiled Denmark since the government decided in November 2020 to cull the country's roughly 15 million minks over fears of a mutated strain of the novel coronavirus.

The decision turned out to be illegal, however, and a party propping up Frederiksen's minority Social Democrats government

threatened to topple it unless she called elections to regain the confidence of voters. After a campaign dominated by climate concerns, inflation and healthcare, almost a quarter of voters were still undecided heading into election day, according to polls.

Grey skies covered the capital as voting took place with polling stations scheduled to close at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) and the first results expected around 9:30 pm. "Climate issues and psychiatry (mental health issues), but mostly climate, are the reasons behind my vote," 46-year-old Lone Kiitgaard told AFP after casting her ballot in central Copenhagen, without disclosing who she voted for.

The latest polls gave the left-wing "red bloc", led by Frederiksen, 49.1 percent against 42.4 percent for the "blues", an informal liberal and conservative alliance, supported by three populist parties. "This election could be really close and there is a risk that there will be a blue government after

today," Frederiksen admitted after voting at a badminton centre turned polling station northwest of Copenhagen.

"There is a fairly high degree of volatility with Danish voters, about 40 percent change parties," Rune Stubager, a political science professor at Aarhus University, told AFP.

With neither bloc set to gain an outright majority, governing will likely depend on support from the Moderates, a centrist party founded only this year by two-time prime minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen. "That's the most interesting part. If there is no majority, as seems to be the case, the Moderates are required to form a government," said Stubager.

Both the left and the right have made repeated appeals to Lokke Rasmussen, who has campaigned on reforming the healthcare system. Frederiksen has floated the idea of a coalition government, led by herself, and has said she is willing to discuss healthcare reforms. — AFP



VAERLOSE: Denmark's Prime Minister and head of the Social Democratic Party Mette Frederiksen and her husband Bo Tengberg walk side by side to the polling center in the Hareskovhallen sports hall located in Vaerloese, near Copenhagen, on November 1, 2022 during the general elections in Denmark. — AFP

International

Iranians stage new protest actions in defiance of crackdown

Demonstrations taking place in residential areas, major avenues and universities nationwide

PARIS: Iranians staged new protest actions to denounce the country's theocratic regime in defiance of a crackdown that is now seeing those arrested put on trial and facing the death penalty. Iran has for the past six weeks been rocked by protests of a scale and nature unprecedented since the 1979 Islamic revolution, sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini who had been arrested by the Tehran morality police.

The authorities have warned protesters it is time to leave the streets but the demonstrations have shown no sign of abating, taking place in residential areas, major avenues and universities nationwide. The challenge for the regime is compounded by the custom in Iran to mark 40 days since a person died, turning every "chehelom" 40-day mourning ceremony for the dozens killed in the crackdown into a potential protest flashpoint.

Residents of the Tehran district of Ekbatan late Monday shouted protest movement slogans including "Death to the dictator" with security forces using stun grenades in a bid to stop the action, according to footage posted on the 1500tasvir monitoring site and other outlets. The Norway-based Hengaw rights organisation said the funeral in the mainly Kurdish city of Sanandaj in northwestern Iran on Monday for Sarina Saedi, a 16-year-old girl it said was killed in the crackdown, turned into a protest with anti-regime slogans shouted and women removing headscarves.

1500tasvir also posted a widely shared video on social media showing medical students protesting in the northern city of Tabriz telling the authorities "You are the pervert!" in a message to the morality police.

Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) group said that students were on Tuesday staging a sit-in protest at



TEHRAN: Women protesters gather for an anti-German demonstration, condemning Germany's support of Berlin-based Iranian opposition TV stations and anti-government protests in Iran. — AFP

Isfahan University while social media footage indicated a similar action was in progress at the engineering faculty of Amir Kabir university in Tehran.

Toll mounts

Amini's death was according to family members caused by a blow to the head while in custody. The Iranian authorities contest this explanation but have ordered an investigation. The protests were fuelled by anger over the strict Islamic dress code for women in Iran-which the police who arrested Amini were enforcing-but have become a rallying point for popular anger

against the regime that has ruled Iran since the fall of the shah in 1979.

While there have been outbursts of protests in Iran over the past two decades the current movement has regularly broken taboos. Images shared on social media showed murals of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his predecessor Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had been daubed with red paint in the holy city of Qom. The protests have also seen a myriad of different tactics, with observers noting a new trend of young people tipping off the turbans of clerics in the street. According to IHR, 160 people have been killed in

the crackdown on the protests sparked by Amini's death and another 93 in a distinct protest wave in Zahedan in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province.

IHR has warned that these figures are a minimum, with information slow to flow in due to disruptions of the internet by the authorities. Hengaw said among those buried was Komar Daruafade, a 16-year-old from Piranshahr in northwestern Iran who it said had been shot by security forces at a distance of three metres (15 feet) and later died in hospital.

'Shocked'

Thousands of people have been arrested nationwide in the crackdown on the protests, rights activists say, while Iran's judiciary has said 1,000 people have already been charged in connection with what it describes as "riots".

The trial of five men charged with offences that can carry capital punishment over the protests opened Saturday in Tehran. One of the men, Mohammad Ghobadlou, was sentenced to death at the first trial session, according to a video from his mother posted by the Washington-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center. However this has not been confirmed by the judiciary.

The popular Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi has become the latest high profile figure to be arrested, according to the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. At least 46 journalists have been arrested so far, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Tehran journalist Marzieh Amiri is the latest to be detained, her sister Samira wrote on Instagram.—AFP

Zionists vote as Netanyahu seeks return to power

JERUSALEM: Zionists were voting Tuesday in their fifth election in less than four years, with former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu campaigning for a comeback with help from the rising extreme-right.

The election follows the collapse of the so-called "change" coalition, which united eight disparate parties who succeeded in ousting Netanyahu last year after a record run as prime minister, but ultimately failed to achieve political stability.

"I hope we will finish the day with a smile, but it's up to the people," Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption and breach of trust, said after voting.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid, whose centrist Yesh Atid party may place second behind Netanyahu's right-wing Likud, urged people to vote "for the future of our country". In a political system where a shift in just one of the 120 Knesset seats up for grabs could cement a ruling coalition — or lead to further deadlock and possible new elections — the outcome remains uncertain once more.

At a polling station in Tel Aviv, voter Amy Segal aired her frustration. "Each year there's a new election, there's no political stability," the 26-year-old told AFP.

"I feel like it doesn't matter who you vote for, nothing will change." Polls close at 10:00 pm (2000 GMT), when Zionist networks will give their first results projections. Given the razor-thin margins in the deeply divided country, turnout will be crucial. It was up this year, 28.4 percent by 12:00 pm, compared with 25.5 in



TAYBEH: Ahmad Tibi, head of the Arab Movement for Change (Ta'al) party, casts his ballot as he votes at a polling station in the predominantly-Arab city of Taybeh. — AFP

the March 2021 vote, according to the Central Elections Committee.

Whoever is tapped to form a government will need support from multiple smaller parties to clinch a 61-seat majority. Extreme-right leader Itamar Ben-Gvir may be key to helping Netanyahu return to power, as his Religious Zionism bloc has gained momentum in recent weeks and could come third in the election.

Ben-Gvir, who wants Zionist entity to annex the entire West Bank, promised a "full right-wing government" led by Netanyahu, after voting near his settlement home. He promised "calm in the streets" if Netanyahu names him an internal security minister, a likely unsettling prospect for Zionist's Arab citizens, with Ben-Gvir having faced dozens of charges of hate speech against Arabs. Justice Minister Gideon Saar, a former Likud heavyweight who broke with Netanyahu and now leads his own party, warned Zionist entity risked electing a "coalition of extremists". —AFP

Crisis-hit Lebanon faces power vacuum without president

BEIRUT: Already mired in political and economic crises, Lebanon is now also without a president after Michael Aoun's mandate expired without a successor. Aoun's six-year term, that came to a close on Sunday, was marred by mass protests, a painful economic downturn and the August 2020 mega-explosion of ammonium nitrate that killed hundreds and laid waste to swathes of the capital Beirut. Today, headed by a caretaker government, Lebanon is unable to enact the reforms needed to access billions of dollars from international lenders to help save an economy in free-fall since late 2019. In Lebanon, power is divided among the country's main sects-none of whom hold a clear majority.

Why is there no president?

Aoun left the presidential palace Sunday, a day before the end of his term, cheered on by a few thousand supporters. In Lebanon, lawmakers vote in parliament for president. Parliament has held four rounds of voting since last month, with no candidate garnering enough support to succeed Aoun.

Some lawmakers accuse the powerful Iran-backed Shiite Hezbollah movement and its allies of obstructing the vote to negotiate with other blocs. They adopted a similar tactic in the last election by boycotting the vote in parliament—a move that left Lebanon without a president for more than two years, until Aoun's 2016 win.

Without a dominant party in parliament, decisions like electing a president, naming a prime minister or forming a government can take months or even years of

political horse-trading, sometimes even leading to violence.

Who rules the country?

The president's powers fall to the Council of Ministers if he leaves office without a successor. Aoun signed on Sunday a decree formalising the resignation of premier Najib Mikati's government, in a caretaker role since legislative elections in May.

The move exacerbates a months-long power struggle that has paralysed the government. Mikati retorted that his government will continue his work in caretaker capacity as usual, but that cabinet will only meet "for urgent matters". Experts said it was part of ongoing political arm-wrestling between Aoun and the premier.

A cabinet in a caretaker role cannot take important decisions that might impact the country's fate. "This greatly affects the government's work, because it cannot issue decrees or take any decisions that require collective consensus," a source close to Mikati said. This includes decisions needed to kickstart offshore gas exploration and extraction, after Lebanon demarcated its sea border with Zionist entity last week. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri might invite political parties for a national dialogue, so they can agree on a new president, a lawmaker close to him said on the condition of anonymity. "No party can impose a candidate," he said. "Therefore the only solution is to reach a consensus, otherwise the presidential vacancy is likely to last." But such initiatives have failed in the past. So far, lawmaker Michel Moawad, 50, has garnered the most support in parliament, mostly from those opposed to Hezbollah. But without Hezbollah's support, Moawad's chances of becoming president are slim. Hezbollah has not officially endorsed a candidate, but Sleiman Frangieh, 57, a personal friend of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, was always considered one of the group's preferred choices.—AFP

Call for unity as Arab Summit...

Continued from Page 1

Addressing leaders including United Nations chief Antonio Guterres, Tebboune called for a UN General Assembly session to give full membership to the state of Palestine.

Tunisian President Kais Saied, the former Arab Summit president, launched the talks by saying in a speech that the Arab world is living under "unstable conditions". "This region has been impacted by matters like COVID, war, food security, organized crime and terror. These crises have disturbed the world order, which needs a "new and unconventional definition," he said. During its presidency, he said his nation worked to encourage joint efforts amongst the region's countries and that it would continue to do so.

The Arab League summit has for decades been a

forum for strident declarations of support for the Palestinian cause. Algeria remains a steadfast supporter of the Palestinians, even mediating a reconciliation deal in October between rival factions Fatah and Hamas. The deal was seen as a public relations coup for Algeria, which has been seeking more regional clout on the back of its growing status as a gas exporter following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

This week's summit is another opportunity for Tebboune to push that agenda forward. He has rolled out the red carpet for his guests, including his Egyptian, Palestinian and Tunisian counterparts Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, Mahmoud Abbas and Kais Saied respectively, as well as Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

The main roads of Algiers have been decked out with national flags and huge billboards welcoming "brother Arabs", ahead of a dinner hosted by Tebboune. "Algerian foreign policy has gone on the offensive at the regional, African and Arab levels," said Geneva-based expert Hasni Abidi. Participants in the summit face the challenge of formulating a final resolution, which has to be passed unanimously.—Agencies

ing on the government to present its plan to diversify sources of income of non-oil revenues. MPs also called on the government to prepare the draft budget at least two months before the start of the fiscal year on April 1. MP Hasan Jowhar said approving the budget shows that "we have started a new era and our hands are extended for cooperation".

MPs also approved a recommendation asking the government to inform the Assembly on developments regarding cases of public fund thefts. MPs approved a request by Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Urban Development Ammar Al-Ajmi on the rapid examination of bills amending the penal code and conflicts of interest - due to their relationship with boosting integrity, transparency and combating corruption - to be listed to the tasks of the parliamentary legal affairs committee.

MPs also approved a request filed by Jowhar that the committee for protecting public funds be tasked with examining a multitude of major graft cases, in addition to a number of other cases related to corruption and money laundering, along with referring the documents forwarded to the Assembly in the past to the relevant commission. The Assembly meets again on Wednesday.



MANAMA: A poster bearing the images of Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and Pope Francis is displayed at the Sacred Heart Church on Oct 7, 2022, ahead of a visit by Pope Francis. — AFP

Pope's Bahrain visit to cement...

Continued from Page 1

The two religious leaders signed a joint document in Abu Dhabi in Feb 2019 pledging interfaith co-existence between Christians and Muslims. That vision marked the first ever by a pope to the Gulf region, where Islam was born. Francis will also meet with the Abu Dhabi-based Muslim Council of Elders for an "East and West" forum, with Muslim communities in the West, humanitarian crises, climate issues and Muslim-Christian relations on the agenda.

Also on Friday, the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics - expected to be confined to a wheelchair during his trip due to persistent knee pain - will lead an ecumenical prayer in Awali's cavernous Our Lady of Arabia Cathedral, which opened its doors December. The cathedral that

seats over 2,000 people was built to serve Bahrain's approximately 80,000 Catholics, mainly workers from southern Asia, including India and the Philippines.

A government spokesperson said Tuesday in a statement that Bahrain "does not tolerate discrimination" and "prides itself on its values of tolerance". It asserted that "no individual" is prosecuted "because of their religious or political beliefs", but pointed to "a duty to investigate" people who "incite, promote or glorify violence or hatred".

On Saturday, the pope will celebrate a mass in a stadium in Bahrain's second-largest city Riffa before an expected 28,000 faithful, according to priest Charbel Fayad. "We are happy to see many Christians from the region," he told AFP, saying he expected worshippers from other Gulf countries. The pope - who concludes his trip Sunday in Manama leading a prayer meeting with Catholic clergy - has visited various Muslim-majority countries during his pontificate, including Jordan, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Bangladesh, Morocco, Iraq and most recently in September, Kazakhstan. — AFP

Assembly passes deficit budget...

Continued from Page 1

budget projecting a deficit of over KD 120 million". "In just one week, we turned a surplus budget into deficit," he said. Finance Minister Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid however said the budget revenues are estimated at an oil price of just \$80 a barrel, but the actual price of oil is much higher. "Accordingly, we expect to post a surplus which will be used to boost state reserves," the minister said.

Rushaid however warned that the biggest problem faced by the country's finances is rising inflation, which hit 4.2 percent, the highest in the Gulf, pointing out that it is a serious problem. He added per capita income is KD 1,534 (around \$5,000), of which 33 percent is spent on housing. After passing the budget, MPs called on the government to increase wages of government staff in proportion with the rate of inflation.

Lawmakers also voted on recommendations call-

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Engineer II, A/C Data System Analysis	4 Years' civil aircraft maintenance experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
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Engineer II, Modifications & Service Bulletins	4 years' experience modification and service bulletins (Civil Aircraft).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical or Electrical/Electronics Engineering or Licensed Civil Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
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Engineer II, Reliability (Systems & Component) / Aircraft Maintenance Schedule.	4 years' Civil aircraft maintenance experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer II, Technical Records	4 years' experience in civil A/C Maintenance including 2 years' experience in Aviation Technical Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics Engineering or Industrial Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer II, Aircraft Maintenance	4 years' civil aircraft maintenance experience, including time required to qualify for 'type' licenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Licensed Aircraft Maintenance with equivalent technical knowledge (B1 or B2 Approvals).
Engineer II, Power Plant Planning	4 years' airline engineering planning experience(Civil Aircraft).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics/Industrial Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer II, Inventory Control	4 years' experience in airline stores inclusive of 2-1 years in inventory control, preferably aviation logistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics Engineering or Industrial Engineering or Licensed Civil Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer II, Mechanical Workshop Planning	4 years' airline engineering planning experience (civil A/C).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics/Industrial Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer II, Avionics Workshop Planning	4 years' airline engineering planning experience (civil A/C).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics /Industrial Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Engineer III, Avionics Workshop Planning	2 years' airline engineering planning experience (civil A/C).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or Electrical/Electronics /Industrial Engineering or Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (B1 or B2 Approvals) with equivalent technical knowledge.
Manager, Quality Control & Compliance Security	14 years' experience in various aspects of Aviation Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bachelor's Degree additional to ISO Quality Management System or equivalent
Specialist (A), Standards and Procedures	12 years' experience in various aspects of Aviation Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education, preferably a bachelor's degree in a related field.
Superintendent, Standards and Procedures	10 years' experience in various aspects of Aviation Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education, preferably a bachelor's degree in a related field.
Superintendent, Inspections and Investigations	10 years' experience in various aspects of Aviation Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education, preferably a bachelor's degree in a related field.
Mechanic "A" Aircraft Maintenance	4 years' maintenance experience on aircraft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education
Officer, Stores (Technical Stores/Stock Control/Stores Support)	3 years' stores related documentation experience preferably in the aviation industry/logistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education
Officer, Operation Control Center	2 years' experience in Operations Control .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education, plus Flight Dispatch License.
Officer, Rostering	2 years' related experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Diploma in Administration Science.
Assistant Officer, Operation Control Center	1 year in aviation industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education
ASSISTANT OFFICER, COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS (OCC)	No experience required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highschool education

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5. University degrees not recognized by the official authorities in Kuwait will not be considered.
6. Compliance with Cabinet Resolution No. 914 issued on 2010/06/29, which includes: (Retired persons are only permitted to apply in the narrowest of limits. For the categories of pilots and flight engineers, they shall be requested, as needed, to ensure continued safe operations).
7. For some announced job completing the necessary training courses is mandatory.
8. Applicants shall be subject to the necessary interviews and tests and are required to pass the tests to proceed to the interview.
9. The applicant has the right to apply for a maximum of two positions.

How to apply:

- Applications shall be submitted on the website: careers.kuwaitairways.com within 15 days from the publication date of this announcement.
- Documents to be attached to the website:
 - 1.CV
 2. Academic certificate and equivalency approved by the official authorities in the State of Kuwait.
 3. Copy of civil ID and passport.
 4. A certificate from the General Organization for Social Insurance (career progression certificate) and an experience certificate, if any.
 5. A copy of licenses, technical certificates required if any, certificate of previous supervisory experience (based on the job).
- Non-compliant and incomplete applications will be excluded, and such exclusion shall itself be a formal apology without the need to notify the applicant.
- Receipt of the application does not mean acceptance and the company reserves the right not to accept any applicant for the vacancies mentioned above.

International

South Korea police admit crowd surge response was ‘insufficient’

Country needs urgent improvement in its system for managing large crowds

SEOUL: South Korean police admitted Tuesday their emergency response to a deadly Halloween crush had been “insufficient”, with top officials saying crowd management failures had likely contributed to the disaster.

At least 156 mostly young people were killed, and scores more injured, in a deadly crowd surge late Saturday at the first post-pandemic Halloween party in Seoul’s popular Itaewon nightlife district.

An estimated 100,000 people had flocked to the area, but because it was not an “official” event with a designated organiser, neither the police nor local

many people here being pushed, trampled, hurt. It’s chaotic. You need to control this.” Seoul’s interior minister, who had been criticised for earlier comments in which he claimed deploying more police would not have prevented the crush, apologised Tuesday for the disaster. Lee Sang-min expressed his “sincere apologies to the public as the minister in charge of the people’s safety for this accident”, before bowing his head before lawmakers and cameras.

He promised to investigate what had caused the crowd crush and to ensure a disaster of this scale could never happen again. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon also made a public apology, weeping as he said he felt “infinitely responsible for this accident”. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said Tuesday that a lack of a proper crowd management system may have caused the incident, adding that a full review was ongoing.

No crowd control

South Korea is typically strong on crowd control, with protest rallies often so heavily policed that officers can outnumber participants. But police deployed only 137 officers to Itaewon for Halloween, while 6,500 officers were present at a protest across town attended by about 25,000 people, local reports said.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said Tuesday the country needed to urgently improve its system for managing large crowds in the wake of the disaster.

“The safety of the people is important, whether or not there is an event organiser,” he told a cabinet meeting. He called for the country to develop “cutting-edge digital capabilities” to improve crowd management — but critics claim such tools already exist and were not deployed in Itaewon. Seoul’s City Hall has a real-time monitoring system that uses mobile phone data to predict crowd size, but it was not employed Saturday night, local media reported.



SEOUL: Mourners pay tributes at a makeshift memorial for the victims of the deadly Halloween crowd surge, outside a subway station in the district of Itaewon in Seoul on November 1, 2022. — AFP

Itaewon’s district authorities also did not deploy any safety patrols, with officials saying the Halloween event was considered “a phenomenon” rather than “a festival”, which would have required an official plan for crowd control. On the night, tens of thousands of people thronged a narrow alleyway, with eyewitnesses describing how, with no police or crowd control in sight, confused partygoers pushed and shoved, crushing those trapped in the lane.

Easy to prevent

Crowd management experts told AFP that the disaster was easily avoidable, even with only a small number

of police officers. “Good, safe crowd management is not about the ratio, but about the crowd strategy — for safe crowd capacity, flow, density,” said G. Keith Still, a crowd science professor at the University of Suffolk.

South Korean expert Lee Young-ju said that if local police knew they would be short-handed, they could have sought help from local authorities or even residents or shop owners.

“It’s not just the numbers,” Lee, a professor from the Department of Fire and Disaster at the University of Seoul, told AFP. “The question is, how did they manage with the limited number (of police) and what kind of measures did they take to make up for it.” — AFP



Safety of the people is important

authorities were actively managing the crowd.

“There were multiple reports to the police indicating the seriousness at the site just before the accident occurred,” national police chief Yoon Hee-keun said.

Police knew “a large crowd had gathered even before the accident occurred, urgently indicating the danger,” he said, acknowledging the way this information was handled had been “insufficient”.

Transcripts of emergency calls reported by South Korean news agency News1 documented how desperate members of the public had flagged dangerous overcrowding hours before disaster struck at around 10:00 pm local time (1300 GMT) Saturday.

At 8:09 pm one caller told police: “There are too



MANILA: People mark All Saints’ Day at Manila North Cemetery in Manila on November 1, 2022. — AFP

Filipinos flock to cemeteries for All Saints’ Day

MANILA: Filipinos clutching flowers and umbrellas poured into cemeteries across the Catholic-majority Philippines Tuesday to pay tribute to their dead loved ones on All Saints’ Day for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rain fell as thousands walked or took free motorised tricycle services to tombs scattered across sprawling graveyards in the capital Manila where many poor families live alongside the dead in shanties or mausoleums.

Ahead of the “day of the dead”, a powerful tropical storm unleashed landslides and flooding across the archipelago nation, killing at least 110 people and leaving dozens missing. Among the tens of thousands of visitors to Manila North Cemetery was Leonardo Filamor, 58, who was paying his respects to a friend who died in 2017. “Even a typhoon would not have stopped me from coming here,” said Filamor, who left a card and a small bouquet of white flowers at the tomb. Filamor said he lived on the streets and previously had not been able to afford the public transport fare to reach the cemetery.

“I’m really happy I had the money this time and got

to be with him again,” he said. It was the first time since the start of the pandemic that cemeteries were open on November 1 for the ancient Christian tradition, which honours all saints and martyrs who died for the faith. Millions of Filipinos normally go to cemeteries on the day to remember their dead relatives by praying, lighting candles and leaving flowers at the gravesites. People began lining up before dawn to enter graveyards in Manila.

Flower vendor Lucila Cleto said the weekend storm had dented sales and driven up the price of chrysanthemums and roses. “I’m not expecting to earn much, just enough to get by,” the 52-year-old told AFP as she sat under a tent among buckets of bouquets and pots of flowers. Cemeteries in the Philippines range from quiet fields of white crosses to dense “apartment” tombs stacked metres high. While most people visit the graves of relatives or friends, others go to remember their beloved pets.

“My siblings and I have a huge age gap so I only had Tatsumi as my playmate growing up,” said a 29-year-old woman, referring to her Japanese spitz dog buried under a tree near her grandparents’ tomb. “I was devastated when he died.”

Mariz Amplayo, who brought her three children to visit the grave of her diabetic brother, said it was an important day for her family. “Visiting dead loved ones every year keeps their memory alive,” Amplayo, 47, said as she left flowers, candles and food at his tomb. “We don’t want to ever forget.” — AFP

the challenge,” he told Sky News. “It is leading to the infrastructure that we have in terms of reception centres, like Manston, in terms of hotel accommodation, and asylum and social housing, essentially being overwhelmed.”

Jenrick accepted that conditions at the Manston migrant processing centre in Kent, southeast England, were “poor”, and that people had been sleeping on the floor on mats. “The problem is that thousands of people are crossing the Channel illegally every day,” he added.

Braverman said on Monday that the government was spending £6.8 million (\$7.8 million) per day on housing migrants. She denied claims in parliament that she “ignored legal advice” on using hotels to relieve pressure on the overcrowded processing centre.

“What I have refused to do is to prematurely release thousands of people into local communities without having anywhere for them to stay,” she told MPs. Another migrant centre was fire-bombed on Sunday by a 66-year-old man said to be suffering mental ill-health, who then killed himself.

The incident caused minor injuries to staff and was not being treated as terrorism related, Braverman said. Braverman is also under pressure after admitting she used her personal phone to consult official documents six times.—AFP

Modi visits site of deadly Indian bridge collapse

MORBI: Divers searched for more bodies on Tuesday after the collapse of a newly renovated pedestrian bridge killed 134 people in western India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the disaster site.

Questions also grew about the possible cause of the catastrophe at Morbi, in Modi’s home state of Gujarat, on Sunday. Nine people have been arrested on homicide charges over the collapse of the 150-year-old structure. The suspension bridge was packed with people celebrating the final day of the Diwali holidays. Forty-seven children were among those killed. Horrific CCTV footage showed the rickety structure, a popular tourist spot, loaded with people and then suddenly giving way as cables snapped.

Several hundred fell into the river while others clung desperately to the twisted remains of the bridge, screaming in the dark for help. “I heard screams and a loud thud and then there was silence. Then slowly cries and screams,” survivor Madhvi Ben, 30, told AFP.

Ben said one of her legs was tangled in “a steel rope”, leaving her almost entirely submerged before she managed to break free and be rescued. Morbi businessman Rafiq Gaffar, whose two nephews aged 12 and 21 died, described the scene as “mayhem”.

“People were crying and wailing. It was a scene from doomsday,” said Gaffar, 45. “There were bodies floating on the water everywhere and people trapped on the bridge who were frantically calling for help.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday joined other world leaders in sending his “deep condolences”.



MORBI: Rescue workers conduct search operations on November 1, 2022, days after a bridge across the river Machchhu collapsed on October 30, 2022 at Morbi in India’s Gujarat state. Rescue divers were still searching for more bodies in the Machchhu river on November 1, with 134 people confirmed dead — among them 47 children. — AFP

FBI identifies ‘Lady of the Dunes’ murder victim, after 50 years

NEW YORK: Nearly 50 years after her mutilated body was found on a beach in Massachusetts, the FBI has identified the so-called “Lady of the Dunes” using DNA analysis, historical records and genealogical research. The victim of the brutal 1974 murder—which was never solved—was Ruth Marie Terry, who was originally from Tennessee and was 37 at the time of her death, the FBI said Monday at a press conference outside Boston.

“Ruth was a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, and mother,” FBI special agent Joe Bonavolonta told reporters,

urging anyone with information about what he called an “infamous cold case” to come forward.

The FBI issued a new bulletin seeking information about Terry’s murder, which included four pictures of the now identified victim. “While we have identified Ruth as the victim of this horrific murder, it does not ease the pain for her family—nothing can—but hopefully it answers some questions while we continue to look for her killer,” Bonavolonta said. Since the 1974 murder, investigators followed up on leads with no luck. Though they had several suspects, they never had a name for the victim. Terry’s body was found on July 26, 1974 on a beach in Provincetown, Massachusetts—on Cape Cod. She was killed with a blow to the head, probably several weeks earlier. Her hands had been cut off, presumably to make her more difficult to identify, Bonavolonta explained. “And her head was nearly severed from her body,” he added. No weapons were located near the body.—AFP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Business

stc registers KD 249.4m revenue for the first nine months of 2022

Revenue increased by 16.6% to reach KD 249.4m, representing the highest since inception

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2022, highlighting the most significant achievements, financial and operational performance in addition to the social initiatives made by the company during the first nine months of 2022.

Commenting on the announcements of these results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, stc's Chairman, stated: "The continuous demand on the ICT services and digital solutions by both the individual and enterprise sectors has been always the key driver for executing stc's business plans and achieve the objectives of its corporate strategy. Steered by the promising future of the ICT sector, stc was keen to utilize its recent acquisitions to support its operations and establish a strong B2B customer base by offering various connectivity, network, cloud, digital solutions, system integration, and security services in addition to the BPO services.

The expansion in stc's services had a great impact on enhancing the Company's position as a leader in the telecom field. Not to mention stc's ability to boost the market share in a highly competitive market through capturing new streams of revenue". Dr Abdulrahman noted that during Q3, stc managed to strengthen its extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program in line with its corporate values by launching a series of campaigns and initiatives that actively engaged with members within the community while spreading awareness on various causes that aimed to empower the community.

The Company collaborated with different government entities, as well as companies within the private sector, in line with its CSR program that aims to create a larger impact within the community. stc CSR campaigns primarily focused on tackling key issues within the areas of health, entrepreneurship, the environment, youth empowerment, as well



Eng Maziad bin Nasser Al-Harbi

Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman

as sports and education. This approach falls in line with stc's vision to back and support the community by implementing initiatives and events that align with its robust social responsibility framework.

As a pioneer in Kuwait's telecom, information technology and digital solutions sector, stc will continue to contribute through its rich, diverse, and widespread program with the sole objective of creating a positive and sustainable impact in the local community. Commenting on stc's financial position as of September 30, 2022, Dr Abdulrahman said: "stc's total assets reached KD 424.3 million by the end of September 2022, while total shareholders' equity increased by 7.2 percent reaching KD 231.6 million. Moreover, stc has a strong solvency position among its peers in the Middle East".

Commenting on stc's achievements during the first nine months of 2022, Eng Maziad bin Nasser Al-Harbi, stc's CEO stated: "Driven by the strong performance of stc's individual sector and the huge support of its ICT and business solutions subsidiaries, in 2022, stc relied heavily on refining its digital transformation strategy to keep up with the latest developments in the telecommunications industry and excel in the service offerings. This was followed by offering various offers and services with the highest quality aimed at satisfying stc's individual and enterprise sectors.

Since inception, stc was keen on being the pio-

- stc's customer base increased by 19.8% to reach 2.3m customers
- EBITDA increased by 6.3% to reach KD 60.6 million
- Net profit increased by 2% to reach KD 24.3 million

The financial results for the first nine months ended 30September 2022	
Revenues	KD 249.4mn
EBITDA	KD 60.6mn
Net Profit	KD 24.3mn
Earnings per share	24fils per share
Assets	KD424.3mn
Shareholders' equity	KD 231.6mn
Book value per share	232fils per share
Customer base	2.3mn customers

neer in the telecommunications industry which helped the Company in building its strong position and solid reputation in a highly competitive industry. Hence, stc is committed to exceed the expectations of its customers in the B2B and B2C sectors propelled by the robust recent developments and huge demand on the ICT services beside the traditional telecommunications services. Accordingly, stc will always thrive to seize all future opportunities that may arise in the field based on the continuous and unexpected changes in consumer taste".

Commenting on the announcement of company's financial results for the nine months period ended September 30, 2022, Eng Maziad bin Nasser Al-Harbi said: "stc generated exceptional financial results supported by the increased demand on the integrated business solutions and the enhanced demand on the traditional telecommunications services in the Kuwaiti market. Stc recorded the highest total revenue since inception which reached KD 249.4 million in the first nine months of 2022 with a growth rate of 16.6 percent compared to KD 213.8 million in the previous year. stc managed to achieve this growth in revenue with the significant support

from the increase in its customer base which has reached 2.3 million customers by the end of September 2022, representing a rise of 19.8 percent compared to that in September 2021. The growth in revenue was also a result of the positive impact due to the consolidation of E-Portal's financials, which was fully acquired by stc on the 6th of April 2022".

Al-Harbi noted: Accordingly, stc's EBITDA witnessed a growth of 6.3 percent to reach KD 60.6 million in the first nine months of 2022 compared to KD 57.0 million in the same period of 2021. As a result, the company's net profit during the nine months period ended 30 September 2022 increased by 2 percent to reach KD 24.3 million (earnings per share 24fils) compared to the same period of 2021".

Al-Harbi concluded: "stc's resilience to build a wise financial and operational plan is reflected by its ongoing refreshment of the Company's long term financial policy as well as short-term and long-term digital transformation strategy to cope up with the latest developments in order to meet the needs of its customers. This would, in turn, have a great impact on stc's solvency and maintain its position as a leader in the telecom industry".

Sony hikes profit forecast as yen boosts business

TOKYO: Sony raised its annual net profit and sales forecasts on Tuesday, saying the weak yen had boosted the performance of sectors including music, movies and smartphone camera components. The yen has lost more than 20 percent of its value this year, inflating profits for Japanese companies that operate overseas. That includes Sony's massive global enter-

tainment business—from streaming services to blockbuster films and PlayStation games, as well as digital camera components.

"Major factors for the upward revisions include the growth of the music streaming business, as well as foreign exchange," chief financial officer Hiroki Totoki told reporters. The conglomerate now expects net profit to March 2023 to reach 840 billion yen (\$5.7 billion), up from the 800 billion yen previously forecast. It has also slightly increased its sales outlook to 11.6 trillion yen, with higher revenues in several sectors likely to be "partially offset by lower-than-expected sales in the financial services segment".

In the first half of the current financial year, net profit was 482.2 billion yen—up 13 percent on-year-

while sales rose nine percent to five trillion yen, Sony said. Recent big hits for the group include the PC version of the game "Marvel's Spider-Man", "Uncharted: Legacy of Thieves" for PlayStation, as well as new music from Beyonce, Doja Cat and Harry Styles, Totoki added.

Nearly two years since its launch, Sony's PlayStation 5 console remains notoriously difficult to find. But "with material supply and logistics constraints significantly eased, PS5 production exceeded 6.5 million units in this quarter and is progressing ahead of plan," Totoki said. Recent price increases for the console have not yet hit demand, he added, and Sony is "doing our utmost to accelerate supply for the year-end sales season", he added. —AFP



TOKYO, Japan: This photo taken on October 31, 2022 shows a woman walking past the Sony logo outside the company's headquarters in Tokyo. The Japanese entertainment and electronics conglomerate will release second quarter earnings later in the day on November 1. —AFP

Lufthansa to raise salaries for German cabin crew

FRANKFURT: Lufthansa said Tuesday it had agreed a pay rise for 19,000 cabin crew members in Germany to help compensate for soaring inflation. Germany's flagship carrier said it had reached a one-year deal with flight attendants' union UFO to increase basic monthly salaries by 250 euros (\$248) from January 2023, and by an extra 2.5 percent from July.

Starting salaries for in-flight personnel will jump by 17 percent as a result, Lufthansa said, while those in the highest salary bracket will see a nine-percent increase. "With this, we are paying due and full regard to our social responsibilities, while also ensuring our attractiveness as an employer," said Lufthansa personnel chief Michael Niggemann. Cabin staff in the lower and mid-range salary groups "will particularly benefit" from the new agreement, he added. Lufthansa already agreed to raise the salaries of pilots and ground staff in Germany earlier this year after they staged walkouts to press their demands for better pay.

High inflation, running at a record 10.4 percent in Germany in October, has fuelled calls for pay hikes across a range of sectors in Europe's biggest economy. The airline industry is at the same time grappling with a shortage of workers after many jobs were cut during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lufthansa, which was saved from bankruptcy by a government bailout during the pandemic, last week reported a robust third-quarter net profit of 809 million euros. The group's CEO, Carsten Spohr, said Lufthansa had "left the pandemic behind" and was expecting strong travel demand in the months ahead. —AFP

Total Revenue

▲ 16.6%

249.4 KD Million

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 24.3 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2022.

stc

9M - 2022

EBITDA

▲ 6.3%
60.6
KD Million

9M - 2022

Net Profit

▲ 2.0%
24.3
KD Million

9M - 2022

EPS

▲ 2.0%
24
Kuwaiti Fils

30 September 2022

Subscribers

▲ 19.8%
2.3
Million

Business

China iPhone factory quadruples bonuses for workers who stay

New variants test local officials' ability to snuff out COVID flare-ups

BEIJING: The world's largest iPhone factory in central China told staff Tuesday it would quadruple their bonuses if they remained at the plant after scores of workers fled a COVID outbreak at the facility. China is the last major economy committed to a zero-COVID strategy, persisting with snap lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines in a bid to stamp out emerging outbreaks. But new variants have tested local officials' ability to snuff out flare-ups faster than they can spread, causing much of the country to live under an ever-changing mosaic of COVID curbs.

Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn's plant in Zhengzhou has been under lockdown since mid-October, with the company saying it is testing employees daily and keeping them in a closed loop. But complaints from workers circulating on Chinese social media have alleged poor working conditions and inadequate virus protection for employees who are not infected. "I only took a handbag, three packets of instant noodles, four bottles of milk, two bottles of water and some bread," an escaped Foxconn worker named Li Yan who walked for three hours after leaving the facility told the state-run China Newsweek.

Videos shared online over the weekend showed Foxconn employees fleeing the company's campus and returning to their hometowns on foot, in a bid to avoid COVID travel restrictions. Foxconn's Zhengzhou plant

said on its official WeChat account that, starting from Tuesday, employees will receive a daily bonus of 400 yuan (\$55) for showing up to work-quadruple the previous subsidy of 100 yuan a day. Staff will also receive additional bonuses if they attend work for 15 days or longer in November, reaching 15,000 yuan if they record full attendance this month.

'Controllable' outbreak

One unnamed factory manager told China Newsweek Tuesday that there had been no serious infections so far, and insisted that the outbreak was "controllable". Foxconn-which supplies iPhones to US tech firm Apple-has promised to do more to help employees and organize buses to transport workers back to their hometowns should they wish to leave, in what it has called a "protracted battle" against the virus. Local governments in the area surrounding the city asked fleeing workers to register with authorities if they returned home and to complete several days of quarantine upon arrival.

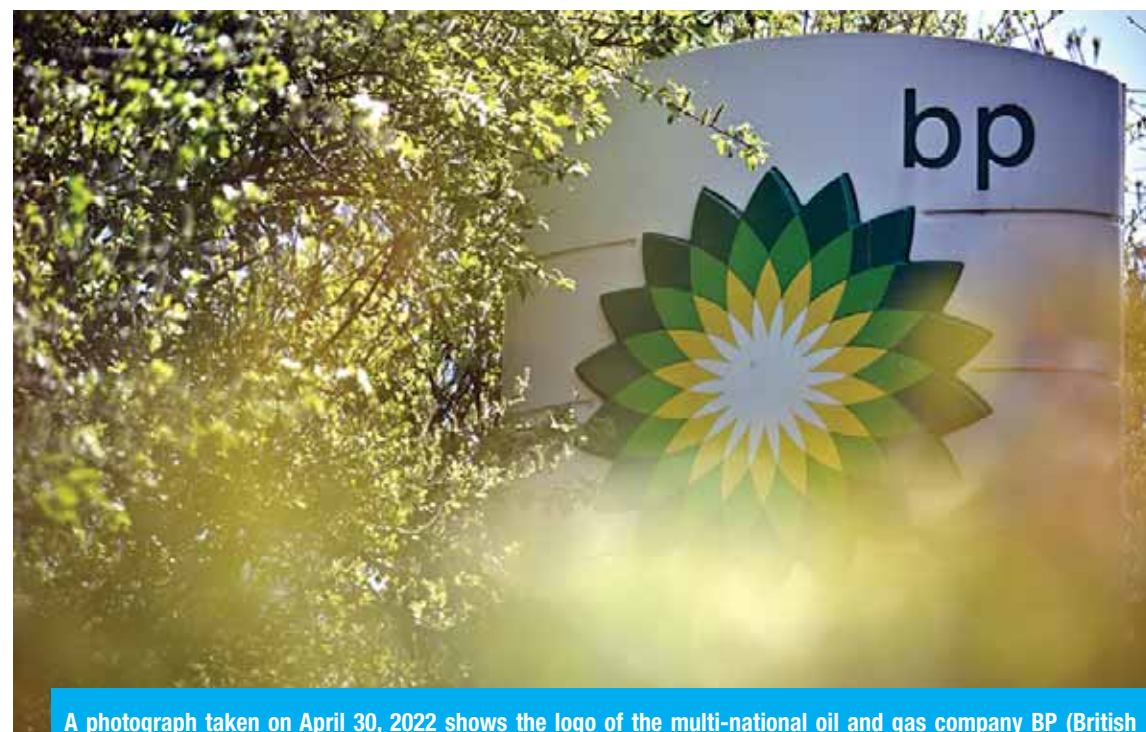
The southern semi-autonomous territory of Macau also announced mass testing of its 700,000 population Tuesday after a handful of cases were discovered, triggering a lockdown of one of its casinos. It is a fresh blow for the city's struggling gambling industry, which had been poised for recovery after plans to relax travel



between mainland China and the former Portuguese colony this month.

China reported more than 2,000 fresh domestic infections Tuesday for the second straight day, as curbs ramped up in response to a wave of regional outbreaks. The southern Chinese manufacturing hub of

Guangzhou also announced partial lockdowns in several districts Monday in response to rising case numbers. Guangzhou reported more than 520 fresh infections on Tuesday. New outbreaks have also emerged in northern cities near China's border with Russia and North Korea as winter approaches. —AFP



A photograph taken on April 30, 2022 shows the logo of the multi-national oil and gas company BP (British Petroleum) at a petrol station in Tonbridge, south east of London. —AFP

BP Q3 profit surges on high energy prices

LONDON: BP said Tuesday that underlying third-quarter profit more than doubled on high commodity prices after key energy producer Russia's invasion of Ukraine but logged a net loss on accounting charges. Replacement cost profit soared to \$8.2 billion in the three months to September, the British energy major announced. That compared with \$3.3 billion a year earlier and outstripped market expectations of \$6.1 billion.

Yet profits were weaker than the second quarter due to a dip in oil prices. London-listed BP, flush with cash, also revealed a \$2.5-billion share buyback but its stock slid in morning deals. Energy markets remain elevated due to Russia's war in Ukraine, which has sent British household fuel bills rocketing-but helped generate massive profits across the industry. Energy prices also leapt on strong demand after nations lifted COVID pandemic lockdowns.

Windfall tax

Runaway profits have heightened calls for Britain to massively enlarge its windfall tax to help cushion the impact of a cost-of-living crisis largely sparked by sky-high electricity and gas bills. Tuesday's bumper earnings-after vast profits at Chevron, Shell and TotalEnergies-will not diminish those calls, according to analysts. "This isn't going to ease calls for windfall

taxes at a time when governments are facing fiscal black holes requiring difficult decisions on taxation and spending," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam. "Finding the right balance between taxing 'excess profits' as a result of the war in Ukraine without deterring investment won't be easy."

BP added Tuesday that it will pay about \$2.5 billion in taxes this year for its North Sea business, including \$800 million related to the levy. New British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak unveiled the windfall tax on the taxes of UK energy companies earlier this year when he was finance minister in Boris Johnson's government. Sunak has so far resisted calls to increase the tax, deemed far too small by activists.

Energy transition

"With the economy sinking, energy bills soaring and the climate crisis deepening, Rishi Sunak must surely act on the excessive profits that fossil fuel firms like BP are raking in," said Sana Yusuf, a campaigner at Friends of the Earth. BP says it is seeking to pivot towards cleaner energy and away from fossil fuels, sparking deep skepticism from environmental groups who accuse it of greenwashing.

"This quarter's results reflect us continuing to perform while transforming," said Chief Executive Bernard Looney. "We are providing the oil and gas the world needs today-while at the same time investing to accelerate the energy transition." BP agreed this month to buy US renewable gas producer Archaea for \$4.1 billion. The group added Tuesday that it faced a net loss of \$2.2 billion in the third quarter on large accounting charges. That followed a loss after tax of \$2.5 billion last time around. BP's share price slid 0.7 percent to 476.25 pence in morning deals on London's rising stock market. —AFP

Al-Muzaini opens its 125th branch in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Al-Muzaini Company, the leading exchange company in Kuwait with more than 80 years of experience within the industry, is proud to announce the latest opening of its 125th branch in Shuwaikh, Kuwait on 18th of October 2022 by members of Al-Muzaini's management along with some of the company's valued customers.

Hugh Fernandes, the General Manager of Al-Muzaini Company said: "We are extremely delighted to introduce our latest branch opening in Shuwaikh. Our commitment is always towards delivering a great customer experience each and every time and opening our latest branch is another step in the right direction. We always want to provide the best experience for each and every customer, be it through new branch openings, through launching new services, through promotional campaigns and tie-ups or by continuously upgrading our mobile application to accommodate various new features. Customers convenience is our priority." Al-Muzaini Company is always near you!



Huawei nova 10 SE: The stunning smartphone

KUWAIT: The Huawei nova 10 SE is undoubtedly going for the city chic aesthetic. This is evident in the phone's colors, textures and stylistic elements. Nonetheless, even with much emphasis on the design, it still balances style with substance, armed with a 108MP High-Res Camera, 66W Huawei SuperCharge and more. Let's take a closer look. The nova moniker is derived from the Latin word "novas", signifying that every rising star is born to shine, akin to the passion of youth when chasing their dreams of a better future. Created on the foundation of innovative technology, every generation of the Huawei nova Series strives to represent the ideology of an innovative piece of technology that has an on-trend design, powerful cameras, excellent performance, and offers smart interaction experiences. With that ideology in mind comes the launch of the new Huawei nova 10 Series, taking the series into its 10th generation. As of July 2022, the nova Series has accumulated a total of more than 200 million users worldwide.

Huawei nova 10 SE

The Huawei nova Series is well known for its trendy colours and stylish aesthetics, and the HUAWEI nova 10 SE is not an exception. The phone comes in Color No 10, Mint Green, and Starry Black. Each of these colours represents a distinct aesthetic style. Still, the one that grabs the spotlight is the Color No. 10. This colour uses a double colour coating process with silver as the main tone with a colder overall tone that matches flawlessly with the golden Star Orbit Ring and logo. The crystal-like matte rear cover of the phone comes with a special Starry Flash Craft, and complements the breathtaking camera module. Designed with comfort and ease of use in mind, the phone's slim 7.39mm body is comfortable to hold and use with one hand.

Be a master of photography

The rear camera module features a 108 MP RAW Domain Imaging System that incorporates a 108MP High-Res main camera, an 8MP ultra wide-angle and depth of field camera, and a 2MP macro camera. The phone's Multi-frame fusion algorithm in the RAW domain provides excellent performance whether you are shooting indoors, outdoors, dark or backlit environments. The ultra-high-resolution sensor is capable of collecting more light. On top of that, the cohesion between the Multi-frame fusion algorithm in the RAW domain and advanced multi-frame noise reduction technology ensures that even images taken in low light

Pfizer lifts forecast for COVID-19 vaccine sales

NEW YORK: Pfizer reported higher quarterly profits Tuesday as it lifted its full-year forecast for coronavirus vaccine sales and predicted COVID-19 would yield billions more in revenues for the foreseeable future. The big US drugmaker now expects 2022 sales of the Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine of \$34 billion, up \$2 billion from the prior outlook.

Pfizer maintained its projection of \$22 billion in annual sales for its Paxlovid therapeutic for COVID-19. More than two years into the pandemic, Chief Executive Albert Bourla predicted revenues for COVID-19 products would persist even though they are likely to fall from their 2022 levels.

"We believe our COVID-19 franchises will remain multi-billion revenue generators for the foreseeable future, which should serve as a buffer for any unforeseen challenges with other products in our portfolio," Bourla said in prepared remarks.

The most recent quarter included an 83 percent surge in COVID-19 vaccine revenues in the United States, driven by deliveries of the latest booster shot for the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine. Overall, Pfizer reported profits of \$8.6 billion in the third quarter, up six percent from the year-ago period on a six percent drop in revenues to \$22.6 billion.

have less noise, optimum level of brightness, and high dynamic range.

Additionally, with the Dual-View Video feature, you can shoot scenes with a split-screen view and capture your own reaction while the scene unfolds in front of you. There is also a Continuous Front/Rear Recording feature that seamlessly switches between the front and rear cameras to ensure that footage remains uninterrupted and that everything is recorded within a single video file. That makes capturing and sharing the wonderful moments in your life easier than ever.

The Remote Shutter feature comes in handy when



you are out and about. All you have to do is pair the Huawei nova 10 SE with the Huawei Watch 3, the Huawei Watch GT/FTT Series, or the Huawei Band Series devices to shoot remotely and stay in the picture that you are taking. No longer asking strangers to snap photos for you.

Visionary and inspirational user experience

Thanks to the Super Device features, Huawei has consolidated different menus into the Control Panel with a simple swipe; users can explore the Control Panel and get quick access to audio playback, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth settings, as well as making it easier to control multiple devices as if they were controlling just one device. With the Distributed File System, the Huawei nova 10 SE can also function as a wirelessly connected external storage unit for the PC, meaning users can access the files they want more easily than ever before. This means when users are drafting an email on the PC, they can add smartphone files as an attachment or when they see an image they like when browsing the internet on the PC, they can save that image directly to the smartphone.

Bourla said Pfizer was on track to launch up to 19 new products in the next year and a half. He highlighted potential "blockbuster" products for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), Ulcerative colitis and Migraine. Bourla said the product pipeline should alleviate "understandable" questions about Pfizer's growth potential in the 2025 to 2030 given the loss of some \$17 billion in revenues due to patent expirations. Shares of Pfizer rose 3.5 percent to \$48.20 in pre-market trading. —AFP



HARTFORD, United States: In this file photo taken on November 02, 2021, a vial of the new children's dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. —AFP

Business

Saudi Aramco posts 39% jump in Q3 profits on high oil prices

Strong performance could help finance kingdom's ambitious plans

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco on Tuesday posted a 39-percent jump in third-quarter profits year-on-year boosted by higher oil prices resulting largely from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The announcement came as the OPEC+ cartel of oil producers was set to implement production cuts that have drawn the ire of the United States, which says the move-approved at a meeting last month-amounts to "aligning with Russia" in the conflict.

The energy giant's net income totaled \$42.4 billion-up from \$30.4 billion during the same period last year-and was "primarily driven by higher crude oil prices and volumes sold", it said in a filing with the Saudi stock exchange. CEO Amin Nasser touted the firm's "strong earnings and record free cash flow" of \$45 billion, up from \$28.7 billion at this time last year.

"While global crude oil prices during this period were affected by continued economic uncertainty, our long-term view is that oil demand will continue to grow for the rest of the decade given the world's need for more affordable and reliable energy," he said in a statement. Aramco's latest financial results were published just days before the COP27 climate summit aimed at curbing global warming.

Last year, ahead of the COP26 climate-change summit, Saudi Arabia pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060, sparking skepticism from environmental campaigners. Saudi Aramco, for its part, has pledged to achieve "operational net-zero" carbon emissions by 2050.

That applies to emissions that are produced directly by Aramco's industrial sites, but not the CO2 produced when clients burn Saudi oil in their

cars, power plants and furnaces. Saudi officials have lately stressed the need for more investment in the sector, arguing that focusing on climate change at the expense of energy security would further fuel inflation and other economic woes.

'Headwinds'

Aramco is Saudi Arabia's "crown jewel" and primary source of revenue. It has been well positioned to benefit from energy price spikes, boasting "the lowest cost of production by a huge margin" compared to other oil companies, said Ellen Wald, author of "Saudi Inc.", a history of the company.

That strong performance has led to a banner economic year for Saudi Arabia, driving a surplus that could help finance ambitious plans by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to open up the kingdom and diversify its oil-reliant economy. On Monday, Saudi Arabia reported a preliminary estimate of 8.6 percent economic growth in the third quarter of 2022 compared to the same period last year, "mainly due to the increase in oil activities".

The International Monetary Fund has said Saudi Arabia's GDP is expected to expand by 7.6 percent this year. Yet a slowdown in China and recession fears in Europe and the United States could make it difficult for Aramco to maintain its current momentum, even after accounting for the OPEC+ cuts that would slash supply by two million barrels per day and a European ban on Russian crude imports due to take effect in December. "The controversial production cut announcement by OPEC+ was driven in large part by concerns that energy prices were not exactly where oil-producing countries like Saudi



President and CEO of Saudi Aramco Amin Nasser (left) and Aramco chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan attend a press conference to announce an initial public offering of the state oil producer, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in this 03 November 2019 file photo.

Arabia wanted them to be," said Robert Mogielnicki, of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

"There are absolutely going to be headwinds associated with Aramco trying to realize the profits that they generated in previous quarters." Long-

term, Saudi Arabia plans to increase daily oil production capacity by more than one million barrels to exceed 13 million by 2027. Aramco floated 1.7 percent of its shares on the Saudi bourse in December 2019, generating \$29.4 billion in the world's biggest initial public offering. —AFP

Wall Street eyes chance of divided Washington after polls

NEW YORK: With polls suggesting Republicans will retake at least one congressional chamber in next week's US elections, Wall Street is feeling hopeful about a likely return of a divided Washington. A split government, while frustrating to partisans, acts as a brake on ambitious tax and spending programs. That's a familiar dynamic to investors, and one that has historically proven benign.

"If you get Congress out of the way" because of gridlock, "then the market can pretty much act on its own," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research. "And that has traditionally been fairly positive for stocks." This expected stalemate scenario, based on polling showing Republicans poised to win the House of Representatives in light of public frustration with inflation, is one reason the Nov. 8 vote has generated so little buzz on Wall Street.

The election has high stakes for abortion rights, climate change and even the future of American Democracy itself, with backers of ex-president Donald Trump's election conspiracies positioned for potential gains in key 2024 presidential battleground states. But investors see little that is actionable from a trading perspective. "The only time that politics really has an impact on the stock market is when they do something that impacts earnings, interest rates, or the dollar," said Maris Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors. "Most of the time it's all sound and fury, and it doesn't matter."

The election takes place at a beleaguered moment in US politics, with far-right groups mobilizing vigilante-style armies of poll watchers and Friday's attack on the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi underscoring the threat of political violence.

But perhaps there is no better reflection of markets' ability to shrug off US political upheaval than January 6 itself. On the day the US Capitol was besieged by Trump supporters who built a noose for former Vice President Mike Pence, the S&P 500 lost 0.1 percent and the dollar rose against the euro.

Debt ceiling brinksmanship

But some market experts warn of a downside to



the gridlock scenario, particularly in make-or-break negotiations on raising the debt ceiling. The rising political turmoil in the United States "is a bigger deal than people think," said David Kotok, co-founder of Cumberland Advisors.

Kotok cited the ascendancy of Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican who has championed Trump's lies about the 2020 election, espoused the racist "great replacement" conspiracy theory and has had social media posts removed for inciting violence.

The Democratic-led House ousted Taylor Greene from her committee assignments in February 2021, but she is expected to have a prominent role if the Republicans win the House. Taylor Greene has said she would try to impeach Biden. "The worst-case scenario is that the brinksmanship that's played with the debt ceiling goes over the edge," said Kotok. The market "is ignoring that risk," Kotok said of the possibility of a US default. "When you reconstitute the House with people who are nut cases, you invite trouble."

But many market watchers say history suggests this risk is virtually zero. Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare said, "we've been down this road before," he said. "The market would be hard pressed to believe the US is going to get into a default situation. "Everyone agrees what a calamity it would be and I don't think the market has that priced in, nor is it worried about it," said O'Hare.

An Oct. 25 note from Pantheon Macroeconomics alluded to the risk of debt ceiling brinksmanship, describing a tense scenario. "The ensuing stand-off would be a nightmare for markets, unless investors all fully believed that Republican threats are hollow," said Pantheon. —AFP

a financial product, paving way for the regulation of the assets in the Africa's most advanced economy.

Financial institutions and watchdogs around the world have been grappling with how to regulate digital currencies. Under the system piloted by Pick n Pay, in partnership with crypto firms Electrum and CryptoConvert, customers can pay with bitcoin at till points through a smartphone app. CryptoConvert's founder Carel van Wyk told AFP the grocery store was the first large South African retailer to adopt the technology.

Other systems normally allow consumers to use cryptocurrencies to buy gift cards or vouchers rather than pay directly at the cashier. "Crypto payments are still in their infancy in South Africa, but we are already seeing adoption in parts of our society that haven't previously had access to traditional financial systems," van Wyk said. —AFP



Musk on the move at Twitter after takeover finalized

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk has hit the ground sprinting after his Twitter takeover, seeking major changes to the platform only days after finalizing his controversial \$44 billion purchase. Documents filed Monday with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed that Musk has become Twitter's sole director after finalizing the deal last week and dissolving its corporate board.

The documents state that the "consummation of the Merger" occurred on October 27, at which point "Mr. Musk became the sole director of Twitter," while the entire board, including CEO Parag Agrawal, were let go. When he made his initial buyout offer in April, Musk-also the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX-stated that he intended to remove Twitter from the public market, after which fewer public disclosures would be required.

When the unpredictable billionaire tried to walk away from the deal, Twitter sued Musk in a Delaware court. But with an October trial date looming, Musk revived the deal in early October, ultimately sealing the takeover at \$54.20 per share last week.

After changing his Twitter bio to "Chief Twit," Musk reportedly worked over the weekend with software engineers from Tesla to look under the hood of the one-to-many messaging platform, and on planning massive layoffs. The team has reportedly been attempting to monetize Twitter's identity verification feature, which gives certain users a prized blue check mark next to their profile.



HAWTHORNE, United States: In this file photo taken on March 14, 2019, Tesla CEO Elon Musk speaks during the unveiling of the new Tesla Model Y in Hawthorne, California. — AFP

One option, The Verge reports, would be to require verified users to sign up for the platform's paid subscription service, Twitter Blue, which currently costs just under five dollars a month. That price would increase to around \$20 a month, and if unpaid, verified users would lose their blue check mark. "The whole verification process is being revamped right now," tweeted Musk on Sunday.

The new boss has also asked teams to relaunch Vine by the end of the year, newsite Axios reported.

Twitter bought the ultra-short video app in 2012, long before TikTok became the format's dominant player, but shuttered it four years later. The Washington Post has reported that the multi-billionaire plans to fire some 75 percent of his new company's 7,500 employees. Musk's previous comments condemning Twitter's content moderation policies as heavy-handed-as well as his frequent posts of boundary-testing memes-has given pause to some advertisers, the company's main source of revenue. —AFP

US manufacturing growth at weakest since 2020: Survey

WASHINGTON: US manufacturing growth slowed in October, industry survey data showed Tuesday, remaining at its weakest since mid-2020 on falling orders and as prices drop for the first time in more than two years. Manufacturing output has held up despite disruptions from supply chain snarls and shortages, but analysts note that the sector faces challenges from lackluster demand.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that its manufacturing index dropped 0.7 points to 50.2 percent, barely higher than analysts expected and a touch above the 50-percent threshold indicating expansion. "The US manufacturing sector continues to expand, but at the lowest rate since the coronavirus pandemic recovery began," ISM manufacturing survey chair Timothy Fiore said in a state-

Australia lifts rates to near-decade high as inflation soars

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank raised borrowing on Tuesday to their highest level in almost a decade as it tried to rein in soaring inflation but brushing off calls to be more aggressive.

The Reserve Bank of Australia's 25-basis-point move marks the seventh consecutive increase and is in line with a global effort to temper price rises fanned by soaring energy and food costs.

"As is the case in most countries, inflation in Australia is too high," governor Philip Lowe said in

a statement after the decision, which leaves borrowing costs at 2.85 percent, their highest level since April 2013. Markets had expected the 25 basis point rise, but there were vocal calls for a 50-point lift to tame an increasingly painful cost of living crisis, with inflation hitting 7.3 percent last month on the back of a spike in fuel and food costs. "A further increase in inflation is expected over the months ahead, with inflation now forecast to peak at around eight percent later this year," the bank said.

But with many home-owning Australians feeling the pinch from rising interest rates, the central bank faces a difficult balancing act in the months ahead. "We now look for a follow-up 25 basis points in December. Along with a further 75 basis points of rate hikes in the first half of 2023, we now have the RBA cash rate peaking at 3.85 percent," said researchers at ANZ. —AFP

Top South African retailer embraces crypto payments

JOHANNESBURG: The first major South African retailer to accept cryptocurrency payments at some of its tills said on Tuesday it was planning to extend the system to all its stores. Weeks after the country's financial watchdog declared crypto assets a financial product, supermarket chain Pick n Pay said it was expanding a pilot allowing shoppers to pay for their groceries with bitcoin.

"The retailer has now extended the pilot to a further 29 stores for testing with customers, with the intention to roll it out to all stores in the coming months," the company said in a statement. Pick n Pay is South Africa's second-largest grocery retailer with more than 500 supermarkets. It is also found in other southern African countries such as Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia and Mauritius.

The pilot launched five months ago initially included 10 locations. "Increasingly cryptocurrency is being used by those under-served by traditional banking systems, or by those wanting to pay and exchange money in a cheaper and really convenient way," Pick n Pay said in a statement. The move comes two weeks after the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) declared cryptocurrency

Lifestyle | Features

Britain's 'word of the year': Permacrisis

Beating off competition from the likes of "Kyiv", "sportswashing" and "partygate", the term "permacrisis" was named Tuesday as Britain's word of the year in recognition of a dismal 2022. The annual list compiled by Collins Dictionary defined the word as "an extended period of instability and insecurity". Its entry into common usage reflected upheaval caused by Brexit, the Covid pandemic, severe

weather, the war in Ukraine, political turmoil and a cost-of-living crisis.

"Permacrisis sums up quite succinctly just how truly awful 2022 has been for many people," said Collins Learning managing director Alex Beecroft. The arrival of Kyiv as the preferred variant to the Russian spelling of "Kiev" pointed to Britain's support for Ukraine against Moscow's invasion. "Sportswashing" refers to the staging of

high-profile sports events, or the takeover of well-known teams, by unsavory regimes.

Meanwhile "partygate" was one of the many scandals that brought down prime minister Boris Johnson this year. Britain is now on its third prime minister of 2022 - and also has a new monarch in King Charles III. Derived from the Latin for Charles, the term "Carolean" entered the Collins list after his mother

Queen Elizabeth II's death last month.

Among other phrases on the list was "warm bank" - a place such as a library or place of worship where cash-strapped Britons struggling to pay soaring energy bills can go to find heating. Another was "quiet quitting" - defined as doing the bare minimum at work, either as a protest against your employer or to improve your work-life balance.

"Our list this year reflects the state of the world right now... although, with the determination of the Ukrainian people reflected by the inclusion of 'Kyiv', and the dawn of the new 'Carolean' age in the UK, there are rays of hope," Beecroft said. Last year's Collins word of the year was "NFT" - non-fungible token. In 2020, it was "lockdown". — AFP

Rapper Takeoff, member of Migos, shot dead at 28



In this file photo taken on Nov 9, 2019, US rapper Takeoff performs during the Astroworld Festival at NRG Stadium in Houston. — AFP

The rapper Takeoff, a member of the Grammy-nominated hip hop trio Migos, was fatally shot at a bowling alley in Houston, Texas on Tuesday, according to entertainment outlet TMZ. He was 28 years old. Born Kirshnik Khari Ball, he was playing dice with fellow Migos member Quavo at around 2:30 am, TMZ said. Houston police said they reported to a shooting overnight and one person was dead at the scene, but would not confirm the victim's identity until the family had been notified.

Two other people were shot and taken to area hospitals in private vehicles, police said. According to TMZ, Quavo was not hurt. The entertainment outlet said Takeoff and Quavo were playing dice when "an altercation broke out and that's when someone opened fire, shooting Takeoff". A couple of hours prior to the shooting, Takeoff had posted a selfie from what appeared to be the bowling alley.

The venue, 810 Billiards & Bowling, said they would be closed on Tuesday. Early tributes rolled in as news of the death spread on social media, including from Congressman Jamaal Bowman, who tweeted "Sending love to Takeoff's loved ones. I'm tired of seeing young black men die."

'Bad and Boujee'

Born in Lawrenceville, Georgia on June 18, 1994, Takeoff was best known for his membership in Migos along with Quavo, his uncle, and Offset, his cousin who today is married to fellow rapper Cardi B. "Growing up, I was trying to make it in music. I was grinding, which is just what I loved doing," Takeoff said in a 2017 interview with The Fader. "Just making something and creating for me. I was getting my own pleasure out of it, because it's what I liked doing. I'd wait for Quavo to get back from football practice and I'd play my songs for him."

The Atlanta-based Migos soared to

prominence off their viral 2013 song "Versace", which Drake remixed. It was 2016's smash hit "Bad and Boujee" that first saw them hit number one. The trio, managed by hip hop powerhouse Coach K, is considered widely influential in bringing contemporary Southern trap, a popular and influential rap sub-genre, to the mainstream. Following their debut album "Yung Rich Nation" in 2015, they debuted atop the Billboard top albums chart with their sophomore album "Culture."

After inking a deal with Motown and Capitol Records in 2017, they followed up with "Culture II," once again hitting the chart's top spot. In 2021, they completed the trilogy with "Culture III". Quavo and Takeoff, who have been performing as a duo, had recently released a new music video for the track "Messy". "I'm doing some melodic stuff. Even Quavo, he usually does the melodic things and I rap more, but we're going back to the roots," Takeoff had told the outlet Complex this fall. — AFP



Take your pick: Aye-aye joins ranks of snot-eaters

When scientists caught the aye-aye on video using its strangely thin, eight-centimeter-long middle finger to deeply pick its nose, it pointed towards a larger mystery: Why exactly do some animals eat their own snot? The footage resulted in research which names the aye-aye, a peculiar nocturnal lemur with big ears found only in Madagascar, as the 12th primate who picks their nose. It joins an illustrious group that includes gorillas, chimpanzees, macaques - and of course humans.

Anne-Claire Fabre, an assistant professor at Switzerland's University of Bern and lead author of a study published in the journal *Zoology* this week, told AFP that the researchers stumbled on the discovery "by chance". She said they were "surprised" by the behavior of a female aye-aye named Kali, who was being filmed at the Duke Lemur Center in North Carolina in 2015.

In the video, "the aye-aye inserts the entire length of its extra-long, skinny and highly mobile middle finger into the nasal passages and then licks the nasal mucus collected", the peer-reviewed study said. "This video brings the number of species known to pick their nose to twelve," it said, adding that they all have "fine manipulative skills".

The middle fingers of aye-ayes are not only long and thin, but also have a unique ball and socket joint they use to knock on wood to locate grubs. After seeing the video, "the first thing I was wondered is where this finger is going", said Fabre, who is also an associate scientist at London's Natural History Museum. So the researchers used a CT scan of an aye-aye's skull to reconstruct the finger's journey, finding it probably went down the throat. "There is no other possibility. Otherwise it would have gone into the brain and then they die," Fabre said. The researchers compared the finger's probing to a very deep COVID test.

'Gross'

But finding out exactly why aye-ayes - or other primates - pick their noses proved a more difficult task. The scientists reviewed the existing literature and found that "most of it was jokes", Fabre said. They did find one study which suggested that nose-picking could spread bacteria in a harmful manner. Another said that eating snot could stop bacteria from sticking to teeth, so it might be good for oral health.

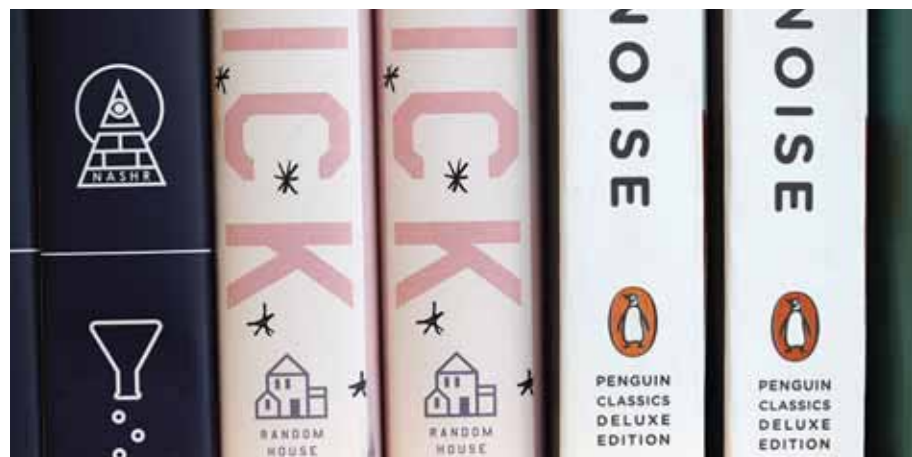
So why is there so little research on nose picking? "I think it's just something that people didn't think about because it's considered to be gross," Fabre said. However she added that lots of research has been done about coprophagia - animals eating their own excrement - which could also be considered gross. The aye-aye, the world's largest nocturnal primate, is highly endangered - in part because it is seen as a bad omen in its native Madagascar, she said. — AFP

US publishing mega-merger blocked by federal judge

A federal judge on Monday blocked publishing giant Penguin Random House from acquiring its competitor Simon & Schuster, siding with the US Justice Department which had argued against the mega-merger. The deal, worth \$2.2 billion, had been announced in November 2020 and would have brought together two of the five largest American publishers. US District Court Judge Florence Pan, in her ruling, said the government had convincingly shown that the merger would substantially lessen competition "in the market for the US publishing rights to anticipated top-selling books".

Pan said her full reasoning for the decision would be issued under seal, as it relied on confidential business information. The Justice Department hailed the decision, which comes only a week before crucial midterm elections in which Democratic President Joe Biden has tried to paint his party as defending consumers' interests. The Justice Department under Biden has been more aggressive than his predecessors in attempting to block mergers, with mixed success so far.

"Today's decision protects vital competition for books and is a victory for authors, readers, and the free exchange of ideas," said Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter in a statement. With 10,000 employees worldwide and nearly 15,000 books published per year, Penguin Random House - a subsidiary of the German Bertelsmann Group - dominates the industry in the United States. Simon & Schuster, owned by Paramount, is the fourth largest of America's "Big



Penguin and Random House logos are visible on the spines of books displayed on a shelf at Book Passage on Nov 2, 2021 in Corte Madera, California. — AFP

Five" publishing companies, which also include HarperCollins, Hachette Book Group USA and Macmillan Publishers.

Stephen King 'delighted'

Big-name writers on the roster at Simon & Schuster include Stephen King and Doris Kearns Goodwin, while Barack and Michelle Obama and John Grisham have books published by Penguin Random House. It is also preparing to release Prince Harry's memoir, in early 2023. Penguin Random House said it strongly disagreed with the judge's ruling and announced it will request an expedited appeal. "We believe this merger will be pro-competitive, and we will continue to work closely with Paramount and Simon & Schuster on next steps," it said in a statement.

But best-selling author King praised Pan's decision, in a statement going

against his own publisher. "I am delighted that Judge Florence Pan has blocked the merger of Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster," the "King of Horror" said in a tweet. "The proposed merger was never about readers and writers; it was about preserving (and growing) PRH's market share. In other words: \$\$\$," he said. Paramount said it was disappointed by the ruling.

"We are reviewing the decision and discussing next steps with Bertelsmann and Penguin Random House, including seeking an expedited appeal," it said. Prior to the US action against the takeover, the UK's competition authority had also taken a close look at the merger, as both groups have British divisions. It issued a favorable opinion in May 2021. — AFP

'Earth is in our hands': Pesquet's plea for planet

From his unique viewpoint hundreds of kilometers above Earth, French astronaut Thomas Pesquet told AFP he felt helpless watching fires rage across the planet below, calling for more to be done to protect this fragile "island of life". Pesquet said his two tours onboard the International Space Station convinced him more than ever that the world is failing to address the threat posed by climate change.

He also witnessed moments of astonishing beauty while in space, some of which are captured in 300 photos published in his new book "La Terre entre nos mains" (Earth is in our Hands), released this week in France, the profits of which will go to charity. Pesquet wrote that he initially "caught the photo bug" during his first tour on the ISS in 2016-2017.

But it was during his last mission, from April to November 2021, that he fully embraced the endeavor, taking constant photos and sharing his passion with his colleagues in space. "At first I was a bit of a Sunday photographer, then I really got a taste for it," Pesquet told AFP in an interview. "When you arrive at the station, you have that smartphone reflex: You see something great and want to immortalize it," he said.

"But quickly you are confronted with limitations, if you want to take photos at night, for example, or of precise targets with long lenses," he added. "It's difficult because everything is manual".

245,000 photos

Around a dozen cameras are available to astronauts on the ISS, some permanently installed on the Cupola observation module, some in the US laboratory which has a porthole looking down on Earth. Despite only having a few hours of leisure time a day, Pesquet took 245,000 photos during his last tour. "Many are not very good, but in six months there is a real progression curve," he said.

Throughout the photos of rivers, oceans, deserts, mountains, sunsets and sunrises, the astronaut's amazement at the world shines through. "The planet is so vast and diverse that you still don't feel like you've seen everything. Even after 400 days in orbit, there are still some things that surprise me, places I haven't seen," he said.

The speed of the station, which hurtles through space at 28,000 km an hour, means that "we are never above the same area at the same time of day", he said. One day, he was surprised to find out that the northern lights appeared blue from space. Pesquet only managed to get a photo of the phenomenon because his US colleague Shane Kimbrough told him it was taking place, after spotting it out of his bedroom window.



Thomas Pesquet

'Sinister spectacle'

But Pesquet did not only witness Earth's beauty. He also captured images of a world in a state of degradation: The "sinister spectacle" of hurricanes, tornadoes and fires that stormed across the planet during his second stint of 200 days in space. Pesquet described himself as a "helpless" witness to the carnage. "What struck me the most were the fires. We could see the flames and smoke very clearly," he said, which gave the impression of "the end of the world."

"Like in the movies," he watched as entire regions were engulfed. Parts of southern Europe, British Columbia and California were "consumed little by little by a blanket of smoke," he added. "I saw the difference just four years made," he said. "My first mission was in winter and the second in summer, so it was normal that there were more fires - but overall I saw more violent phenomena."

Watching these increasingly extreme weather events, "which we know are linked to climate change, has convinced me that we are not doing enough to protect our planet," Pesquet wrote in the book. Without science "we would be lost in the face of the magnitude of the challenges" ahead, he said. "It's not too late, but the longer we wait...," he trailed off. "Every year we say 'now is the time act' - and it's the same the next year, we only make small changes without a strong global impact." — AFP



People arrive at the "Ghibli Warehouse" on the first day of the new Ghibli Park in Nagakute, Aichi prefecture on Nov 1, 2022. — AFP photos



Visitors look around the central staircase of "Ghibli's Great Warehouse".

TOTORO TIME: JAPAN'S GHIBLI THEME PARK OPENS TO VISITORS

A huge grinning Totoro and other whimsical exhibits welcomed visitors to Japan's new Ghibli theme park as three of its five sections opened to the public on Tuesday. The attraction in central Japan has been long awaited by fans of Studio Ghibli's beloved animations, from "Howl's Moving Castle" to the Oscar-winning "Spirited Away". Now a fluffy Cat Bus, a life-sized No-Face and recreations of buildings from the films are ready for visitors less than a month after the country fully reopened its borders to foreign tourists.

Tickets are reservation only, and are already sold out until the end of the

year. One middle-aged visitor, who described himself as "a huge fan", told broadcaster TV Asahi he had been queuing to enter the park since the previous day. "Congratulations!" said a hand-drawn note posted on Twitter by Studio Ghibli, illustrated with a row of figures resembling the spirit creature Totoro and signed by the company's co-founder Hayao Miyazaki.

Ghibli producer Toshio Suzuki also spoke of his excitement at a ceremony on Monday ahead of the opening. "I didn't sleep very well last night. It's a bit different from a film release," he said. Spread over 7.1 hectares of a 194-hectare park in Aichi region where

the 2005 International Expo was held, the site features large open-air areas in keeping with the importance of nature in Ghibli films.

Among the three sections now open is the "Hill of Youth", the gateway to the park that features an elevator tower inspired by Ghibli films including "Castle in the Sky". Elsewhere, "Dondoko Forest" evokes the retro peace of the 1988 classic "My Neighbour Totoro", with bucolic walking paths and an enormous Totoro figure.

A major draw will be Ghibli's Grand Warehouse, a hangar-like indoor portion of the park with various attractions, including 14 sets from 13 of the studio's film classics. Visitors can stroll along an alley designed to look like the opening scene of "Spirited Away," or perch on the red velvet-covered train seat in a carriage next to the movie's instantly recognizable "No-Face" character.

Aichi region is predicting an influx of 1.8 million visitors a year once all five areas of the park are open from next year, with an estimated annual economic impact of 48 billion yen (\$324 million). Studio Ghibli, founded in 1985 by Miyazaki and fellow animator Isao Takahata, has captivated fans around the world with works blending nostalgia, courage, greed and interaction with the natural world. The studio already operates the hugely popular Ghibli Museum on the outskirts of Tokyo, which offers tickets only at the beginning of each month and regularly sells out within hours. — AFP



Visitors take pictures of the robot soldiers of "Tenku no Niwa".



Visitors walk past the "elevator tower" near the entrance.

Cameroon's electronic waste recyclers struggle despite law

Sheltered from the harsh central African sun by a patched-up parasol, Ismael Alioum rummages through piles of electronic waste, gleaming useful components and high-value metals from circuit boards and switches. The scrap-metal district of Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon, is in full swing as artisanal workers scavenge through discarded items and sell their harvest to traders, often Chinese or Indians.

But the work can also carry an untold human and environmental cost. No gloves or masks are in sight as Alioum, 46, bashes away at an old voltage regulator. Near him, three younger men are attacking other old devices with screwdrivers and knives. "Electronic waste contains harmful substances that can

cause diseases such as cancer in humans when they are released into the environment," said Didier Yinkoua, head of a campaign group called World Action Phyto Protection. "When scrap metal workers break cathode ray tubes, mercury or lead can leak - it's dangerous for them and for the public at large."

Unlicensed recyclers "take what's useful and toss out the rest, including items that are toxic for the environment," said Arnel Poughela, director of Solidarite Technologique, an NGO that works in licensed processing of e-waste. A decade ago, Cameroon passed a law requiring greener and safer standards for disposing of e-waste, blazing a trail as concern mounted that Africa was becoming the world's dumping ground for toxic rubbish.

Founded in 2011, Solidarite became one of the first recycling groups to be approved under the law. It goes around collecting broken gadgets from companies and households "to prevent the waste from ending up in the trash," explained Augustin Kenne, in charge of dismantling. Collections are made by appointment now that word has got around, said employee Camille Ndomo, loading his tricycle with a gas burner, an



Eunice, 28, cleans the casings of television sets at Solidarite Technologique in Yaounde on Sept 14, 2022. — AFP photos

LCD screen and a landline telephone recovered from a home in the city's eastern Ewonkan district.

At the organization's headquarters, the items are then sorted, washed and dismantled by a dozen staff members equipped with gloves and masks. Repairable items are fixed and sold in

their shop. Waste that the NGO cannot repair or properly dispose of at its site is taken to specialists in Douala, the economic capital, or if need be to Europe where expertise in the field is more developed. "Over the past three years, we have been collecting 130 tons of waste annually, on average," said

Poughela. Of this, "about 50 tons" is "revalued" - meaning reused - or disposed of at the Yaounde site.

Unprofitable

Poughela said Cameroon was the first African country to have passed legislation on e-waste management. Despite this important legal step, recycling rates in Senegal are low, Poughela said. No data are available to provide a more accurate picture. Out of 25 operators who have gained a license, only two are active, and the field remains dominated by informal workers, who typically are untrained - they "learn on the job," in Alioum's words.

Poughela said that on current volume scales, the business was unprofitable, mainly because of infrastructure problems. "To cover costs, we would have to achieve processing volumes of 5,000 tonnes per year," Poughela said. The NGO plans to build a site to crush and safely incinerate waste that cannot be recycled. "We have obtained a one-hectare site in Douala, but we don't have the funding," Poughela said. — AFP



Yannick Ayi, a technician working for Solidarite Technologique, poses for a portrait outside his workshop.



Daouda, a young worker, hits a vehicle with an axe to obtain parts that will be classified according to importance and then recycled in Yaounde on Sept 29, 2022.



Andrew, who works in a pot factory, checks an aluminum fireplace in Yaounde.

Sports

World number seven Sabalenka surprises second-ranked Jabeur

Sakkari edges Pegula at WTA Finals

FORT WORTH: World number seven Aryna Sabalenka rallied from a set down to beat second-ranked Ons Jabeur on Monday as round-robin play began at the season-ending WTA Finals. Sabalenka shook off an error-strewn start to beat the Tunisian, a finalist at both Wimbledon and the US Open this year, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas. "I think it's the biggest win of the season for me," said Sabalenka, who was a semi-finalist in the WTA's season finale last year but has endured a disappointing 2022 campaign. "She played unbelievable and somehow another miracle happened for me and I was able to win this match."

Sabalenka had to dig deep to improve her record against Jabeur to 3-1. Jabeur, making her WTA Finals debut, was two points away from victory at 5-3 in the second set tiebreaker, and she had two chances to break for a 5-2 lead in the third. But Sabalenka held on, breaking Jabeur at love to level the set at 4-4 and capturing the victory when Jabeur netted a forehand on the first match point.

"I didn't feel welcome on this court," Sabalenka said of her early struggles. "I couldn't understand what was happening, the ball was bouncing too slow for me. "Then in the second set I kind of calmed down and tried to think what I had to do to win this match."

Greece's fifth-ranked Maria Sakkari, aiming to improve on a semi-final appearance in the event last year, defeated third-ranked American Jessica Pegula 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4) in the other Nancy Richey Group encounter.

In a rematch of the WTA Guadalajara final won by Pegula eight days earlier, she and Sakkari traded six service breaks in the opening set, Pegula twice recovering a break before Sakkari put it away in the tiebreaker. After pocketing the first, Sakkari raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set before Pegula, who survived match points to win three times this season, broke back to trim the deficit to 3-2. Pegula saved a pair of match points against her serve in the 12th game to force the tiebreaker, the second with a stinging backhand winner.

But Sakkari sealed it on her third opportunity when Pegula's effort found the net. "It's never easy against Jess," said Sakkari, who improved to 4-2 against the American. "She's an amazing player. She's very confident right now. I knew it was going to be extremely tough but I fought hard and trusted my game." Sakkari said she knew from prior encounters with Pegula she had to be aggressive. "If you're passive, Jess is just going to make you run. She's going to hit the ball very hard, and it's over," Sakkari said.—AFP



FORT WORTH: Ons Jabeur of Tunisia walks out prior to her Women's Singles Group Stage match against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus during the 2022 WTA Finals on October 31, 2022.—AFP

Equal opportunity between genders in sports

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Chairwoman of Tomooh Club Board Rihab Buresli and Secretary General Sadiqa Al-Ansari participated in the equal opportunity between the two

genders in the sports field seminar that was organized by the Olympic Council of Asia in Cooperation with Bahrain Olympic Committee and International Olympic Committee in Bahrain.

Several senior sports leaders attended the meeting including President of Public Authority for Sport, Bahrain's Olympic Committee President HH Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Jordan's Olympic Committee President Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein, Acting President of Olympic Council of Asia Raja Singh, Executive Director of OCA Hussein Al-Mussallam, BOC member Sheikhha Hayat Al-Khalifa,

along with 41 other leaders from 41 countries. Participants listened to a statement online from IOC president Thomas Bach.

Buresli said the seminar's topics dealt with the roles of National Olympic Committee in augmenting equality between the two genders to ensure the participation of the woman in all fields - such as membership in Olympic Committees boards, official administrations in clubs and federations and their administrative and technical programs. Buresli thanked OCA and BOC and lauded the role of OCA in supporting equality between genders.



Volpato fires Roma into Serie A top four

VERONA: Cristian Volpato shot Roma into the top four of Serie A on Monday with a late strike and assist in a 3-1 win at Verona which moved his team above Lazio a week before the Rome derby. Jose Mourinho's team were level heading into the final two minutes at the Stadio Bentegodi but 18-year-old Volpato met Nemanja Matic's low cross with a perfect first time finish to put the away side ahead. Australia-born Volpato then ensured Roma would take three points when he slid in Stephan El Shaarawy to net a third in stoppage-time with a perfect through ball.

"The manager called me up, I hadn't even warmed up or anything. I'm really happy to have come, score and change the match," said a delighted Volpato after his first appearance of the campaign. Roma are a point ahead of Lazio and Inter Milan in fourth place, with the clash against their local rivals, who will be without Ciro Immobile and suspended Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, coming up on Sunday. Nicolò Zaniolo tapped Roma level in first-half stoppage time after Paweł Dawidowicz was sent off for the home side nine minutes before the break.

Dawidowicz was given a straight red card for a bad foul on Zaniolo nine minutes after he had rolled ahead the hosts, who stay in the relegation zone after their seventh defeat in a row. Mourinho insisted that he was not interested in the Rome derby, a huge event in the Italian capital which traditionally occupies fans for weeks beforehand. Roma need to beat Ludogorets on Thursday to make the knockout rounds of the Europa League. "When a manager starts thinking about a particular match which isn't the upcoming one, it doesn't usually end well," Mourinho told DAZN.—AFP



VERONA: Hellas Verona's Polish defender Paweł Dawidowicz fights for the ball with AS Roma's Italian forward Nicolò Zaniolo during the Italian Serie A football match between Hellas Verona and AS Roma on October 31, 2022.—AFP

Brickbats for struggling Babar as WCup exit looms

PERTH: Babar Azam was supposed to lead Pakistan to Twenty20 World Cup glory but his side are on the brink of an early exit and the usually inspirational skipper is facing growing questions about his batting and leadership. Azam scored the most runs at last year's World Cup in taking his country to the semi-finals, where they lost to eventual champions Australia.

But the player ranked among the best batsmen in the world has scored just eight runs in three matches so far in Australia. He got out for a first-ball duck in Pakistan's agonizing last-ball defeat to arch-rivals India in their first game of the tournament. The 28-year-old Azam then made four as the team lost by one run against Zimbabwe in a shock defeat.

Pakistan finally managed a win over the Netherlands in their third Super 12 match on Sunday, but they lost four wickets including Azam run out on four while chasing 91. They play South Africa on Thursday in Sydney and must win their remaining two matches and hope other results go their way to stand any chance of making the semi-finals. Azam's struggles have reflected a wider malaise among the Pakistani batsmen at the World Cup.

"Even when they score runs, why we lose? Because of the way they score runs," said former captain Waqar Younis, also taking aim at Azam's opening partner Mohammad Rizwan, referring to their scoring rates. The strike rates of Babar 129.19 and Rizwan (127.11) are below some other T20 openers including South Africa's Quinton de Kock (136.14) and Indian skipper Rohit Sharma (140.13). Azam was ranked the leading batsman in the world in T20 international cricket before being displaced by Rizwan during the Asia Cup in September.

Azam has since slipped to fourth but still holds the top position in the ODI chart. "I think Babar sometimes plays for himself," another former captain, Wasim Akram, said previously in suggesting the opening batsman drop down the order in the Pakistan Super League. The skipper wasn't comfortable with the idea. Waqar called Azam "insecure" and also took aim at his ability as a captain. "There is a difference between a captain and a leader," Waqar told a chat show.

When India's superstar batsman Virat Kohli was in a slump earlier this year, Azam backed him to climb out of it, tweeting: "This too shall pass. Stay strong." That tweet came back to haunt Azam when former India spinner Amit Mishra sarcastically aimed it back at the Pakistani batsman after another low score against the Dutch.—AFP

Kuwait shooting championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: "Kuwait Shooting Sport Community is honored and proud to start its season with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah third annual shooting championship," said the President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federation Duaij Al-Otaibi during a press conference on Monday. He said the tournament includes all Olympic competitions in skeet, trap, 10m air rifle and pistol, 25m rapid pistol, and 50m rifle and archery for men, women and juniors.

Otaibi said the tournament, which has around 300 participants including shooters from Qatar and UAE, evaluates shooters' levels for national teams, as there are important upcoming events around the world, some of which will decide who qualifies for the Paris 2024 Olympics. He said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club is working on having the largest possible number of athletes qualify for the Olympics. He said the presence of Gulf shooters will add to the technical level as well-known



Flightline leads field for Breeders' Classic

LOS ANGELES: Unbeaten Flightline, seeking to cement his superhorse status in the Breeders' Cup Classic, drew the fourth post Monday and was installed as the 3-5 early favorite for the \$6 million race at Keeneland. The four-year-old colt, looking to improve to 6-0, is coming off an eye-popping 19 1/4-length victory in the Grade One Pacific Classic at Del Mar in September.

Trained by John Sadler, Flightline headlines a field of eight for the Classic, which caps a two-day, 14-race extravaganza worth more than \$30 million. He'll be up against horse-of-the-year candidate Epicenter, who drew the sixth post and was made the 5-1 second choice, and last year's Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Life is Good, priced at 6-1 breaking from the second post. Kentucky Derby longshot winner Rich Strike, seeking a first win since his stunning triumph at Churchill Downs last May, drew the eighth post and was priced at 20-1.

Taiba will start from the rail for trainer Bob Baffert, who returns to racing in Kentucky for the first time since he was suspended in the wake of Medina Spirit's failed drugs test after the 2021 Kentucky Derby. Churchill Downs banned Baffert for two years and the New York Racing Association for one year. Baffert is contesting both suspensions, and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's 90-day suspension of Baffert ended in July. Sadler said he was satisfied with Flightline's draw and delighted with the attention his talented colt is getting.

"Good draw," he said. "We would've been happy with any draw. We think at a mile and a quarter you have a good run into the turn to get your position so for him it's just fine. "Everybody has been sensational," he added of staff and spectators at Keeneland, which is hosting the event for the second time in three years after Covid-19 forced the 2020 edition to be run without a crowd. "It was a great thrill Saturday when he had his last workout and you saw two or three thousand people out there in the dark to watch his last work," Sadler said. Meanwhile the Godolphin duo of Rebel's Romance and Nations Pride top the 13-strong field for the \$4 million, 1 1/2-mile Breeders Cup Turf. Charlie Appleby trains both runners with Rebel's Romance, priced at 3-1, entering the race with four consecutive victories.—AFP

and established shooters will compete against each other.

Otaibi said the organizing committee decided to allow juniors to participate, and the first competition was at the KSSC branch in Jahra in the 10m air rifle. Otaibi spoke about the achievements of the last season, including winning 76 medals (26 gold, 26 silver and 24 bronze at all levels). "We are proud of the performance of our shooters at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey in August," he said.

Otaibi said the Asian Shooting Confederation issued its ranking for August, and Kuwait's Abdelaziz Al-Saad was on top. Meanwhile trap shooter from Kuwait Nasser Al-Miqld was first, while among women, Sarah Abdulrahman Al-Hawal was first in trap. Otaibi appreciated the support of the leadership and Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdelrahman Al-Mutairi, as well as the Public Authority for Sport.

Otaibi said such support enabled officials to prepare everything necessary to hold this event that has a name that is dear to all athletes in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Manahi Al-Osaimi said Kuwait is proud to organize the tournament of HH the Crown Prince to start the shooting season.

Sports

Brazil head to Qatar as favorites to win a World Cup like no other

Mideast first ever WCup may end decades of European dominance

PARIS: The first World Cup ever to be held in the Middle East will be unlike any that has come before, but there may still be a familiar name on the trophy with Brazil heading to Qatar as the favorites to succeed France and end two decades of European dominance. For the last decade, most mentions of Qatar and the World Cup have focused on the controversial decision to give the tiny Gulf state the tournament as well as criticism of its human rights record.

There has therefore been little attention paid to what might happen on the pitch between the opening game on November 20 and the final, at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Iconic Stadium on December 18. Indeed, there has been little time to even think about the football. The club season in Europe - where the richest teams hoard the world's best players and from where the majority of those taking part in Qatar will come - will only halt a week before the opening game of this World Cup between the hosts and Ecuador.

The 22nd edition of the men's World Cup is not just the first in the Arab world. It is also first to be held at the end of the calendar year - every previous edition, right back to 1930, has been staged between May and July, in the northern hemisphere summer. The searing desert heat in Qatar at that time of the year made that an impossibility in 2022. Nevertheless, adjusting football's traditional calendar has been a challenge, and national teams have next to no time to prepare.

Injuries take their toll

There will be hardly any pre-tournament friendly

matches. Many players will participate in matches with their clubs, jet off to join their country and then be thrown into the deep end of a World Cup game just a few days later - provided they do not pick up an injury beforehand. In these circumstances, perhaps there is not much to learn from past World Cups. However, it remains notable that only once (Brazil in 1958) has a non-European team won a World Cup played in Europe, in 11 editions.

In contrast, of the 10 played outside Europe, only twice has a European team won the trophy, albeit those were the last two: Spain in South Africa in 2010, and Germany in Brazil in 2014. Europe is the global powerhouse of the world's most popular sport, and has produced every World Cup winner since Brazil in 2002. France go to Qatar as the holders after triumphing in Russia in 2018, yet Les Bleus have problems and hanging over them is the spectre of 2002, when they went to South Korea as holders and reigning European champions, only to crash out in the group stage without scoring a goal.

In Kylian Mbappe they have one of the most electrifying attacking players on the planet, and Karim Benzema is fresh from winning the Ballon d'Or. But no team has retained the World Cup since Brazil in 1962, and injuries are a problem for French coach Didier Deschamps, who will have to do without key midfield duo N'Golo Kante and Paul Pogba. There are question marks about Europe's other traditional powerhouses, with Italy failing to qualify despite winning Euro 2020.

Messi's last chance?

There are issues over form and fitness for



DOHA: A view shows the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup football tournament. —AFP

England and Germany, while it remains to be seen if Spain have the defense or the attack to be serious contenders. Cristiano Ronaldo will be there with Portugal, but at the age of 37 some wonder if he might be more of a hindrance to his team than anything else. With a formidable squad beyond the flair of Neymar, five-time world champions Brazil therefore stand out, while their old rivals Argentina also go to Qatar in excellent shape. "Argentina and Brazil look far superior to everyone else," said Spain coach Luis Enrique recently.

Argentina have been on a 35-game unbeaten run and will be on a collision course to meet Brazil in the semi-finals should both sides top their group. At 35, it is now or never for Lionel Messi if he is to win the greatest trophy of them all. "I am just lucky to be able to go to this World Cup given I am 35 now," said the Paris Saint-Germain superstar, who has been in outstanding form for his club. "I am in good shape physically, better than last year," he added in a recent interview with Argentina channel DirecTV Sports. "But Brazil and France are the big favorites." —AFP

Japan name WCup squad

TOKYO: Japan manager Hajime Moriyasu said revenge was not on his mind as he named his squad Tuesday for the World Cup in Qatar-the scene of his country's biggest football heartbreak. Former Barcelona youth star Takefusa Kubo and Brighton's Kaoru Mitoma were among the 26 players named as Japan prepare to take on Germany, Spain and Costa Rica in a tough Group E. Japan have appeared at the past six World Cups but they were denied a debut at the 1994 edition in the United States by a last-minute Iraq goal in their final qualifier in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

"The match has become known in Japan as the 'Tragedy of Doha' but Moriyasu—who played in the game—said his team were ready to lay the ghost to rest this month. "Doha was the place where our World Cup dreams failed to come true and it's a place of frustration and sadness for me, but I'm not thinking about revenge," he said after announcing his squad in Tokyo.

"We've got a great group of players and supporters and I'm looking forward to taking them to the World Cup in Qatar. "My experience was a sad one but I want to use the time we have left to make sure we turn the Doha tragedy into Doha joy." Former Southampton defender Maya Yoshida will captain the side in his third World Cup, while left-back Yuto Nagatomo and goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima have been named in their fourth finals squads.

Eintracht Frankfurt attacker Daichi Kamada and Monaco's Takumi Minamino have also been included



SUITA: Japan's head coach Hajime Moriyasu (center) talks to his players during a training session at the Panasonic stadium in Suita, Osaka prefecture. —AFP

in a squad that contains just six domestic-based players. Striker Yuya Osako missed out after appearing at the previous two World Cups, while Celtic pair Kyogo Furuhashi and Reo Hatate were also omitted. Kou Itakura was picked despite the defender not having played for Borussia Mönchengladbach since he suffered a knee injury in September.

Quarter-final target

Moriyasu said Japan were aiming to reach the quarter-finals for the first time, after being eliminated in the round of 16 three times. "It's not an easy target but if our supporters are all behind us, I'm sure we can achieve it," he said. Moriyasu will look to Real Sociedad forward Kubo and Brighton winger

Mitoma to provide the spark against Japan's opponents in Qatar.

Kubo, 21, was invited to join Barcelona's La Masia academy at the age of nine and was known as the "Japanese Messi" early on in his precocious career. He joined Sociedad at the start of this season on a permanent deal after being loaned out several times during three years with Real Madrid, and has already worn 19 caps for Japan. Mitoma joined Brighton this summer after a year on loan at Belgium's Union SG and recovered from an injury scare to make Japan's squad. "I looked at what the players had done up to this point, what condition they were in and what would be best for us overall at the World Cup," Moriyasu said. — AFP

The other World Cup: Qatar brothers inspire racquet boom

DOHA: As Qatar busily prepares for the football World Cup, many residents' eyes this week are on its national team in padel, a tennis-like sport that has taken the country by storm. Five years since it was introduced in the tiny Gulf nation, this doubles game is now its "fastest growing sport", said Mohammed Saadon Alkuwari. He is playing for Qatar at this year's World Championship that began a short hop away in Dubai on Monday and finishes on Saturday.

With hundreds of courts in public parks, commercial centers, hotels, private homes and on towering rooftops, the new national craze is hard to miss. In part due to the success of Alkuwari and his brothers, who are professional padel players, Qatar has invested in the sport and hosted last year's World

Padel Championship.

While the Qatar Padel Federation, part of the national tennis association, did not provide exact figures, Alkuwari told AFP he believes there are as many as 100,000 amateur and professional pairs in the country of 2.8 million. At Padel In, the club Alkuwari and his brother Khalid opened, courts now stretch over a wide area and stay open 24 hours a day. "We have more than 24,000 players," said the athlete and entrepreneur, noting an "exceptional" rate of Qatari padelists in a country where foreigners make up more than 80 percent of the population.

'So much fun'

Padel is played in doubles on a court similar to tennis but smaller, enclosed by four walls. It was created in Mexico in the 1960s and made an entry into Qatar in 2017. Mohammed Alkuwari-ranked 159 globally, making him the world's top Arab and Asian player—first tried it on a visit to Dubai in 2016. "It's a very social sport, easy to learn, so much fun—and then you improve really fast," he told AFP at his club. He got his brothers hooked, and when the family

built their first two outdoor courts in the capital Doha in the summer of 2017, "in two weeks they were fully booked" despite scorching heat of around 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit).

Alkuwari, a television presenter on beIN Sports, has also used his influence on social media to promote the sport in Qatar. "We as a family... helped this sport grow" and "build a community in Qatar," he said. The Alkuwaris saw a potential "on the business level but also" for new players, he recalled. "We started to train, we travelled, we played... in Japan, in America, in Europe, so people started to see us taking it seriously," helping others "discover" padel and start playing too.

Many have since joined, and state-owned Qatar Sports Investments launched its own professional tour this year, Premier Padel, which had its first edition in Doha in March. Qatar was meant to host the World Championship for a second consecutive year, just weeks before the football tournament kicks off on November 20. But the 2022 event was moved to the United Arab Emirates "due to some force majeure issues", the International Padel Federation said. — AFP

Injured France midfielder Pogba out of World Cup

MILAN: Paul Pogba will miss France's World Cup defense as he needs more time to recover from knee surgery, his agent announced on Monday. "Following yesterday and today's medical review in Torino and Pittsburgh, it is extremely painful to inform Paul Pogba will still need recovery time from his surgery," said Rafaela Pimenta in a statement. "For this reason, Paul will not be able to join Juventus' squad before the World Cup break nor the French National Team in Qatar."

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri had already said on Friday that it was "very unlikely" that the 29-year-old midfielder would play for his team before Serie A breaks up for the World Cup. Italian media reported earlier on Monday that Pogba could be out for around 15 days with a thigh injury. "Paul Pogba, in light of the recent radiological examinations performed... and the consultation carried out in Pittsburgh by Prof. Volker Musahl on the evaluation of his knee, needs to continue his rehabilitation program," Juve said in a statement.

Pogba is one of 12 Juve players currently out of action. He hasn't played for Juve since re-signing for them from Manchester United in the summer, hurting the meniscus in his right knee in July. He initially elected not to go under the knife in a bid to make the Qatar tournament which kicks off on November 20. However after returning to training early last month Pogba changed his mind and opted for surgery, which kept him on the sidelines until two weeks ago when he recommenced partial training with Juve.

Pogba was a key member of the France team that won the World Cup in Russia four years ago. He scored in the 4-2 victory over Croatia in the final. His absence from Didier Deschamps' squad adds to that of midfield partner N'Golo Kante, who has been ruled out for four months following surgery on a hamstring injury. The 31-year-old Kante had not featured for Chelsea since limping off against Tottenham in August.

Missing the World Cup is another blow in what has been a hard year for Pogba, who is also embroiled in an alleged extortion plot involving his own brother. Mathias Pogba, 32, was charged last month along with four other people, all close to the World Cup winner who filed a complaint with Turin prosecutors in July which said he was being blackmailed for 13 million euros (\$12.6 mn). Paul Pogba told investigators that his blackmailers wanted to discredit him by claiming he asked a witch doctor to cast a spell on Paris Saint-Germain and France star Kylian Mbappe, which Pogba denies. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
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Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

CHANGE OF NAME

I have to change my name from CHPPALI JAVEED holding Indian Passport No. V9396560 to CHAPPALLI JAVEED for all purposes. In future be called and known by name CHAPPALLI JAVEED. (According to the proof INDIAN AADHAR CARD 5016 3129

0041). (C#2436) - 02-11-2022

I, Bajjul Alam Daptari S/o Mansur Ali Daptari residing at Boalia, Santipur, Nadia 741121, W.B, have changed my name from Bajjulalam Daftari S/o Mansur Ali Daftari to Bajjul Alam Daptari S/o Mansur Ali Daptari, Passport No. M8391715. (C# 2432)

I have to change my name from HUSSAINI holding Indian Passport No. S3693025 to HUSSAIN ZAINY for all purposes. In future be called and known by new name HUSSAIN ZAINY, 38, Parshuram Colony, Neemach Kheda, Dewali, Udaipur Raj. (C# 2435) - 31-10-2022

I, VINU PAULOSE VAYARAKUNNIL Son of PAULOSE DEVASIA Holder of Passport No. M3350956, Plaparambil House, Chirayirambu PO, Maramon 689549, Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India, has changed my name from VINU PAULOSE VAYARAKUNNIL to VINU PAULOSE. (C#2430)

England roar back to beat New Zealand at T20 WCup

Sri Lanka keep World Cup hopes alive with Afghanistan win

BRISBANE: England rescued their Twenty20 World Cup hopes as they held their nerve to see off New Zealand by 20 runs at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday. England, who had been facing almost certain elimination had they lost, moved up into the top two in Group 1 along with their opponents with one round of matches to go. Only the top two reach the semi-finals.

It puts enormous pressure on hosts and defending champions Australia, who must now win their last match against Afghanistan and hope England and New Zealand stumble. Skipper Jos Buttler smashed 73 off 47 balls as England reached 179-6 and finally started to show why they were one of the pre-tournament favorites. They then got away to a perfect start in the field when New Zealand opener Devon Conway leg-glanced a ball from Chris Woakes and Buttler took a spectacular diving catch.

It got worse for the Kiwis when Finn Allen pulled a slower ball from Sam Curran to Ben Stokes at deep mid-wicket, leaving New Zealand 28-2 after five overs. The Black Caps were struggling against a tight bowling attack, but the momentum swung firmly towards them when Moeen Ali dropped the in-form Glenn Phillips when he was on 15 and New Zealand 64-2. Phillips skied an attempted pull shot straight to Ali, who somehow didn't get a hand on it.

Phillips, who blasted a century against Sri Lanka in New Zealand's last match, made the English pay as he raced to his half century off only 25 balls. Buttler was ringing the changes with his attack as he tried seven bowlers to try and make the break-through. His seventh choice finally paid off when Kane Williamson (40) squeezed a Stokes delivery to Adil Rashid at short third. James Neesham came and went for six but Phillips kept on smashing the England attack all over the Gabba.

He lost Daryl Mitchell, caught on the boundary by substitute fielder Chris Jordan off Mark Wood, before falling the

same way off Sam Curran almost immediately. Once Phillips fell, New Zealand's challenge was as good as over as the lower order struggled to find the boundary. Earlier, Buttler was dropped twice during his entertaining knock, passing former captain Eoin Morgan as the highest run-scorer for England in T20 internationals. New Zealand, England and Australia are all on five points after four games with New Zealand top of Group 1 on net run rate, with England second.

Afghanistan down

Meanwhile, Dhananjaya de Silva scored an unbeaten 66 as Sri Lanka kept their slim Twenty20 World Cup hopes alive with a six-wicket win over Afghanistan at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday. The Asia Cup champions moved to four points in Group 1 and can still make the semi-finals, but they need other results to go their way. Group 1 lead-

ers New Zealand were playing England, who have three points, in a later game at the Gabba Tuesday after Australia beat Ireland on Monday to move level on five points at the top but behind the Black Caps on net run rate.

The loss means Afghanistan are eliminated as they cannot make the semi-finals with one group match against Australia remaining after having two washouts and a opening defeat to England. Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi won the toss and chose to bat but Sri Lanka restricted them to 144-8, thanks largely to a fine spell from leg-spinner and player of the match Wanindu Hasaranga. The Sri Lankan run chase got off to a poor start when Mujeeb Ur Rahman spun one back to bowl Pathum Nissanka for 10.

'We fell short'

Kusal Mendis and de Silva recovered and took the score to 46 before Afghanistan trump card, leg-spinner Rashid Khan, drew a top edge from Mendis, giving keeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz a simple catch. Khan took the next wicket when Charith Asalanka was caught by Azmat Omarzai on the boundary for 19 but by then Sri Lanka had reached 100 and had taken control of the run chase. De Silva played a perfectly measured innings, scoring his stylish 66 from 42 deliveries to guide the Sri Lankans home.

Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka was pleased with his side's efforts with both bat and ball. "I think we found some consistency today and it is important to continue it in the next game," Shanaka said. "The other games are beyond our control, but the aim is to win the next game with a healthy run rate." Hasaranga took 3-13 during Afghanistan's innings, not conceding a boundary in his four-over spell. Afghanistan batted well in patches and looked on course for a big score, but every time they began to open up, Sri Lanka's bowlers were able to take key wickers to keep them in check.

Despite six of Afghanistan's batsmen getting a good start to their innings, none was able to convert to a big score with Usman Ghani's 27 being the best.

The target of 145 was at least 20 runs short of a competitive total and Sri Lanka cruised home with nine balls to spare when De Silva hit he winning four to take them to 148-4. "We had a good start in the powerplay but did not keep the momentum till the end," Nabi said of the Afghanistan effort in the field.— AFP



BRISBANE: England's Captain Jos Buttler fails to gain his ground and run out during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between England and New Zealand on November 1, 2022. — AFP

Browns rout Bengals in all-Ohio NFL clash

LOS ANGELES: The Cleveland Browns thumped the Cincinnati Bengals 32-13 on Monday, snapping a four-game NFL skid and halting their Ohio neighbor's two-game winning streak. Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett ran for a touchdown and completed 17 of 22 passes for 278 yards and a touchdown to propel Cleveland. Brissett connected with Amari Cooper for a TD and Nick Chubb rushed for 101 yards and two TDs. Cleveland's defense, led by Myles Garrett, stepped up as well, forcing two turnovers and holding Cincinnati scoreless in the first half.

It was a tough night for Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow, who was without his top target with receiver Ja'Marr Chase sidelined by a hip injury. Cleveland sacked Burrow

five times, intercepted him once and forced a fumble. Burrow finished the night with 232 yards off 25 passes with two TDs. After a scoreless first half, Chubb ran for a three-yard TD and a two-point conversion to put the Browns up five minutes before halftime.

Cade York added a field goal before the break, and Brissett added a three-yard touchdown run and the scoring toss to Cooper in the third. The Bengals got on the board in the fourth with Burrow's 13-yard scoring pass to Tyler Boyd, but Chubb added an 11-yard touchdown run before Burrow connected with Tee Higgins to cap the scoring. Burrow fell to 0-4 against the Browns. Cleveland coach Kevin Stefanski, meanwhile, improved to 5-0 against the Bengals. — AFP



CLEVELAND: Jacoby Brissett #7 of the Cleveland Browns scores a touchdown during the second half of the game against the Cincinnati Bengals on October 31, 2022. — AFP

Nets hold off Pacers; Bucks march on

LOS ANGELES: Kevin Durant scored 36 points on a milestone night Monday to help the Brooklyn Nets fend off the Indiana Pacers 116-109 - claiming a badly needed second win of the NBA season. As the Nets ended a four-game slide, the Milwaukee Bucks remained the only unbeaten team in the league, improving to 6-0 with a hard-fought 110-108 victory over the Detroit Pistons. The Bucks, led by 31 points from Giannis Antetokounmpo, were up by as many as 16 points in the third quarter, but were pushed to the wire by the Pistons.

Cade Cunningham, who led Detroit with 27 points, was off-target twice in the final minute-with the Bucks' lead down to three-and two free throws from Milwaukee center Brook Lopez proved to be enough. Lopez finished with 24 points and Jrue Holiday added a double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who play the Pistons again on Wednesday.

In Brooklyn, Kyrie Irving scored 28 points and Nic Claxton chipped in 19 for the Nets, who led by as many as 24 points but were tied at 100-100 with 6:54 to play. "We stayed poised," Durant said in an on-court post-game interview. "They threw a lot of junk in the game, running and jumping us at halfcourt, pressuring us, trying to speed the game up. "I think we took our time, guys made shots down the stretch, got stops as well." Brooklyn took a 92-85 lead into the final quarter, but Indiana tied it up on Chris Duarte's driving layup.

Brooklyn answered with a two-handed dunk from Claxton off a miss by Irving and a pull-up jump shot from Durant-who finally clinched the victory with a pair of free throws. Durant passed Vince Carter for 19th on the NBA's all-time scoring list. He now has 25,752. "Vince Carter is the first player I watched and idolized as a kid, so it's pretty cool to pass him up," Durant said. After watching his star-studded team get off to a



NEW YORK: Nicolas Claxton #33 of the Brooklyn Nets dunks the ball during the second quarter of the game against the Indiana Pacers on October 31, 2022. — AFP

struggling start this season, Nets coach Steve Nash said he liked what he saw from them.

"The win is nice, but I care much more about the process," Nash said. "I thought our process was great, our spirit was great. We were connected. We played hard." Elsewhere, Sacramento's Davion Mitchell produced two clutch jump shots in the final 1:26 as the Kings rallied from a 15-point half-time deficit to beat the Hornets 115-108 in Charlotte. Kevin Huerter scored 26 points and Mitchell came off the bench to add 23 for the Kings, who notched their second straight win after starting the season 0-4.

Sacramento out-scored Charlotte 37-18 in the third period, taking the lead for the first time on Matthew Dellavedova's three-pointer with 3:43 left in the quarter. Charlotte-coming off an overtime victory over the NBA champion Golden State Warriors on Saturday-battled back to regain the lead in the fourth, and it was tied up after Charlotte's Jalen McDaniels drained a three-pointer with 1:39 remaining.

Mitchell responded with a three-pointer and a jump shot and the Kings held on for the victory, despite seeing De'Aaron Fox depart

early with a knee injury. "What a game from our guys," Kings coach Mike Brown said. "When you go on the road, a lot of times to get a win it's just about mental toughness."

Paul George was the hero in Los Angeles, his fall-away basket with 6.2 seconds remaining lifting the Clippers to a 95-93 victory over the Houston Rockets. The margin stood up when George, who scored 35 points, grabbed the rebound of Eric Gordon's miss with 2.3 seconds to play in a game that featured 19 lead changes. In Washington, James Harden scored 23 points and handed out 17 assists to fuel the short-handed Philadelphia 76ers in a 118-111 victory over the Wizards.

Tyrese Maxey added 28 points for the Sixers and Georges Niang made four three-pointers on the way to 12 points as Philadelphia won despite the absence of star center Joel Embiid, who was sidelined by illness. In Salt Lake City, the Utah Jazz withstood a 37-point performance from Memphis star Ja Morant in a 121-105 victory over the Grizzlies. Lauri Markkanen scored 31 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Jazz, whose 6-2 record is a surprise of the early season. — AFP