

Established 1961

ISSUE NO: 18880  
16 PAGES, 150 FILLS

The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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# First phase of Al-Zour refinery begins commercial operations

KIPIC hails historic achievement • KPC appoints new leaders at state oil companies



KUWAIT: A view of the Al-Zour refinery, which is designed to process heavy crude. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) announced on Sunday the start of commercial operations of the first phase of Al-Zour refinery project. In a statement to KUNA, Acting CEO of KIPIC Waleed Al-Bader said the operation is an important historic event and considered a mainstay of the country's development plan. It provides fuel of high quality and environmental standards to meet local demand for energy, as it limits emissions of gases polluting the environment and improves air quality, Bader added.

He indicated that it is a vital outlet for the disposal of heavy Kuwaiti oil and provides other refined products for export in global markets with standard specifications. He praised the exceptional role of national expertise and Kuwaiti youth, who were qualified according to the highest professional levels in leading and implementing the operations of Al-Zour refinery. Bader expressed his thanks and appreciation for all the efforts made in achieving this national achievement.

Executive Vice President of Al-Zour Refinery Khaled Al-Awadhi told KUNA that operating the first phase of the refinery will enhance the growth

of the national economy, increase the state's financial revenues and provide more job opportunities for national cadres. Despite the challenges that the project faced, referring to the coronavirus pandemic, KIPIC fulfilled its commitment to the project's readiness according to the highest international standards and specifications, meeting all operational needs and observing all environmental requirements.

On May 11, KIPIC carried out the trial operation of the first crude oil distillation unit and refined 2.5 million barrels of crude oil, securing the main stock of oil derivatives that contributed to the smooth operation of the rest of the units, he pointed out. Awadhi praised the efforts of KIPIC employees, its operations and maintenance groups, technical and engineering services and health, safety, environment, security and firefighting teams. He said the human element is the most important for KIPIC in the refinery's operating plan, so the executive management was keen to provide the best training programs to qualify the workers to be at the highest level of professional competence.

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## News in brief



Khan leaves hospital after attack

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan left hospital on Sunday, a senior aide said, three days after being shot in the legs in a failed assassination attempt. The shooting - and Khan's accusation that his successor Shehbaz Sharif was involved - have significantly raised the political temperature in a country that has been on the boil since he was ousted in April. — AFP



Mullah Omar's gravesite revealed

KABUL: The Taliban on Sunday revealed the final resting place of the movement's founder, Mullah Omar, whose death and burial they kept secret for years. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP Sunday that senior leaders of the movement attended a ceremony at his gravesite earlier in the day near Omarzo, in Suri district of Zabul province. Pictures released by officials showed Taliban leaders gathered around a simple white brick tomb, covered with what appears to be gravel and enclosed in a green metal cage. — AFP

## Call to hike pensions as panel OKs expat replacement bill

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MPs Saleh Ashour and Khalil Al-Saleh submitted a proposal calling on the government to raise the minimum monthly pension for retired citizens to KD 1,000. A number of lawmakers have said that some retired citizens draw pensions as low as KD 400, which is not enough to face the rising cost

of living.

Meanwhile, MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said on Sunday the National Assembly's legal and legislative committee approved a draft law presented by him calling to replace with Kuwaitis all government jobs occupied by expats within one year, if possible. Kandari said the legal committee sent the draft law to the manpower development committee to study the bill and ways to implement it.

The bill calls on all ministries and government agencies to appoint Kuwaitis to replace all expats employed by them within one year from the passage of the law. The bill however grants more time for the replacement if the government body cannot find a citizen to take the job of an expat. The government employs more than 400,000 people, around 80

percent of them citizens and the rest expats and a few stateless people.

The bill requires that around 80,000 expat employees be replaced with Kuwaitis, preferably within one year, and more if no citizens are ready to take the job. It states that government ministries and departments should advertise for vacant jobs, and if no Kuwaitis apply for the vacancies, the bodies can appoint an expat for just one year, which can be renewed if no Kuwaiti applies again.

MPs in the new assembly have already submitted proposals and bills calling to create more jobs for citizens at the expense of expats. The legal and legislative committee meanwhile lifted the parliamentary immunity of MPs Obaid Al-Wasmi and Hamid Al-Bathali to face court cases.

## COP27 warns against climate backsliding

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt: The UN's COP27 climate summit kicked off Sunday in Egypt with warnings against backsliding on efforts to cut emissions and calls for rich nations to compensate poor countries after a year of extreme weather disasters.

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, along with an accompanying delegation, is scheduled to leave for Egypt on Monday to participate in COP27, and the second session of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI).

An alarming UN report said the past eight years are on track to be the eight warmest on record, with an acceleration in sea level rise, glacier melt, heatwaves and other climate

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SHARM EL SHEIKH: UN's climate change communications officer Alexander Saier, executive secretary Simon Stiell and COP27 President Sameh Shoukry listen to questions following the opening ceremony of COP27 on Nov 6, 2022. — AFP

## Pope concludes visit to Bahrain

MANAMA: Pope Francis said Sunday he was praying for "suffering peoples of the Middle East", at the end of a Bahrain visit promoting dialogue with Islam. In a final address before boarding a flight to Rome, he also urged congregants to pray "for Ukraine, which is suffering so much", and for an end to the war. He told Lebanese congregants he was praying for "your beloved country, so weary and sorely tried, as well as (for) all peoples suffering in the Middle East".

The 85-year-old Argentinian used his four-day visit to Muslim-majority Bahrain to meet both senior Muslim officials and Catholic residents of the Gulf, home to a large migrant laborer community. On Saturday he held an open-air mass for about 30,000 people, many of them moved to tears by the occasion.

Bahrain, which established formal ties with the Holy See in 2000, has around 80,000 Catholic residents. Most are workers from the Philippines and other Asian countries. On Sunday, the final morning of the first ever papal visit to the island nation, Francis visited Sacred Heart church in

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AWALI, Bahrain: Pope Francis meets Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa during a farewell ceremony at the Sakhir airbase on Nov 6, 2022. — AFP

# Kuwaiti envoy visits Iowa to boost Kuwait-US partnership

## Bid to deepen and diversify Kuwait's sources of food security

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Jasem Al-Budaiwi visited the state of Iowa for discussions on opportunities to boost the partnership between the US and Kuwait. During the visit, Ambassador Budaiwi met with top local officials, including Secretary of State of Iowa Paul Pate, Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg and head of the Iowa Farm Bureau Brent Johnson, in addition to representatives of a number of food processing companies and a group of Gulf War veterans. The aim of the visit is to engage with Midwest states that depend on agriculture, in light of Kuwait's efforts to deepen and diversify its sources of food security.

Budaiwi told KUNA that there is a "serious and genuine desire" in Iowa to deepen relations with Kuwait, especially in food security sector, either by inviting Kuwaiti companies to invest in Iowa or encouraging American companies to be in Kuwait "as an entry point or regional hub for them in the Middle East market". He affirmed that the visit was "successful on every level and reflects the true strategic partnership between two countries."

He added "there is so much possible potential that could come out from engaging Kuwait with the state of Iowa". A round table discussion was held during the visit on the "Kuwait-US Partnership: Opportunities for the State of Iowa" during which Ambassador Budaiwi shed light on the "many investment opportunities for companies in Iowa to take advantage of in Kuwait". "I believe one of these opportunities lies in the sector of agriculture and food processing, especially with the ever-growing importance of the issue of food security," he said in remarks at the event.



Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Jasem Al-Budaiwi meets Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg. — KUNA photos

He added that Kuwait "can serve as an access point for these products from Iowa, not just to Kuwait, but to the whole MENA (Middle East North Africa) region." He said this visit is an opportunity "to explore the possibilities of attracting investments from Kuwait, in Iowa agriculture, while also searching for opportunities for Iowa based agricultural companies to invest in Kuwait."

Budaiwi affirmed that Kuwait remains a "popular destination for international investors for many reasons, such as its political stability, its prominent and strong financial institutions that are built on great foundations and its commitment and transparency while engaging in financial and trade transactions".

Pate said that Iowa has a "strong history of partnering with other nations and forging mutually beneficial alliances, including in Kuwait." He pointed out to Iowa's export market, saying that in 2021, Iowa exported nearly \$16 billion of made-in-America goods to the



Budaiwi meets Secretary of State of Iowa Paul Pate and representatives of a number of food processing companies.

world. "Iowa has long been the heart of America's food production and continues to grow its role as a producer for the world," he added. "Whether it's manufacturing or agriculture, the State of Iowa is an important international partner for trading." Furthermore, he mentioned that over 3,000 Iowans were part of the US-led coalition of the Gulf War, saying "throughout our long history as a state, Iowans have always stepped up to help our neighbors, whether they are next door or on the other side of the world." — KUNA

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## WHO and PAFN launch national breastfeeding week

KUWAIT: The World Health Organization (WHO) in Kuwait in collaboration with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) held a press conference to increase awareness on the importance of breastfeeding to the community on the occasion of the national celebration 'World Breastfeeding Week' under the slogan 'Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support'. The press conference was hosted at PAFN on Nov 6, 2022. This is a joint campaign between the WHO in Kuwait and PAFN and will run between Nov 6 and 10 through a series of activities targeting the general public about the health benefits of breastfeeding for the community as a whole.

The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition and all concerned partners from the ministry of health and international organizations concerned with mother and child health Kuwait cele-

brated this occasion as part of the efforts made to enhance the nutrition of infants, young children, mothers and pregnant women.

Dr Mona Al-Sumaie, Coordinator of the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Program in Kuwait and the Director of Awareness and Community Nutrition Promotion Department at PAFN, said: "According to statistics, 94 percent of Kuwaiti mothers initiate breastfeeding at birth but only 10 percent are able to continue to breastfeed exclusively at 6 months of age. According to the recommendation of the WHO, 50 percent of babies should be exclusively breastfed up to the age of 6 months by 2025. Therefore, we will publish and mobilize advocacy to ensure that the rate of exclusive breastfeeding (only breast milk) is increased to six months of age and continued to two years or beyond with the provision of appropriate and safe complementary foods for children."

Dr Sumaie elaborated on the community engagement that PAFN will be implementing during the breastfeeding week. "Encouraging mothers to breastfeed and increasing support from healthcare providers, family and society for the suc-

cess and continuation of exclusive breastfeeding. The events will include community awareness campaigns about breastfeeding in the facilities of the ministry of health (government hospitals that provide maternal and child services and some primary health centers), in addition to an open day at the Promenade for mothers on Wednesday evening," she said.

Dr Assad Hafeez, the WHO Representative for Kuwait, reiterated: "We must all work as one community to increase the national rates of breastfeeding, for better health and well-being to the future generation of the population in Kuwait." Dr Hafeez also commented on the health benefits of breastmilk. "The best milk for babies is breastmilk, meeting all of the babies' nutritional needs. Babies that are breastfed are protected from long-term and short-term diseases at a lower risk of asthma, obesity and type 1 diabetes. Breastmilk contains antibodies which will make babies' immune system stronger and well protected from any future illness. It has also been proven that breastfeeding has health benefits to the mother as it reduces several types of cancer such as breast and ovarian cancer, as well as type 2 diabetes and high



blood pressure."

It is noteworthy to mention the WHO Kuwait Country Office collaborated with the PAFN during the month of October to increase the national rates of breastfeeding by targeting private hospitals across Kuwait through an orientation program of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) which aims to ensure that mothers and newborns receive timely and appropriate care before and dur-

ing their stay in a facility providing maternity and newborn services, to enable the establishment of optimal feeding of newborns, which promotes their health and development. WHO Kuwait and PAFN will continue to work collaboratively to promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG 3) by promoting health and well-being in the community in Kuwait through various initiatives.

## AOAD hails Kuwait call for Arab food strategy

KUWAIT: The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has lauded the statement by the 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, at the 31st Arab summit held in Algeria last week. A statement released by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources on Sunday said the AOAD praised in particular Sheikh Mishal's call for activating a Kuwait initiative that calls for a comprehensive and integrated food strategy for Arab nations.

This came during a reception by PAAAFR Director General Mishal Al-Qraifah of AOAD regional bureau's acting Chairperson Drara Al-Mustafa at the authority's headquarters. Mustafa affirmed the significance of the Kuwaiti initiative that came amid economic, climatic challenges and diverse crises, particularly in nations that produce and export basic commodities, along with an Arab



KUWAIT: PAAAFR Director General Mishal Al-Qraifah meets AOAD regional bureau's acting Chairperson Drara Al-Mustafa. — KUNA

food security gap estimated at \$37 billion.

The Kuwaiti initiative has also come against backdrop of the Arab sustainable food security program (2020-2030) and the Arab strategy for pastoral resources (2020-2040), as well as the Sudan food security initiative, noting that the Algiers summit was "the Arab food security summit". It indicated at the prospects to achieve self-sufficiency of basic agricultural products in the Arab world with dependence on agricultural crops. — KUNA



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Firemen douse a fire on a yacht at Ras Al-Ardh Club.

## Biker killed in crash, yacht fire controlled

KUWAIT: An accident between vehicle and motorbike caused a fire that killed the biker on Saturday. Firefighters put out the fire and transferred the body to the concerned department. In other news, KFF said fire squads were sent to Ras Al-Ardh Club to control a fire on Saturday on a 45-



KFF shuts down industrial workshops in Shuwaikh.

ft yacht, which was doused without injuries.

Meanwhile, the public relations department at Kuwait Fire Force said inspection teams of the prevention department in the Capital held an inspection campaign on Sunday under the supervision of KFF Chief Khaled Al-Mekrad. He was accompanied by the head of the prevention department Khaled Fahad in Shuwaikh industrial area to ensure adherence to fire prevention and safety regulations. A number of industrial workshops were previously warned but did not comply, so they were shut down.

Local

# Jaber Hospital carries out first colonoscopy using AI in Kuwait

Artificial intelligence used to discover colon and stomach tumors with extreme accuracy



By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The surgery department at Jaber Hospital announced it succeeded in carrying out the first digestive system gastrointestinal endoscopy using artificial intelligence to discover tumors, a technique used in Kuwait for the first time.

Head of the surgery department at Jaber Hospital Dr Suleiman Al-Mazidi said the modern technique used clearly expresses the accelerated technological development in this field. He said the system used for the colonoscopy uses artificial intelligence to identify polyps in the colon and stomach with high accuracy, adding AI had extreme accuracy in discovering tumors that were not seen with the naked eye. He said the department has 19 operation theaters that carry out 30 to 40 major operations every day. He said that it became necessary to pres-

ent the best modern techniques that match those in medically advanced countries.

Meanwhile, head of the colon and rectal surgery unit at Jaber Hospital, associate professor at Kuwait University's College of Medicine Dr Ahmad Al-Khamees, who carried out the colonoscopy, said the patient came for hemorrhoids, and when asked whether he had a colonoscopy, he said there were no symptoms. "This is wrong, because there is no relation between symptoms and colonoscopy. After being convinced to have the procedure, we found a polyp, which was removed," he said.

Dr Khamees said the manufacturing company released a system called ENDO-AID CADE, which uses artificial intelligence during colonoscopy to remove polyps and benign or malignant tumors, as well as adenomas. The system aims at increasing the rate of discovering benign tumors while carry-



ing out a colonoscopy due to the support that technique provides using artificial intelligence. It contributes to the speed and accuracy of discovery and improves clinical results due to early detection.

Senior colon and rectal surgery specialist Dr Bader Humoud Al-Shaaban said among the major causes of tumors in the colon and digestive system are polyps. These increase with advancing age - from 55 to 60 - so it was agreed internationally to have a colonoscopy as an early survey of the colon for any person who reaches 45 years of age. The aim is early detection of polyps, as they can be removed completely before they enlarge and turn into malignant tumors. Dr Mazidi thanked Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi and Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha for their support to develop the health system in the country.



**KUWAIT:** Eaman Al-Roudhan and Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri with Zain and Boubyan executives during the tour.

## Zain hosts Boubyan Bank at its world class datacenter

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced a new collaboration with Boubyan Bank to host its IT infrastructure at Zain's world-class datacenter facility via the company's colocation service. Through this collaboration, Zain hosts Boubyan's technology infrastructure and links it with all the bank's branches and digital channels in order to achieve the highest levels of service availability.

The announcement came during the tour held at Zain's datacenter facility in Sabahiya, attended by Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan, CTO Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Chief Enterprise and Business Officer Hamad Al-Marzouq, Facilities Management and Corporate Support Director Nasser Al-Mudhaf, as well as Boubyan Bank CEO of Consumer, Private and Digital Banking Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, COO Abdullah Al-Mehri, Chief Data and Information Technology Officer Abdullah Al-Nusef and Deputy CIO Ahmad Al-Shatti.

The step reinforces Zain's continuous efforts to offer a portfolio of world-class, advanced datacenter solutions and cloud computing services to the local market, serving businesses of all sizes, including large enterprises, SMEs, startups, and government institutions. This comes in line with the company's digital transformation strategy that aims at empowering a more efficient business sector in the nation under the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Commenting on the partnership, Zain Kuwait's Chief Enterprise Business Officer Hamad Al-Marzouq said: "We renew our existing collaboration with Boubyan Bank to take our strategic partnership to a new level. We successfully completed such a large-scale project in a short period of time, and now Boubyan's IT infrastructure is fully operated from Zain's world-class datacenter facility via our colocation service, offering them the highest security and performance standards."

Al-Marzouq added: "Zain's datacenter received the Tier III certification from Uptime Institute - the IT industry's most trusted and adopted global standard for the proper design, build and operation of datacenters, making it the first datacenter of a telecom operator in Kuwait to receive this certification from the prestigious global institute."

Al-Marzouq continued: "We recognize the importance of data technologies in driving digital transformation in Kuwait, and so we have partnered with renowned global providers in cloud

computing, datacenter solutions, and IT services to bring best-in-class solutions to our business customers."

Al-Marzouq concluded: "Such a certification from one of the world's leading advisory organizations comes to demonstrate Zain's leadership and commitment in adopting the highest global standards for its datacenter, which ultimately reflects on the quality and efficiency of the services we offer to high-profile customers like Boubyan Bank."

Abdullah Al-Mehri, Chief Operating Officer of Boubyan Bank, said: "Boubyan Bank is looking to achieve the highest levels of bank service availability by hosting our technology infrastructure in Zain's Tier III datacenter. This step will support Boubyan's direction towards launching unique financial digital services and assuring the highest levels of customer experience that will directly support its position as a leader in the market."

The Tier III certification, issued by Uptime Institute for datacenters around the world, certifies that Zain's datacenter meets the highest global standards in regard to its service reliability and consistency, as well as its operational excellence. The certification also highlights that Zain's datacenter facilities require no shutdowns when equipment needs maintenance or replacement, offering customers a continuous and uninterrupted service experience with the highest quality possible.

Zain's datacenter was evaluated based on a number of standards and criteria, including its reliability as a service, up to date equipment, low risk, low human error, reduced downtime, operational efficiency, and more globally recognized standards. Receiving such international certifications affirms Zain's efforts in implementing effective policies and procedures to ensure its systems and operations are up to the best standards. Zain's commitment in implementing such standards reflects its keenness on offering the most efficient services to the enterprise market as well as continuously developing its services in line with its digital transformation strategy.

During the past few years, the local business market witnessed an accelerated wave of implementing digital transformation within private sector companies, SMEs and startups, and government institutions. However, at the same time, many new challenges surfaced along with this wave, emphasizing the importance of preserving data and protecting the digital infrastructures of companies from security breaches. Zain took the responsibility to offer an all-inclusive and integrated portfolio of cloud services and digital solutions built on the latest world-class technologies and provide cybersecurity solutions to the local business community.

## Climate change conf kicks off at Kuwait University

**KUWAIT:** The activities of the three-day conference kicked off Sunday morning on climate and environmental changes and their impact on humans, organized by the Environmental Technology Management Department at the College of Life Sciences in Kuwait University, in collaboration with the International Organization for Women Empowerment and Capacity Building. At the opening of the conference, Acting Dean of the College of Life Sciences at Kuwait University Dr Ayed Salman said in a speech that environmental issues are among the topics of importance that receive international and local thoughtfulness, therefore Kuwait contributed in a vital way to support these projects and adopting environmental laws to achieve sustainable development in society.

The relationship between the environment and society is an organic and reciprocal relationship, as during olden times the environment impacted society and provided it with natural resources for life, however after the industrial revolution, the impact of humans on the environment, where resources were consumed in addition to environmental pollution, swayed to climate change, he indicated.

With the emergence of modern era challenges, including environmental security, this conference comes as an academic attempt to find out the apparent perception of the relationship between the environment and society, he added, urging the participating academics to provide recommendations that contribute to achieving environmental sustainability.

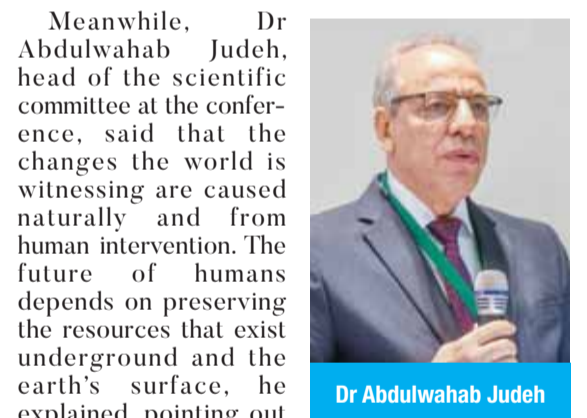
Acting Head of the Environmental Technology Management Department Dr Mohammad Al-Shawaf stated that the college seeks to establish a generation correcting the path through participation in providing the labor market with experts capable of decision-making and implementing environmental policies for society's benefit.



Dr Ayed Salman



Dr Mohammad Al-Shawaf



Dr Abdulwahab Judeh

Meanwhile, Dr Abdulwahab Judeh, head of the scientific committee at the conference, said that the changes the world is witnessing are caused naturally and from human intervention. The future of humans depends on preserving the resources that exist underground and the earth's surface, he explained, pointing out that one of the most vital repercussions of climate change that the whole world is witnessing is that it has a profound impact in the future on the lives of people.

All international, regional and local conferences call for sustainability and preservation of the environment and have drawn up agreements signed by several countries to abide by these laws due to their profound impact on human life, including effective strategies called for by the UN in various institutions, he underlined. The conference's activities include training workshops, in which a number of companies, governmental and private institutions as well as associations of public interest in the country will participate in order to achieve the vision of environmental sustainability in society. —KUNA



## National Guard, aviation regulator sign logistics pact

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's National Guard and its aviation regulator agreed on Sunday a deal to manage logistics in times of conflicts and crises, the two state

bodies said on Sunday, citing the pact as a transformative endeavor for the security force. The agreement aims to allow Kuwait's National Guard the opportunity to morph into the nation's main defense body, its undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refai said in a statement. Similarly, the pact allows Kuwait's Civil Aviation Authority to participate in national defense strategies, an initiative hailed by the regulator's public relations chief Yusef Al-Fouzan as an opportunity to further develop joint works, added the statement. —KUNA

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief  
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 353/3561  
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125  
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## Photo of the Day



An aficionado holds macaws during a show at the weekend. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Legalese

## Responsibilities of employers

By Fajer Ahmed

Local@kuwaittimes.com

Today I want to speak from an employer's perspective and their important duties and responsibilities towards employees. I know running a business may be difficult, but it is to the benefit of the employer to follow the law and make sure that their employees are treated fairly. Please follow the following:

1. Under no circumstances should you hold passports. You should never ask your employees for their passports as you have no legal right to hold them under any circumstances.
  2. Employee monetary benefits such as indemnity cannot be withheld for any reason (other than debt to the company, but that is done in a certain way). You cannot withhold indemnity rights because the person is refusing to do what you requested.
  3. Depending on when the employee leaves the company and whether they have been terminated or not, you may have to pay for the full 3-month notice period, even if you don't ask the employee to stay in the company.
  4. The 100-day probation period is not three months but actually 100 working days. If the employee works 5 days a week, that is around 5 months that you have to try out this employee and see if they are a good fit for the company.
  5. Always make sure employees are registered at the shuoon and have a copy of their written agreement with them. Always also make sure their salaries are transferred to them through bank transfer.
  6. Salaries should be transferred monthly in a timely manner.
  7. Deductions should be made after written warnings are given in clear writing.
- There is a lot more to be understood as an employer, but I hope the above helped.

## Lebanese figures recall Kuwaiti role in Taif Agreement in 1989

BEIRUT: Lebanese political figures, some of whom participated in the Taif Agreement that ended the Lebanese war in 1989, praised Saturday Kuwait's prominent role in reaching the agreement and supporting Lebanon in various stages. This came during the national conference on the 33rd anniversary of the conclusion of the Taif Agreement, which was called for by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Walid Al-Bukhari, at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut.

In remarks to KUNA, Former Deputy Speaker of Lebanon's Parliament Elie Ferzli said that Kuwait has a distinguished role in taking care of Lebanon at all levels, and the Lebanese people do not forget the stances of Kuwait, its leadership and people at all stages. For his part, former MP Talal Al-Marabi, who participated in the Taif Agreement, stressed that Kuwait has always played a key role in saving Lebanon from its ordeal,

and it played a major part in this agreement. He pointed out that Kuwait "before and after that agreement continues to play a key role in preserving Lebanon's unity and diversity."

Former MP Boutros Al-Harb, who also participated in the Taif Agreement, said: "It must be recalled that the six-party committee that preceded the Taif Agreement was chaired at that time by the Kuwaiti foreign minister at the time, the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who made very great efforts to resolve the issue."

Head of the Progressive Socialist Party Walid Jumblatt told KUNA that "ignoring the struggle of the Lebanese who contributed to reaching the Taif Agreement is a mistake," stressing its importance in ending the war in Lebanon. He stressed the necessity of implementing the agreement before discussing its

amendment, pointing to the items that have not been implemented so far from the agreement, such as the abolition of political sectarianism and the establishment of a Senate.

Saudi Ambassador Bukhari affirmed that the conference reflected the interest and keenness of the Kingdom's leadership to preserve Lebanon's security and stability. Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati affirmed, in a statement on the sidelines of the celebration, the continuation of the Taif Agreement, considering it "the most suitable agreement to implement." The Taif Agreement was the one reached by the Lebanese parties at a meeting in the Saudi city of Taif in September 1989, which produced what is known as the Lebanese National Accord Document, which later became the Lebanese constitution after a war that ravaged the country for 15 years. — KUNA

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  
ZAIN

## stc supports special needs community

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its participation in the two-day exhibition titled "small hands...big things" that was organized to guide individuals with special needs from childhood to employment. stc's participation came in line with the Company's ongoing initiative to support members of the community under its extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework.

The first day of the "small hands...big things" exhibition was held at the Occupational Therapy Department at the College of Allied Health Sciences in Kuwait University. The opening of the exhibition was held in the presence of Professor Suad Al-Fadhli, Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, whereas the second day of the exhibition was held at the Avenues Mall. The initiative helped shed light on the importance of occupational therapy for kids with special needs and how it can help develop their behavioral and learning needs.

stc expressed in a statement that its sponsorship of this great initiative further builds on the various programs the Company has participated in throughout the year to support the special needs community. The Company finds it essential to spread awareness on key topics related to the special needs community by educating the public and providing support outlets. During 2022, stc sponsored graduations and recognition ceremonies honoring students with special needs, sponsored the Center 21 summer camp initiative and RunKuwait charity marathon, as well as other initiatives that aimed to support the special needs community in Kuwait.

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are proud to have played a role in this informative two-day exhibition which aimed to highlight the importance of using occupational therapy to guide those with special

needs throughout the various stages of their lives. Adopting these key principles at a young age will enable individuals to thrive in their future occupations and careers. The positive outcome witnessed from participating in this event reflects the core objectives behind our extensive CSR framework."

AlJasem added, "stc actively partners with local experts and professionals to educate members of the community on various topics that enable them to pursue meaningful activities that can enhance their lifestyles. We strongly value the important role the private sector plays as a voice of action to empower and support different groups within our community."

AlJasem stressed that it is essential to drive and support the social empowerment of the special needs community, allowing them to flourish in society while considering their condition in various fields such as academic, social, cultural, or others. She also highlighted the importance of taking humanitarian action to collectively integrate this segment of individuals in various initiatives along with other segments of society.

Through its role as a leading pioneer in Kuwait's telecom sector, AlJasem expressed that stc highly supports talented young adults with special needs by empowering and highlighting their achievements. She indicated that this initiative falls under the umbrella of the "Because We Care" campaign launched under the Company's CSR framework to serve the objective of participating and supporting the community in many humanitarian and awareness initiatives aimed at increasing community awareness about various important issues in several fields.

AlJasem concluded by thanking the organizers including Professor Suad Al-Fadhli, Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Nasser Al-Otaibi, Head of the Occupational Therapy Department at Kuwait University, Dr. Fadda Idris, Faculty Coordinator, and Madawi Al-Fadhli, Student Event Planner, as well as all those who participated in the two-day exhibition. She added that in addition to raising awareness, stc is keen to collaborate and organize community driven events to enhance its pioneering role in the market and back the Kuwaiti society. This approach runs parallel to the key pillars identified under stc's extensive CSR framework.



Japan PM pledges to boost naval and military capacity

## Italy accepts some migrants, not others as tensions rise



BUKOKBA, Tanzania: Rescuers search for survivors after a Precision Air flight that was carrying 43 people plunged into Lake Victoria as it attempted to land in the lakeside town of Bukoba, Tanzania. — AFP

# 19 dead in Tanzania plane crash

## ‘Let’s continue to be calm while the rescue operation continues’

**DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania:** Nineteen people died when a plane carrying dozens of passengers plunged into Lake Victoria in Tanzania on Sunday as it approached the northwestern city of Bukoba, the fire and rescue service said.

“Nineteen are reported dead. Rescue is ongoing,” it said in a statement, after 26 survivors were pulled to safety following the crash of the Precision Air plane, which was flying from financial capital Dar es Salaam with 43 people aboard.

“There was an accident involving a Precision Air plane which... crashed into water about 100 metres from the airport,” regional police commander William Mwampaghale told reporters at Bukoba airport. Regional commissioner Albert Chalamila said 43 people, including 39 passengers, two pilots and two cabin crew, were aboard flight PW 494 from financial capital Dar es Salaam to the lakeside city in Kagera region.

“As we speak, we have managed to rescue 26 people who were taken to our referral hospital,” Chalamila said. “The rescue operation is still ongoing and we are communicating with the pilots,” he said, adding that the aircraft was an ATR-42, manufactured by Toulouse-based Franco-Italian firm ATR. Precision Air, a publicly-listed company which is Tanzania’s largest private airline, said it had dispatched rescuers to the scene. “An investigation team consisting of Precision Air technical staff and TAA (Tanzania Airports Authority) has also departed to join the rescue team on the ground,” the airline said in a statement. Video footage broadcast on local media showed the plane largely submerged as rescuers, including fishermen, waded through water to bring people to safety.

Emergency workers attempted to lift the aircraft out of the water using ropes, assisted by cranes as local residents also sought to help in the effort.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her condolences to those affected by the accident. “Let’s continue to be calm while the rescue operation continues as we pray to God to help us,” she said on Twitter.

### ‘Hearts and prayers’

The African Union Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat also shared his condolences, as did the secretary general of the regional East African Community bloc, Peter Mathuki. “Our hearts and prayers go to the families of passengers on-board a plane that crashed into Lake Victoria, with our full solidarity to the Government & people of #Tanzania,” he said on Twitter.

“The East African Community joins and sends our condolences to Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, families and friends of all those who were affected by the Precision Air plane accident,” Mathuki said on

Twitter. Precision Air, which is partly owned by Kenya Airways, was founded in 1993 and operates domestic and regional flights as well as private charters to popular tourist destinations such as the Serengeti National Park and the Zanzibar archipelago.

The accident comes five years after 11 people died when a plane belonging to safari company Coastal Aviation crashed in northern Tanzania. In March 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi plunged six minutes after take-off into a field southeast of the Ethiopian capital, killing all 157 people on board.

In 2007, a Kenya Airways flight from the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan to Kenya’s capital Nairobi crashed into a swamp after take-off, killing all 114 passengers. In 2000, another Kenya Airways flight from Abidjan to Nairobi crashed into the Atlantic Ocean minutes after take-off, killing 169 people while 10 survived. — AFP

## Ukraine’s Kherson without electricity, water after strike

**KYIV:** Ukraine’s Russian-occupied city of Kherson was cut off from water and electricity supplies Sunday after an air strike and a key dam in the region was also damaged, local officials said. It is the first time that Kherson—which fell to Moscow’s forces within days of their offensive launched in February—has seen such a power cut.

“In Kherson and a number of other areas in the region, there is temporarily no electricity or water supply,” the city’s Moscow-installed administration said on Telegram. It said it was a “result of an attack organised by the Ukrainian side on the Berislav-Kakhovka highway that saw three concrete poles of high-voltage power lines damaged”.

Energy specialists were working to “quickly” resolve the issue, the Russian-backed authorities said, as they called on people to “remain calm”. News of the outage followed reports that the Kakhovka dam in the Russian-controlled region of Kherson was “damaged” by a Ukrainian strike.

“Today at 10:00 (0800 GMT) there was a hit of six HIMARS rockets. Air defence units shot down five missiles, one hit a lock of the Kakhovka dam, which was damaged,” Russian news agencies quoted local emergency services as saying.

The RIA Novosti news agency quoted a local Moscow-backed official saying the damage was not “critical”. Ukraine in recent weeks warned that Moscow’s forces intended to blow up the strategic facility to cause flooding.

The Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine was captured by Moscow’s forces at the start of their offensive. It supplies Russian-annexed Crimea with water.

For weeks, Russian forces have rained missiles and explosive drones onto Ukraine’s infrastructure, as a major Ukrainian ground offensive—propelled by Western arms deliveries—has pushed Russian troops back in swathes of the country.

Russian strikes over the past month have destroyed around a third of Ukraine’s power stations and the government has urged Ukrainians to conserve



**KHARKIV, Ukraine:** This photograph taken on November 5, 2022 shows destroyed residential buildings after a shelling on the outskirts of Kharkiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

electricity as much as possible. But until now, Ukraine had only rarely struck Russian-held civilian energy infrastructure in territory annexed by Moscow, preferring to target Russian army supply lines.

As Ukraine presses a counteroffensive in the south, Moscow’s occupational forces in Kherson have vowed to turn the city into a “fortress”.

Russian forces have for weeks organised a civilian pull-out from the Kherson region as Ukrainian troops advance, which Kyiv has called “deportations”. Moscow-installed Kherson governor Vladimir Saldo said he was moving people further into the region or to Russia because of the risks of a “massive missile attack”.

The dam’s destruction would lead to flooding of the left bank of the Dnipro River, he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said last month that Russian forces had mined the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant with the intent of blowing it up. Its destruction could cause flash-flooding for hundreds of thousands of people, he warned.

He said cutting water supplies to the south could also impact the cooling systems of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe’s largest.

Meanwhile a Taiwanese man who volunteered to fight in Ukraine has died on the battlefield, Taipei’s foreign ministry said, in what is believed to be the first person from the island killed in the conflict.

And in a final address on his visit to Bahrain, Pope Francis on Sunday urged congregants to pray “for Ukraine, which is suffering so much”, and for an end to the war.—AFP

## Biden, Obama warn of democracy threat in midterms countdown

**PHILADELPHIA, United States:** President Joe Biden, Democratic superstar Barack Obama and Republican firebrand Donald Trump all converged Saturday on Pennsylvania to push their parties to the finishing line in a race Biden said marks a “defining” moment for US democracy. The battle of the serving and two former presidents marked the start of a final crescendo before Tuesday when Americans will decide who controls Congress during the last two years of Biden’s first term.

Polls put Republicans well ahead in the fight for the House of Representatives and also show their gaining momentum in the Senate races as voters, riled up by culture wars around gay rights and abortion, seek to take out frustration over four-decades-high inflation and rising illegal immigration.

With Pennsylvania one of the handful of swing states that will decide the overall balance of power, both sides brought out their big guns—and the contrasts were dramatic.

Biden and Obama rallied in Philadelphia alongside Senate hopeful John Fetterman and governor candidate Josh Shapiro. Trump—who was defeated by Biden in 2020 but has spent the interval promoting conspiracy theories and plotting a possible White House comeback—flew to Latrobe to boost Fetterman’s opponent, TV celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz, and Shapiro’s far-right opponent Doug Mastriano.

Speaking to thousands in a Philadelphia arena, Biden and the Democratic candidates labeled the Republicans as the party of the wealthy and emphasized their support for trade unions, social security and abortion access.

Voters face “a choice between two vastly different visions of America,” Biden said. But citing Trump Republicans’ growing support for conspiracy theories, Biden said an even bigger agenda is at stake. “Democracy is literally on the ballot. This is a defining moment for the nation and we all, we all must speak with one voice,” Biden said. In a rambling speech, Trump claimed the country is run by “communists” and repeatedly said that his attempts to overturn the 2020 election were justified, before



**PHILADELPHIA, United States:** Former US President Barack Obama and US President Joe Biden participate in a rally in support of Democratic US Senate candidate John Fetterman. — AFP

urging Republicans to deliver “a humiliating rebuke.”

“If you want to stop the destruction of our country and save the ‘American Dream,’ then this Tuesday you must vote Republican in a giant red wave,” he said. Obama, who had also addressed an earlier rally in Pittsburgh, got the loudest cheers of the night in Philadelphia, repeatedly urging supporters to make sure they vote. “A lot of folks don’t pay a ton of attention to politics the way they do in a presidential year. Maybe they don’t think Congress matters as much. Maybe they don’t think their vote will matter,” he said.

But “fundamental rights... reason and decency are on the ballot,” he said, attacking Republicans as increasingly averse to everything from science to respect for rules. “Democracy itself is on the ballot. The stakes are high,” Obama said in an echo of Biden’s warning, his voice going hoarse.

Still the party’s most bankable star six years after leaving the White House, Obama hopes his support will give Fetterman the crucial extra shove. Although Fetterman faces the added challenge of recovering from a serious stroke, he and Oz are in a dead heat.

In Latrobe, Trump was tapping into support from a working class region that delivered him big margins in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. Success for candidates he supports on Tuesday would help Trump launch his own comeback campaign, despite facing serious legal threats over attempts to overturn his 2020 defeat and the hoarding of top secret documents from the White House at his Florida golf resort. — AFP

## International

## Italy accepts some migrants, not others as tensions rise

## Minors and the sick were let off the German-flagged Humanity 1

ROME: Italy readied Sunday to allow vulnerable migrants off a second charity rescue vessel in Sicily, but sources close to firebrand minister Matteo Salvini warned those not eligible to remain would be forced back into international waters.

Minors and the sick were let off the German-flagged Humanity 1 in the early hours at the port of Catania, but 35 adult male migrants were refused permission to set foot on Italian soil, charity SOS Humanity said.

Fellow humanitarian vessel Geo Barents, run by Doctors Without Borders and sailing under a Norwegian flag, said it too has been summoned so authorities could "evaluate vulnerable cases" among the 572 rescued people on board.

Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi earlier said those who do not "qualify" would have to "leave territorial waters", after refusing requests by four charity vessels for a safe port. The Geo Barents, Ocean Viking and Rise Above are still carrying 900 migrants between them.

Italy's new far-right government, which was sworn in last month, has vowed to crack down on boat migrants attempting the perilous crossing from North Africa to Europe. Over 87,000 people have landed in Italy so far this year, according to the interior ministry, though only 14 percent of those were rescued at sea and brought to safety by charity vessels. Sources close to far-right transport minister Matteo Salvini, who controls the ports, said Sunday the Geo Barents was

only being allowed in temporarily. "Those who remain on the vessel will be provided with the assistance necessary to leave territorial waters," the sources said.

The 35 migrants refused permission to leave the Humanity 1 were "extremely depressed", SOS Humanity's press officer Petra Krischok told AFP. It was not clear whether the ship would be ordered to leave. "For now, we stay here and wait," she said.

The leader of the main opposition party, Democratic Party chief Enrico Letta, accused the government on Twitter of breaking international law. Piantedosi should explain his actions to parliament, the party said.

Member of parliament Aboubakar Soumahoro, present as those chosen from the Humanity 1 were disembarked, slammed the "selection of shipwrecked migrants". He said far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government was treating "the worn-out bodies of shipwrecked people, already exhausted by cold, fatigue, trauma and torture... as objects". "If the remaining castaways are rejected... we will challenge this decision in all appropriate institutions," he said on Twitter.

Piantedosi said Saturday those migrants not allowed to disembark would have to be "taken care of by the flag state" - a reference to the national flags under which the vessels sail. The Humanity 1 and Mission Lifeline charity's Rise Above sail under the German flag.

The Geo Barents and SOS Mediterranean's Ocean



AT SEA, Undefined: This photo taken on November 3, 2022 and handout on November 5, 2022 by German-flagged NGO Mission Lifeline shows migrants preparing to get on board the "Rise Above" rescue ship after being rescued off the coast of Sicily, southern Italy. — AFP

Viking are registered in Norway. The Norwegian foreign ministry said Thursday it bore "no responsibility" for those rescued by private Norwegian-flagged ships in the Mediterranean. Germany insist-

ed in a diplomatic "note" to Italy that the charities were "making an important contribution to saving human lives" and asked Rome "to help them as soon as possible". — AFP

## Nine killed in Syria regime rocket strike

KAFR JALES, Syria: Syrian regime rocket fire killed nine people including three children at makeshift camps for displaced people in the country's last major rebel-held bastion early Sunday, a war monitor said. The dead included three children among seven civilians, and two unidentified individuals, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has a broad network of sources on the ground. An earlier Observatory toll reported six civilians dead, including two youngsters.

It said another 75 people were wounded when more than 30 rockets exploded in several areas, including the camps, west of the city of Idlib in Syria's northwest. Shelling continued later in the morning at several locations in the area, and rebels targeted government positions in retaliation for the strikes, according to the Observatory. An AFP correspondent saw flimsy tents destroyed and burned, blood stains and rocket debris at the scene.

At a nearby hospital, the correspondent saw the bodies of two young girls.

Abu Hamid, a camp resident, told AFP: "We awoke this morning and were getting ready for work when we began hearing the sounds of strikes." "The children were



KAFR JALIS, Syria: People assess the damage caused by reported regime shelling on the camp of Maram for internally displaced people near the village of Kafr Jales in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, on November 6, 2022. — AFP

afraid and began screaming", continued the 67-year-old.

"We didn't know where to go. It wasn't one rocket or two, but a dozen. The shrapnel was flying from every direction. We didn't know how to protect ourselves."

The last pocket of armed opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's regime includes large swathes of Idlib province and parts of the neighbouring Aleppo, Hama and Latakia provinces.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), headed by ex-members of Syria's former Al-Qaeda franchise, is the dominant group in the area but other rebel groups are also active.

According to the Observatory, the rocket fire came the day after five Syrian

forces members died in shelling by a group affiliated with HTS. The Idlib region is home to about three million people, around half of them displaced.

They are among the millions displaced internally and abroad by the war in Syria since 2011. Nearly half a million people have been killed.

With Russian and Iranian support, Damascus clawed back much of the ground lost in the early stages of Syria's conflict, which erupted in 2011 when the government brutally repressed pro-democracy protests. Despite periodic clashes, a ceasefire reached in 2020 by Moscow and Turkey - which supports anti-Assad rebels - has largely held in the northwest. — AFP

## Iraq considers reinstating conscription

BAGHDAD: Iraqi lawmakers were due to examine on Sunday a bill seeking to reestablish military conscription in the country, nearly 20 years after its abolition. Service in the armed forces was mandatory in Iraq from 1935 up until 2003, when a US-led invasion toppled former dictator Saddam Hussein.

The bill would pave the way for the conscription of young men aged 18 to 35, for terms between three and 18 months depending on their education level, MP Yasser Iskander Watout told AFP.

They would receive allowances ranging from 600,000 to 700,000 Iraqi dinars (more than \$400), added Watout, who serves on the legislature's defence committee. It would take two years after the passing of the law to fully restore conscription, Watout said, adding that only-sons and breadwinners would be exempted.

Since Saddam's overthrow Iraq has suffered sectarian conflict and the Islamic State group's takeover of large swathes of territory, before the jihadists' defeat in late 2017 by

Iraqi forces backed by a US-led military coalition.

That anti-IS coalition continued a combat role in Iraq until last December, but roughly 2,500 American soldiers remain in Iraq to offer training, advice and assistance to national forces. The bill was initially submitted by the defence ministry in August 2021, under the government of then-prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi.

Iraq later that year elected a new parliament, which only last month swore in a government led by Mohammed Shia al-Sudani after a year of political paralysis. Despite the declared victory over IS, members of the group continue to stage intermittent attacks on government forces and the former paramilitary Hashed al-Shaabi, now integrated into the regular forces.

This persistent "terrorist threat" prompted MP Sikfan Sindi to call, in a recent interview with state news agency INA, for the reinstatement of military service. Though it is unclear whether the bill would receive much backing in parliament, it has already drawn a backlash within the legislature and beyond.

"The militarisation of society will not create patriotism," lawmaker Saeb Khidr of the minority Yazidi community, which was brutalised by IS, told AFP. — AFP

## COP27 warns against climate...

Continued from Page 1

indicators. "As COP27 gets underway, our planet is sending a distress signal," UN chief Antonio Guterres said in a statement, calling the report a "chronicle of climate chaos".

Just in the past few months, floods devastated Pakistan and Nigeria, droughts worsened in Africa and the United States, cyclones whipped the Caribbean, and unprecedented heatwaves seared three continents. The conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh also comes against the backdrop of Russia's war on Ukraine, an energy crunch, soaring inflation and the lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Simon Stiell, the UN's climate change executive secretary, said he would not be a "custodian of backsliding" on the goal of slashing greenhouse emissions 45 percent by 2030 to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above late 19th-century levels. "We will be holding people to account, be they presidents, prime ministers, CEOs," Stiell said as the 13-day summit opened. "The heart of implementation is everybody everywhere in the world every single day doing everything they possibly can to address the climate crisis," he said, noting that only 29 of 194 nations have presented improved plans as called for at COP26 in Glasgow last year.

Current trends would see carbon pollution increase 10 percent by the end of the decade and the Earth's surface heat up 2.8C, according to findings unveiled last week. Promises made under the 2015 Paris Agreement would, if kept, only shave off a few tenths of a degree, Britain's Alok Sharma, who handed the COP presidency to Egypt, said that while world leaders have faced "competing priorities" this year, "inaction is myopic and can only defer climate catastrophe". "How many more wake-up calls does the world - and world leaders - actually need?" he said.

The COP27 summit will focus like never before on money - a major sticking point that has soured relations between countries that got rich burning

fossil fuels and the poorer ones suffering from the worst consequences of climate change. The United States and the European Union - fearful of creating an open-ended reparations framework - have dragged their feet and challenged the need for a separate funding stream.

After two days of intense pre-summit negotiations, delegates agreed on Sunday to put the "loss and damage" issue on the COP27 agenda, a first step towards what are sure to be difficult discussions. Stiell said inclusion of loss and damage on the agenda after three decades of debate on the issue showed progress. "The fact that it is there as a substantive agenda item I believe bodes well," he told reporters.

COP27 president Sameh Shoukry of Egypt said it would be unproductive to speculate on what outcome the negotiations will lead to, "but certainly everybody is hopeful". "Anything that we do effectively has to be on the basis of our common efforts and that we leave no one behind," he said. Shoukry also noted that rich nations have not fulfilled a separate pledge to deliver \$100 billion per year to help developing countries green their economies and build resilience against future climate change. He lamented that most climate financing is based on loans. "We do not have the luxury to continue this way. We have to change our approaches to this existential threat," he said.

After the first day of talks, some 110 world leaders will join the summit on Monday and Tuesday. The most conspicuous no-show will be China's Xi Jinping, whose leadership was renewed last month at a Communist Party Congress. US President Joe Biden has said he will come, but only after legislative elections on Tuesday that could see either or both houses of Congress fall into the hands of Republicans hostile to international action on climate change.

Cooperation between the United States and China - the world's two largest economies and carbon polluters - has been crucial to rare breakthroughs in the nearly 30-year saga of UN climate talks, including the 2015 Paris Agreement. But Sino-US relations have sunk to a 40-year low after a visit to Taiwan by House leader Nancy Pelosi and a US ban on the sale of high-level chip technology to China, leaving the outcome of COP27 in doubt. — AFP

## Pope concludes visit to...

Continued from Page 1

Manama and urged Catholics to be "tireless promoters of dialogue" with other faiths. "Let us seek to be guardians and builders of unity... in the multi-religious and multi-cultural societies in which we find ourselves," he said, at the Gulf's oldest church which opened in 1939.

In his first speech, on Thursday, the pontiff had spoken of the "right to life" and the "need to guarantee that right always, including for those being punished, whose lives should not be taken". This was the pontiff's second trip to the Gulf following a 2019 visit to the United Arab Emirates. He met in Bahrain with Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's prestigious Al-Azhar Mosque.

He also used the trip to warn that the world was on a "delicate precipice", decrying the "opposing blocs" of East and West - a veiled reference to the standoff over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "A few potentates are caught up in a resolute struggle for



Pope Francis answers a question from Fatima Khaled Al-Najem, Bahrain News Agency reporter, during the flight back to Rome on Nov 6, 2022. — AFP

partisan interests, reviving obsolete rhetoric, redesigning spheres of influence and opposing blocs," he said. The pope, who uses a wheelchair and walking stick due to knee problems, left for Rome early Sunday. At a press conference during his return journey from Bahrain, Pope Francis urged Lebanese politicians to "put aside... personal interests" and come to an agreement on filling a power vacuum in the crisis-hit country, which currently has no president. — AFP

## First phase of Al-Zour refinery...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the board of directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation on Sunday issued decisions appointing Ahmed Al-Aidan as CEO of Kuwait Oil Company and Wadha Al-Khatib as CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company. According to the statement, Waleed Al-Bader was appointed CEO of KIPIC, Nadia Al-Hajji as CEO of Petrochemical Industries Company and Mohammed Al-Himer as CEO of Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company.

Shafi Al-Ajmi was appointed CEO of Kuwait Petroleum International, Khalid Al-Otaibi CEO of

Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah was appointed Managing Director of Global Marketing at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Acting CEO of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company. The decisions included the appointment of Hisham Al-Rifai as Managing Director of Human Resources at KPC and Bader Al-Attar as Managing Director for Planning and Finance at KPC.

According to the statement, the CEO of KPC Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah expressed his full confidence in the ability of the new oil leaders to achieve the vision of the corporation to a tangible reality and achieve the desired goal towards the development of the sector in Kuwait. Sheikh Nawaf praised the pivotal role played by the previous oil leaders and the fundamental imprints they left behind, which contributed to advancing the development and success of the Kuwaiti oil sector. — KUNA

## International

## Pakistan in 'perilous situation' after Khan assassination bid

'The state has lost its legitimacy... police, law and order institutions and even the judiciary'

ISLAMABAD: The assassination attempt on former prime minister Imran Khan and his accusation it was a plot involving a senior intelligence officer has pushed Pakistan into a "dangerous phase", analysts say.

Khan escaped with bullet wounds to his legs from an assassination attempt Thursday as he led supporters on a highly publicised march to the capital to press for early elections. He claimed Friday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and Major-General Faisal Nasir—an intelligence officer—plotted to have him killed and have it blamed on "a religious fanatic".

"The political situation in Pakistan has entered into a dangerous phase," said academic and political analyst Tauseef Ahmed Khan, who is also a board member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

"In a country with a history of political chaos, the sounds echo." Despite being ousted by a vote of no-confidence in April, Khan retains mass public support—winning a string of by-elections even as he battles a slew of legal cases brought by the current government.



LAHORE: Supporters of former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan, gather in a protest against the assassination attempt on Khan during a long march, in Lahore. — AFP

### Khan retains mass public support

As the pressure rises, the government's dependence on the country's "deep state"—a term often used to refer to the powerful military—for its survival is increasing, Ahmed Khan said. "It is a perilous situation—not only for the democratic process but also for the country—especially with regards to economic development," he said. "The issue(s) of poverty, hunger, and development fall into the background."

#### At each other's throats

Khan and Sharif have been at each other's throats for months, trading accusations of incompetence and corruption with language and tone dripping with contempt. But such a public accusation by Khan, and the naming of a senior military officer, has taken the situation to a new level of crisis. Khan has offered no evidence to back his claims, which the government has dismissed as "lies and fabrications".

Criticism of the military—which has ruled the country for roughly half of its 75-year history—has always been

a red line, but Khan has been increasingly outspoken against a security establishment many say backed his original rise to power.

On Friday, the military's press wing issued a statement urging the government to take Khan to court for defamation. Officials from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party could also be in the crosshairs.

Senior party members have already been charged with "sedition" and other offences since Khan's ouster, as have journalists considered sympathetic to the former PM.

"It seems that now some sort of operation might be launched against PTI," said analyst Ahmed Khan, adding there was a risk the party could fragment. As Khan's huge rallies are designed to prove—to both his political opposition and the military—that he has the support of the public, the results could be "chaos, despair, and disappointment", he added. In such a charged atmosphere, multiple accusations and denials from both sides are unlikely to ever be properly probed, said Karachi-based political analyst Kaiser Bengali. That, he added, leaves room for conspiracy theories to abound. "The state has lost its legitimacy... police, law and order institutions—

even the judiciary," he said.

#### What went wrong

Bengali said the military was now "sitting and wondering what went wrong and what can they do". The government has said the assassination bid against Khan was "a very clear case of religious extremism", blaming a lone gunman who hailed from a poor village.

Pakistan has long grappled with Islamist militancy, with right-wing religious groups having huge sway over the population in the Muslim-majority country. Khan and his PTI have been accused in the past of stoking religious sentiments to appeal to a wider support base.

"Religious extremism is a weapon which the PTI use—and so do the army and the state," said Bengali. "So we are heading towards an immensely dangerous situation." Behind the political crisis, however, hides a more pervasive one: the economy. "The state is bankrupt, whatever resources it has are consumed in debt servicing and defence, and the government salaries," Bengali said. "Whatever crumbs are available is what the politicians are fighting over... that is why the fight has become so petty." — AFP

## Japan PM pledges to boost naval and military capacity

SAGAMI BAY, Japan: Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Sunday to beef up Japan's naval and military capacity, warning that nations must prepare to face aggressors. Kishida also condemned Russia's war in Ukraine and denounced North Korea's recent blitz of missile tests, one of which flew over Japan for the first time since 2017 and prompted a rare evacuation warning.

"We must prepare ourselves for an era when actors emerge to disobey rules and use force or threats to destroy the peace and safety of other nations," Kishida said as he addressed Japan's international fleet review. The leader's remarks come as Tokyo is drafting security plans that may call for doubling the nation's defence spending within five years. That would represent a sea change in Japan, where the pacifist constitution limits its

military capacity. "We will accelerate realistic discussions on what's needed to defend our people by keeping all options on the table," Kishida said. "The enhancement (of Japan's naval capacity) cannot wait, including construction of new naval ships, bolstering our missile defence capacity and improvement of the work conditions and compensations for our (military) personnel," he said.

He did not name China but said that "the national security environment surrounding our nation is growing more severe including the East China Sea and South China Sea," where Beijing has taken assertive positions in territorial disputes with countries including Japan.

Kishida added that Japan will ensure transparency of its military spending. "Japan will maintain our way as a pacifist country as we have done so since the end of (World War II)," he said. The fleet review gathered ships from Japan and 12 other countries—including Australia, India and the United States—at Sagami Bay, south of Tokyo.

South Korea also took part for the first time in seven years, as Tokyo and Seoul attempt to mend strained relations. — AFP



SAGAMI BAY, Japan: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida gives instructions during his speech onboard the Japanese ship JS Izumo during an "International Fleet Review", held by Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force. — AFP

## Nigeria gunmen free abducted children

KANO: Gunmen who abducted a group of children working on a farm in northwest Nigeria's Katsina state have freed the hostages, the police said.

Dozens of gunmen on motorcycles on Sunday last week seized children harvesting crops for a fee on a farm outside Mairuwa village in Faskari district, the police and a local official had told AFP.

Officials had earlier reported that 39 children were rounded up by the abductors from a criminal gang who demanded a ransom to free the hostages, but on Sunday reduced that number to 21.

Katsina State police spokesman Isah Gambo said

late on Saturday that all 21 children kidnapped on the farm had been freed. "It is with great joy that I announce the release of all the 21 abducted workers that were kidnapped while working in a farmland," Isah said in a statement. "They have been reunited with their families. Investigation is ongoing," he said.

He did not say if a ransom was paid to secure the release of the hostages who he said comprised 17 girls and four boys, aged between 15 and 18. Katsina is one of several states in northwest and central Nigeria that are terrorised by criminal gangs locally known as bandits, who raid villages, killing and abducting residents as well as looting and burning homes.

Hostages are usually released after ransom payment to the gangs, who reportedly hole up in the vast Rugu forest straddling Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states. Bandits in the past have targeted schools and colleges in Nigeria to kidnap large numbers of students, usually from remote areas where children sleep in dormitories. — AFP

### News in brief

#### 4 dead at Spain wedding

MADRID: Four people were killed and four others seriously injured early Sunday after a car rammed into members of a wedding party in Spain following a fight, police said. Officers have detained three suspects and are searching for a fourth over the deadly incident, a spokesman for the national police told AFP. The fight erupted at dawn in front of a restaurant that was hosting the wedding in Torrejon de Ardoz, some 25 kilometres (16 miles) northeast of Madrid. After the dispute, a car rammed into wedding guests and then sped away. "When we arrived on the scene, we found four people had died of multiple fractures," said Carlos Polo, head of Madrid emergency services. Four others who were injured have been transferred to hospital for treatment, he said. The vehicle suspected of having carried out the attack was spotted 50 kilometres from the scene of the accident and its three occupants arrested, police said.

#### Five killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU: Five people were killed in a suicide bombing targeting a military training camp in Somalia, army officials told AFP Sunday, in an attack claimed by Al-Shabaab jihadists one week after twin blasts left 116 dead. Saturday's attack on the camp in Somalia's capital Mogadishu came as the government intensifies its fight against the Islamists who have led a 15-year insurgency in the troubled Horn of Africa nation. "The suicide bomb explosion occurred at the entrance and five new recruits died in the blast, more than ten others were wounded," military officer Mohamed Abdullahi told AFP. Army official Adan Yare also said five people had died in the attack, which left several injured. "Among the casualties are civilians who stayed near" the Xero Nacnac training camp for army recruits, he told AFP.

#### Turkey mine accident

ISTANBUL: Four miners were injured, two of them seriously, after an explosion at a mine in northwest Turkey, media reported on Sunday, three weeks after a blast at another pit in the area killed 42. The blast occurred overnight at a privately-owned mine in the Kilimli district, the DHA news agency reported. The two seriously injured miners have been transported to a hospital in the capital Ankara for treatment, DHA said. On October 14, a blast that ripped through a state-owned mine near the small coal town of Amasra, 50 kilometres (just over 30 miles) away from this weekend's blast, ended up killing 42 people. Twenty-five people, including the director of the mine, have been detained. The opposition has accused the government of failing to take the necessary measures to prevent the disaster. Turkey suffered its deadliest coal mining disaster in 2014 when 301 workers died in a blast and ensuing fire that brought down a mining shaft in the western town of Soma.

## DR Congo, Rwanda agree to accelerate de-escalation plan

LUANDA: The foreign ministers of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda agreed on Saturday to accelerate efforts to de-escalate tensions and resolve their political crisis. Regional relations in central Africa have been destabilised over recent months, with the DRC accusing its smaller neighbour of backing a rebel militia that has displaced tens of thousands of people.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting in Angola, the ministers agreed to continue talking "as a priority way of resolving the political crisis between the two brotherly countries" and to define "a timetable for accelerating" the de-escalation plan signed in July.

The roadmap for ending hostilities was reached at an Angola-brokered summit between Rwandan President Paul Kagame and his Congolese counterpart Felix Tshisekedi.

At the time, Angola's President Joao Lourenco called it a "ceasefire", but clashes resumed the very next day. After several weeks of calm, the March 23 Movement (M23) militia went back on the offensive in late October, capturing swathes of new territory in eastern DRC in recent weeks.

Rwanda is accused of supporting the M23, a mainly Tutsi Congolese militia which rose to prominence in 2012. After laying mostly dormant for years, it resumed fighting last year, claiming the DRC had failed to honour a pledge to integrate them into the army, among other grievances.

Kigali has repeatedly denied backing the rebels, which has soured relations with Kinshasa. The DRC expelled Rwanda's ambassador at the end of last month, while also recalling its envoy from Kigali.

The eastern DRC has been plagued for nearly three decades by armed groups, many of them inherited from the wars that bloodied the region in the wake of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The resurgence of M23 has caused international alarm, with Kenya last week deploying troops to the DRC to bolster an East African force trying to end the bloodshed. According to the UN, fighting between the Congolese Armed Forces and the M23 has displaced around 50,000 people since October 20. 12,000 of whom have taken refuge in Uganda. — AFP



LIMA: People opposing the government of Peruvian President Pedro Castillo hold a demonstration to demand his resignation in Lima, on November 5, 2022. — AFP

## Thousands march in Peru for prez's removal

LIMA: Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Lima on Saturday to call for the removal of President Pedro Castillo, the subject of an unprecedented six investigations for corruption. Opponents of Castillo's government marched through the capital's center until dozens of riot police used tear gas to prevent them from reaching Parliament and the government palace. "I come to the march to get that corrupt man out. Castillo must leave, that's what this march is for, to get him out," protester Nancy Huaracaya told AFP.

"We are here representing millions of Peruvians. Peru can't take it anymore. We are on the edge of the precipice, economically everything has stagnated," Carola Suarez, holding a Peruvian flag, told AFP.

Similar demonstrations called by political groups and civil associations took place in other cities around the country, two weeks before the arrival of a delegation from the Organization of American States to "analyze" the political crisis. At the same time, a mobilization of collectives and unions marched in support of the president in Lima's San Martin square. Castillo, a former rural school teacher, has been under nonstop fire since unexpectedly taking power from Peru's traditional political elite in elections last year.

He has survived two impeachment attempts since taking office in July 2021 and is the target of six criminal investigations for alleged graft and plagiarizing his university thesis. In addition to these, Peru's attorney general last month filed a constitutional complaint accusing Castillo of heading a criminal organization involving his family and allies. Castillo, serving a five-year term that ends in 2026, cannot be criminally tried while in office. "They will have me until the last day of my term because my people have decided so," Castillo said Saturday morning at the government palace. — AFP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

# Business

## Twitter starts rolling out new paid subscription

### Musk provocations prompt reactions from UN and apology from Dorsey

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Twitter began rolling out a controversial new paid subscription system on Saturday that the social network's unpredictable new owner, billionaire Elon Musk, ordered staff to build after taking over last week. Days into the Tesla boss's stewardship of one of the world's leading platforms for discourse and activism, his promises and provocations are prompting a wave of reactions—including warnings from the United Nations and an apology from Twitter's co-founder.

His plan to dial back content moderation on the site is causing such concern that UN rights chief Volker Turk on Saturday urged him to make respect for human rights central to the social network.

"Twitter has a responsibility to avoid amplifying content that results in harms to people's rights," Turk said in his open letter. Reports of Musk laying off the platform's entire human rights team were "not, from my perspective, an encouraging start," he said. Jack Dorsey, who co-founded Twitter in 2006 and stepped down as CEO last year, tweeted to apologize for growing the site too quickly a day after roughly half the company's 7,500 employees were fired by Musk.

"I realize many are angry with me," he wrote. The remaining employees are witnessing an upheaval in their company's culture. As early as last Friday, Musk launched his first flagship project, the redesign of the Twitter Blue subscription option. He has reportedly told his team the redesign must be ready for potential activation by November 7 — the day before the US midterm elections—or their jobs will be on the line.

### By taking Twitter private, Musk makes daring bet

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Elon Musk's decision to pull Twitter off the stock market allows him to make major changes quickly, but it also takes the company more heavily into debt, a risky choice for a money-losing business. It is a long-established strategy with notable successes and failures, from computer manufacturer Dell (a success) to toy stores Toys "R" Us (a failure). But Twitter "is very different from a traditional buyout" of a company that delists from the market, said Steven Kaplan of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Most such takeovers are of companies with positive cash flows, Kaplan said, but the social network is losing money—having posted losses in the first two quarters of 2022. The equation is further complicated by Elon Musk's \$13 billion in loans, which will have to be repaid by the San Francisco company, not by the entrepreneur personally. According to a calculation made by AFP, Twitter will have to disburse a little less than \$1 billion from the first year as interest and principal, a high amount for a group whose turnover reached only \$5 billion in 2021. "That debt is tricky when you're losing money. So

### Kenya Airways pilots extend their strike

**NAIROBI:** Kenya Airways pilots on Sunday extended their strike and warned of "major flight disruptions", forcing fresh cancellations as the carrier's deadline for disciplinary action against those participating lapsed. Thousands of passengers were stranded as a result of the strike by the Kenya Airline Pilots Association (KALPA), which earlier said that no Kenya Airways flight flown by its members had departed Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport from 6 am (0300 GMT) onwards on Saturday.

The pilots announced the strike in defiance of a court order against industrial action and have given no indication of how long it would last. On Saturday, the airline's managing director and CEO, Allan Kilavuka, had urged the protesting pilots, who make up 10 percent of the workforce, to return to work by 10.30 am on Sunday. "Failure to do so will lead to immediate disciplinary action," he warned.

But KALPA said on Sunday that its members would remain on strike "until their voice is heard." "The public should expect major flight disruptions to continue," it said on Twitter, blaming the airline's management for failing to resolve the stalemate. The airline, part owned by the government and Air France-KLM, is one of the biggest in Africa, connecting multiple countries to Europe and Asia, but it is facing turbulent times, including years of losses.

The pilots' strike has thrown over 9,000 passengers' plans into disarray, according to the airline, with travelers turning up to the Nairobi airport on Sunday, only to find out that their flights were can-

celled. "I came here at around 5:25 in the morning... but I have been informed that the flight has been cancelled," passenger Erick Muhanda, who was due to travel to South Africa's port city of Cape Town, told broadcaster Citizen TV. "It's quite inconvenient," he said.

tracked on our decision because it was being construed as KAWU joining KALPA in their strike action," the union's secretary general Moss Ndiema told reporters at the Nairobi airport. KAWU had earlier said that ground staff would strike from 2:00 pm onwards on Saturday. The pilots are pressing for the reinstatement of contributions to a provident fund and payment of all salaries stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday, the airline won a court injunction stopping the strike, but an official at KALPA, which has 400 members, told AFP the pilots "were acting within the provisions of the law" and that they were yet to be served with a court order. —AFP

there'll be a lot of pressure to cut costs and increase revenue so that they can make debt payments," said Kaplan, a finance professor. Otherwise, Musk will need to find funds to avoid bankruptcy. The entrepreneur on Friday laid off about half of Twitter's employees and is seeking new sources of revenue, including an optional subscription fee of \$8 per month for those wanting a verified account.

Further development of Twitter may require an infusion of capital, more difficult to raise, in theory, by a unlisted company. "I don't think you can raise any more debt," said Erik Gordon, an entrepreneurship expert at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, but in this case "there is a Musk factor... You tweet a few times and you know, bring in the money."

Another idiosyncratic element is that most such deals "are initiated either by a financial logic or an industrial logic," whereas Elon Musk "didn't have one," he said.

"He just was unhappy with the way Twitter was treating free speech" and concluded that he could "manage it better," Gordon said. As a general rule, an exit from the market is followed by "radical changes" at a company, said Sreedhar Bharath, professor of finance at Arizona State University, and those changes may not be readily apparent because the company no longer has an obligation to communicate publicly. "The company is shielded from the

its income, heavily reliant on advertising. And with concerns that Musk's tinkering with content moderation will flood the site with hate speech and misinformation, several advertisers have reportedly suspended their spending on the platform since he bought it. Musk has insisted that content moderation remains a priority, that the rules had not changed, and that he

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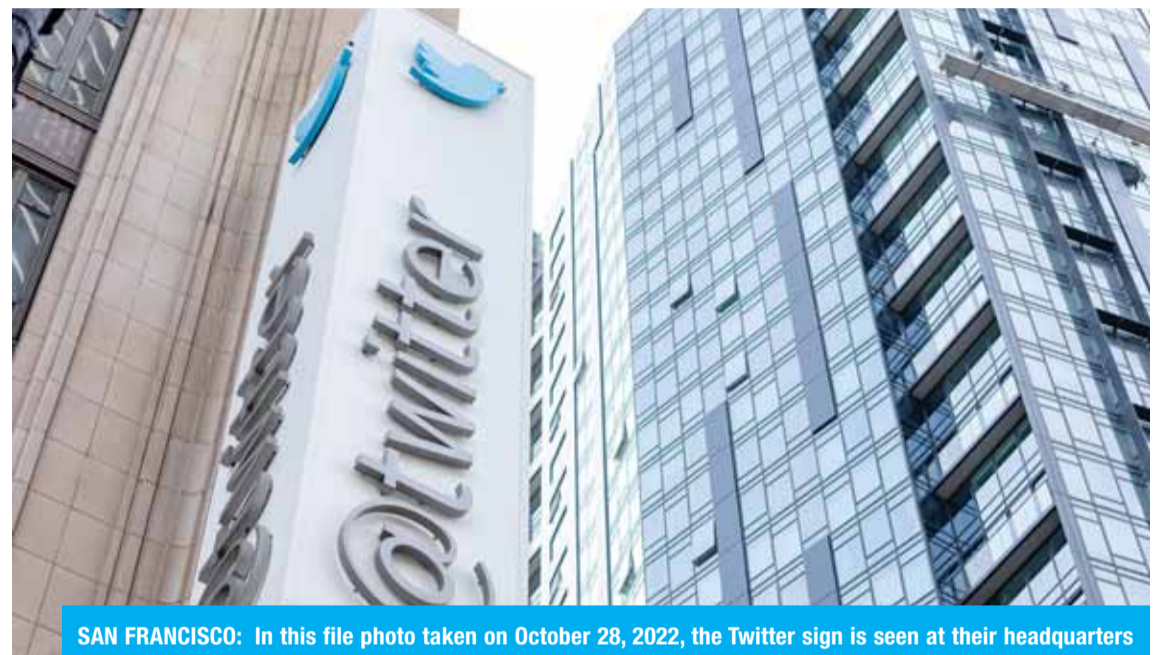
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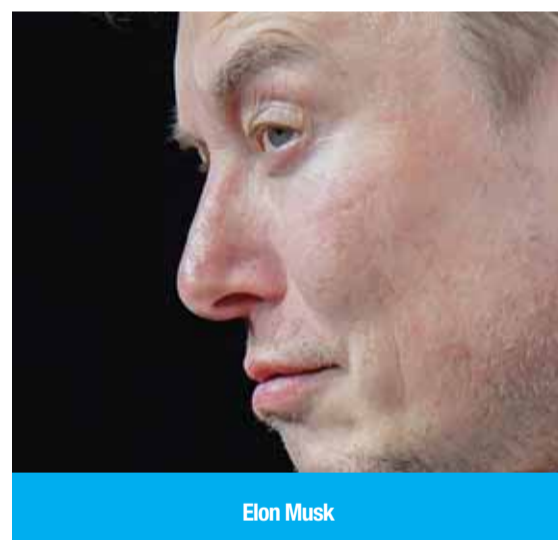
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**SAN FRANCISCO:** In this file photo taken on October 28, 2022, the Twitter sign is seen at their headquarters in San Francisco, California. — AFP

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Elon Musk

punishment meted out by financial markets if they do not like the changes," he said. "Some might say the markets have an excessive focus on the next quarter results" and managers of newly privatized firms can "pursue long-term goals" without fretting about the short term. "But with the high public profile of Twitter, key decisions are likely to become public," noted Jagadeesh Sivadasan of the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. "This was evident for the post-acquisition decisions regarding firing of key officers." —AFP

### Climate change is speeding up, warns major UN report

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** Each of the last eight years, if projections for 2022 hold, will be hotter than any year prior to 2015, the UN said Sunday, detailing a dramatic increase in the rate of global warming. Sea level rise, glacier melt, torrential rains, heat waves—and the deadly disasters they cause—have all accelerated, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report as the COP27 UN Climate Summit opened in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

"As COP27 gets underway, our planet is sending a distress signal," said UN chief Antonio Guterres, describing the report as "a chronicle of climate chaos". Earth has warmed more than 1.1 degrees Celsius since the late 19th century, with roughly half of that increase occurring in the past 30 years, the report shows.

Nearly 200 nations gathered in Egypt have set their sights on holding the rise in temperatures to 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), a goal some scientists believe is now beyond reach. This year is on track to be the fifth or sixth warmest ever recorded despite the impact since 2020 of La Nina—a periodic and naturally occurring phenomenon in the Pacific that cools the atmosphere.

"The greater the warming, the worse the impacts," said WMO head Petteri Taalas. Surface water in the ocean—which soaks up more than 90 percent of accumulated heat from human carbon emissions—hit record high temperatures in 2021, warming especially fast during the past 20 years.

Marine heat waves were also on the rise, with devastating consequences for coral reefs and the half-billion people who depend on them for food and livelihoods. Overall, 55 percent of the ocean surface experienced at least one marine heat-wave in 2022, the report said. Driven by melting ice sheets and glaciers, the pace of sea level rise has doubled in the past 30 years, threatening tens of millions in low-lying coastal areas. "The messages in this report could barely be bleaker," said Mike Meredith, science leader at the British Antarctic Survey.

"All over our planet, records are being shattered as different parts of the climate system begin to break down." Greenhouse gases accounting for more than 95 percent of warming are all at record levels, with methane showing the largest one-year jump ever recorded, the WMO's annual State of the Global Climate found.

The increase in methane emissions has been traced to leaks in natural gas production and a rise in beef consumption. In 2022, a cascade of extreme weather exacerbated by climate change devastated communities across the globe.

A two-month heatwave in South Asia in March and April bearing the unmistakable fingerprint of man-made warming was followed by floods in Pakistan that left a third of the country under water. At least 1,700 people died, and eight million were displaced. —AFP



**NAIROBI, Kenya:** Passengers wait in a queue at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport, to re-book their flights after flights were cancelled, amid a strike by pilots organized by Kenya Airline Pilots Association (KALPA), at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport in Nairobi on November 5, 2022. — AFP

tracked on our decision because it was being construed as KAWU joining KALPA in their strike action," the union's secretary general Moss Ndiema told reporters at the Nairobi airport. KAWU had earlier said that ground staff would strike from 2:00 pm onwards on Saturday. The pilots are pressing for the reinstatement of contributions to a provident fund and payment of all salaries stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday, the airline won a court injunction stopping the strike, but an official at KALPA, which has 400 members, told AFP the pilots "were acting within the provisions of the law" and that they were yet to be served with a court order. —AFP

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Business

# US Latinos: Less predictable at the polls, more focused on pocketbook

## Soaring inflation a key issue for voters

WASHINGTON: While Latino voters lean Democratic in the run-up to US midterm elections, soaring inflation makes their support less predictable and may compel a shift toward Republican candidates, analysts say. Inflation now at eight percent troubles Latinos, as it does all Americans, according to polls released before the November 8 vote, in which President Joe Biden's Democratic Party faces heavy possible losses.

Other issues—the right to abortion, gun control and a crisis over undocumented migrants—are secondary, polls show. More than half of Latinos intend to vote Democratic in the vote for legislative seats, while 30 percent support Republicans, higher than four years ago, the surveys indicate. “What matters most to Latino voters is inflation, and many... are ready to give Republicans a chance,” Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas, director of research at the Latino Policy & Politics Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, told AFP.

### Sounding an alarm

But “a stampede of Latino voters toward Republicans hasn't been perceived” in the election, in which the 435-seat House of Representatives, a third of the 100-seat Senate and some 30 state governorships are up for grabs, he said. “The alarm for the Democratic Party is that if it doesn't retain its margin of support among Latino voters, it runs the risk of losing key, tightly-contested elections,” Dominguez-Villegas added.

While Latinos have historically supported Democrats, “there is a large group who are swing voters” who

change preferences with each election, and the Republican Party is targeting them, he said. “Latinos are not a monolithic group. We have different origins, with different aspirations and different problems,” said Jaime Florez, Hispanic communications director for the Republican National Committee.

Florez cited three key areas: the economy, education and public safety, but above all else at the moment is inflation. “Economic issues affect us all independently of our country of origin, the language that we speak, many times even our economic condition because even rich people have lost enormous sums with the fall of the stock market,” he said.

### ‘A wrong assumption’

The Republican Party enjoys a perception that it handles economic issues better—while some Democratic leaders are accused of believing Latinos will simply fall into line behind them. “They only run these get-out-the-vote operations in the weeks before the election, and expect that Latinos will show up and support them and I think that's a wrong assumption,” Geraldo Cadava, a history professor at Northwestern University, told AFP. While Republicans still trail Democrats among Latinos, “Latinos have both voted for Republicans in increasing numbers over the past few years, and they have left the Democratic Party over the last few years,” Cadava said.

The dynamic is complex, he said, but in part Latinos “are drawn to particular Republican policies at the same time that they're abandoning Democratic policies.”



LATROBE, US: Attendees gather for a “Save America” rally ahead of the midterm elections at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, on November 5, 2022. — AFP

On a number of issues Latinos are in sync with the Democratic Party, said Stephen Nuno-Perez, analyst and pollster with BSP Research. “In terms of data points, we continue to see strong support for policies that the Democrats are pushing, whether it's immigration reform, abortion rights—upwards of 70 percent-taking action against climate change, student debt relief, gun safety, all of these,” he said. “None of these are issues that we

would call Republican issues.”

Latinos are increasingly favor restrictive immigration reforms, including building border walls, Cadava added. “Historically, say over the past 20 or 25 years, about 15 percent of Latinos would say that they support restrictive immigration reform,” Cadava said, but now support has climbed to 36 percent. “That's a pretty big jump.” — AFP

## Arab Monetary Fund extends \$74m loan to Tunisia

TUNIS: The Arab Monetary Fund has extended a \$74 million loan to Tunisia to help the North African nation's fiscal position and boost its gradually recovering economy. The loan package will support the country, which is still reeling from an economic crisis, in implementing reforms to promote recovery, as well as encourage more support from other regional and international financial institutions, the Abu Dhabi-based AMF said in a statement on Saturday.

The agreement, which was forged on Friday, was signed by Abdulrahman Al-Hamidy, director general and

chairman of the AMF's board of executive directors, and Marouane El Abassi, governor and chairman of the Central Bank of Tunisia's executive board. “The AMF supports the efforts of its member countries to implement economic, financial, monetary and structural reforms, in face of various challenges, through a number of means, including financing the needs of the balance of payments and public budgets, and financing trade,” the AMF said in the statement. Tunisia's economy was severely affected by Russia's military offensive in Ukraine, causing its current account deficit to widen. A COVID-19-induced slowdown, high debt and deteriorating finances exacerbated by the rise in global energy and commodity prices plunged it into its worst economic crisis. Government debt rose to almost 80 per cent of gross domestic product in 2021, according to official state estimates, which was lower than the 85.6 per cent initially forecast in its 2021 budget.

This forced Tunis to introduce economic reforms to

secure funding from the International Monetary Fund. In June, Tunisia sought \$4 billion to help steer the nation from its economic troubles, and the IMF said at the time that it was ready to hold discussions. Last month, Tunisia and the Washington-based IMF reached a staff-level agreement for a new 48-month extended fund facility worth about \$1.9bn, which will support Tunisia's economic reform program.

The IMF projects Tunisia's economy to expand 2.2 per cent in 2022, with inflation pegged to rise to 7.7 per cent. The World Bank sees GDP growth of 3 per cent this year. Despite the challenges, the Tunisian economy was still able to post “positive developments” in its economy during 2022, recording actual growth rates of about 2.4 per cent and 2.8 per cent for the first and second quarters of the year, respectively, the AMF said. These were driven by the recovery of the agricultural sector, the growth of manufacturing, higher phosphate production and a rebound in tourism revenues and

remittances of the expatriates in the country, it said. “The AMF follows closely the developments of the Tunisian economy and the challenges it faces due to the current global circumstances and works through a fruitful partnership with the Tunisian government to help the country address the different challenges in the most effective way,” it said.

The fund said it will continue to provide financial and technical support to its member countries during this period of economic uncertainty, especially considering recent and current geopolitical events. “The AMF assistance comes as a support to reform efforts and the measures they are taking to stimulate the economy and provide liquidity in order to contain different effects,” it said. Arab economies are expected to grow 5 per cent in 2022, driven by higher oil prices and production, as well as due to an extension of government support that was provided to help economies recover from the coronavirus pandemic, the AMF said in April. — Agencies



شركة الصفاء للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 3 NOVEMBER 2022

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| Market         | M. Cap (KD ml) | Last Close | WTD % | MTD % | YTD % | Quantity Traded | Value Traded | No. of Trades | P/E  | P/B | % of Total M. Cap |
|----------------|----------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------|-----|-------------------|
| Premier Market | 38,076         | 8,241.20   | 1.9%  | 0.6%  | 7.9%  | 408,092,940     | 204,783,325  | 27,663        | 27.5 | 2.5 | 79.3%             |
| Main Market    | 9,915          | 5,530.46   | 1.9%  | 0.7%  | -6.0% | 341,113,326     | 39,444,598   | 16,692        | 16.5 | 1.3 | 20.7%             |
| All Share      | 47,991         | 7,365.19   | 1.9%  | 0.6%  | 4.6%  | 749,206,266     | 244,227,924  | 44,355        | 25.2 | 2.3 | 100%              |

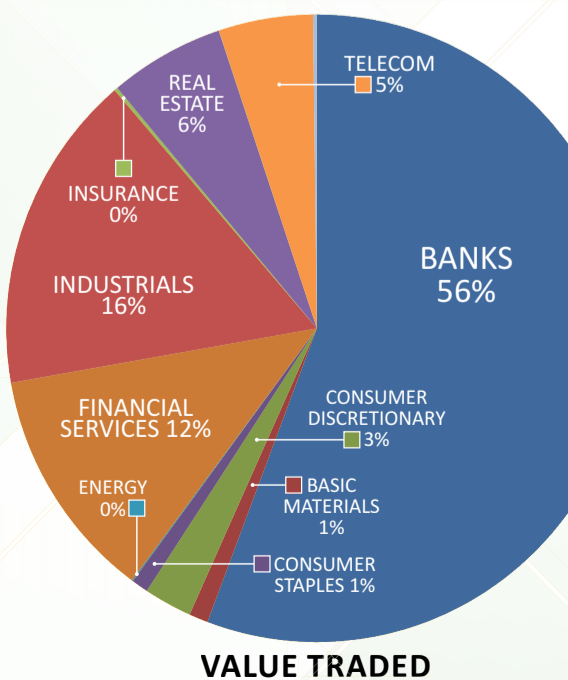
| Sector                 | M. Cap (KD ml) | Last Close | WTD % | MTD % | YTD %  | Quantity Traded | Value Traded | No. of Trades | P/E  | P/B  | % of Total M. Cap |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------|------|-------------------|
| BANKS                  | 30,366         | 1,806.43   | 2.1%  | 0.8%  | 11.3%  | 195,410,947     | 136,111,151  | 14,467        | 25.3 | 2.5  | 63.28%            |
| BASIC MATERIALS        | 760            | 852.14     | -1.3% | -0.5% | -16.8% | 5,640,681       | 2,411,730    | 795           | 9.1  | 1.2  | 1.58%             |
| CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY | 959            | 1,431.39   | 3.3%  | 2.5%  | 7.1%   | 27,219,932      | 6,109,607    | 2,523         | 33.4 | 10.6 | 2.00%             |
| CONSUMER STAPLES       | 137            | 450.21     | -2.7% | -1.1% | -38.4% | 5,941,079       | 2,134,610    | 348           | 29.8 | 1.0  | 0.29%             |
| ENERGY                 | 216            | 1,036.98   | 3.0%  | 1.6%  | -27.4% | 4,700,307       | 147,607      | 309           | 12.8 | 1.1  | 0.45%             |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES     | 4,175          | 1,283.10   | 2.2%  | 0.6%  | -9.9%  | 232,835,965     | 29,458,196   | 9,462         | 34.0 | 1.9  | 8.70%             |
| HEALTH CARE            | 234            | 472.74     | -1.9% | -1.9% | -40.7% | 13,809          | 9,581        | 9             | 13.2 | 3.6  | 0.49%             |
| INDUSTRIALS            | 3,933          | 1,108.50   | 2.4%  | 0.3%  | -2.9%  | 117,060,632     | 40,280,515   | 8,238         | 37.8 | 1.5  | 8.20%             |
| INSURANCE              | 630            | 1,521.68   | -0.5% | -0.3% | -0.8%  | 876,116         | 431,262      | 129           | 8.8  | 1.0  | 1.31%             |
| REAL ESTATE            | 2,640          | 1,233.09   | 1.4%  | 0.3%  | -7.0%  | 136,810,451     | 14,636,881   | 5,303         | 23.0 | 1.3  | 5.50%             |
| TECHNOLOGY             | 8              | 603.82     | -3.9% | -1.0% | -11.7% | 267,477         | 22,190       | 78            | 0.0  | 0.7  | 0.02%             |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS     | 3,718          | 1,212.38   | 0.3%  | 0.0%  | 11.3%  | 19,894,867      | 11,988,396   | 2,375         | 13.8 | 2.1  | 7.75%             |
| UTILITIES              | 212            | 507.89     | 1.6%  | 0.0%  | -15.4% | 2,534,003       | 486,198      | 319           | 14.8 | 2.2  | 0.44%             |

| Top Gainers |            |          |         |        |
|-------------|------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Stock       | last Close | Change % | Volume  | Trades |
| MRC         | 98         | 30.40%   | 241,409 | 87     |
| TAM         | 380.0      | 18.01%   | 156,155 | 39     |
| EQUIPMENT   | 37         | 16.88%   | 503,989 | 34     |
| TAMINV      | 625        | 15.74%   | 20,780  | 12     |
| KCIN        | 950        | 10.21%   | 37,869  | 15     |

| Top Losers |            |          |           |        |
|------------|------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Stock      | last Close | Change % | Volume    | Trades |
| REMAL      | 8.1        | -19.00%  | 9,977,315 | 499    |
| FCEM       | 35         | -9.90%   | 153,103   | 8      |
| ERESCO     | 56         | -7.50%   | 5,745,137 | 146    |
| KPPC       | 34.2       | -6.81%   | 3,236,270 | 109    |
| CLEANING   | 35.5       | -6.58%   | 118,372   | 18     |

| Top Volume |       |          |            |        |
|------------|-------|----------|------------|--------|
| Stock      | Last  | Change % | Volume     | Trades |
| KFH        | 808   | 0.87%    | 93,556,225 | 6,081  |
| ALAFCO     | 166   | 1.84%    | 56,131,154 | 1,345  |
| AAYAN      | 132   | 6.45%    | 50,909,008 | 981    |
| KRE        | 104   | -2.80%   | 44,338,872 | 1,221  |
| NBK        | 1,110 | 5.21%    | 35,857,273 | 3,125  |

| Top Value |       |          |            |        |
|-----------|-------|----------|------------|--------|
| Stock     | Last  | Change % | Volume     | Trades |
| KFH       | 808   | 0.87%    | 93,556,225 | 6,081  |
| NBK       | 1,110 | 5.21%    | 35,857,273 | 3,125  |
| AGLTY     | 778   | 1.43%    | 20,364,279 | 2,810  |
| ZAIN      | 600   | 0.50%    | 17,932,167 | 1,542  |
| ALAFCO    | 166   | 1.84%    | 56,131,154 | 1,345  |



**Market Summary:**

- Premier Market's weekly volume and value increased by 8% and 9%, while Main Market decreased by 20% and 17%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices managed to overcome critical resistance levels. Next is to restore August's peak which is 600 points away.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7365, with support levels at 7318, 7286, and 7214, and resistance at 7379. The Premier index closed at 8241, with support levels at 8184, 8116, and 8064, while resistance at 8273. The Main index closed at 5530, with support levels at 5516, 5495, and 5467, while resistance at 5550.

## Business

# Crime bedevils US shopkeepers in run-up to midterm election

## Republican candidates accusing Democratic opponents of being soft on crime

**SAN FRANCISCO:** When an upmarket clothing brand shuttered its San Francisco store last month, its boss said the west coast destination was a "city of chaos" where gangs of criminals roam free, robbing businesses at will. The closure of Cotopaxi seemed to confirm everything the Republican Party has been saying about rising crime in the United States in the run up to the midterm elections.

"Our store is hit by organized theft rings several times per week," wrote CEO Davis Smith in a viral social media post. "They brazenly enter the store and grab thousands of dollars of product and walk out. Our team is terrified. They feel unsafe," he wrote.

The swanky Hayes Valley neighborhood of San Francisco where Cotopaxi's now-closed storefront sits is a mix of cozy cafes, antique shops, designer jewelry stores and tony restaurants, where well-heeled tech entrepreneurs and visiting celebrities like Michelle Obama hang out.

Dozens of stores fill the three leafy blocks, selling everything from top-of-the-range electric bikes to one-of-a-kind designer clothes. So a business saying it is closing its doors because the area is a crime-ridden free-for-all certainly got attention, says Lloyd Silverstein, president of the Hayes Valley Merchants Association. "I think he wanted to make a statement," Silverstein told AFP.

Silverstein, who runs a designer eyewear store, said association members have seen a big upswing in broken storefronts and thefts. A message group

they set up to alert fellow merchants to danger was quickly swamped. "I was receiving messages every ten minutes," he says.

"We've been waving our hands with the police for a long time saying, 'Hey, pay attention to us. We've got a problem here.'" But nothing seemed to concentrate the minds of public officials until the fireworks of Cotopaxi's closure.

"That was I think what tipped the scales. Now this is front page news. The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Two police officers now patrol Hayes Valley, and the merchants' association message board is much quieter.

### Lack of police

Security concerns are not unique to Hayes Valley, nor to San Francisco, which this year voted to recall its progressive attorney general after a campaign accusing him of being weak on crime. For Robert Barnwell of the Hayes Valley public safety committee, the problems are state- and nationwide, and boil down to a lack of police—a deficit caused by what he says is their loss of prestige and their relatively poor salaries. As the two beat officers walk by, returning his wave, Barnwell says their presence is a major deterrent for wrongdoers, but it also helps remind merchants to take their own precautions.

"You have to put cameras in, train employees how to prevent shoplifting," he says. "You have to teach them how to have proper protection because



**SAN FRANCISCO:** Pedestrians walk along Hayes Street in the Hayes Valley neighborhood of San Francisco, California. —AFP

they (criminals) are going to keep coming back."

With America heading to the polls on November 8 to elect national, state, county and city leaders, crime is the number two issue on people's minds, according to polling by Gallup, which found 71 percent say it is a very or extremely important factor in deciding their ballot. According to the Council on Criminal Justice, a think tank, 29 cities—including

Democratic bastions San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York—have logged an increase in property crimes this year. Republican candidates up and down the ballot in every race are hammering the issue, accusing their Democratic opponents of being soft on crime. "We are a nation where... crime is rampant and out of control," former president Donald Trump told supporters in Iowa on Thursday. —AFP

## Anatomy of the week the Musk tornado hit Twitter

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The whirlwind week that Elon Musk took over Twitter began with sleepless nights for company engineers and ended with half the staff getting the axe. "It was a strange week," said one former employee speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Executives were getting fired or were resigning, but there was basically no official communication until 5 pm Thursday," some seven days after the deal was officialized. The employees received a first email Thursday informing them that they would know their fate the next day. On Friday, the second email confirmed the rumors: 50 percent of the staff lost their jobs.

The cull hit the marketing department hard, took two-thirds of the design department, and maybe 75 percent of managers. Content moderation was somewhat spared, with a layoff rate of only 15 percent, according to Yoel Roth, head of safety at the platform. After 24 hours without addressing the layoffs, Musk finally tweeted that "unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day" and that all those who lost their jobs were "offered three months of severance."

The layoff decision did not come as a surprise to employees—rumors had been growing—but they were shocked by how brutally it was carried out. "People would find out not by any phone call or any email... but just by seeing their work laptop automatically reboot and just to go blank," Emmanuel Cornet, a French engineer who had been at Twitter for a year and a half, told AFP on Friday.

### Class-action suit

Cornet was dismissed Tuesday after being told in an email he had "violated" several company policies, without further explanation, after spending an entire weekend in the office on projects launched by edict of the new owner. "I'm still trying to find out what the actual reason is," he said.

The Tesla chief executive had engineers from his flagship company parachute in to assess the work of Twitter developers, examining in particular the volume of code produced by each, Cornet said. He is one of five former Twitter employees who filed a class-action suit against the company on the grounds that they had not received the 60-day notice required by the 1988 federal Warn Act in the event of a plant closing or mass layoff.

The French expat said many laid-off colleagues were in an unenviable "position in terms of health insurance or visas." "Some were on parental leave. One colleague gave birth yesterday, only to be laid off today." Those laid off must continue to abide by the company's rules during the notice period. Many fear that the new management will look for excuses to accuse them of misconduct and not pay them severance.

"If anyone says something disparaging, or does anything they can use to dismiss them for cause they'll do that instead of severance," said the former employee speaking anonymously. For six months, the platform's employees were preparing for the possibility that the world's richest man might take control. He is preceded by his reputation, from the punishing work rates in his plants to his rejection of telecommuting, which is highly popular in the tech sector, and his absolutist vision of free speech, which his detractors claim can only lead to harassment, disinformation and a tolerance for hate speech. —AFP

## Former Twitter CEO apologizes to staff after massive layoffs

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Twitter co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey on Saturday apologized to company staff for growing the social media giant "too quickly" a day after roughly half of the company's 7,500 employees were fired by new owner Elon Musk.

"I realize many are angry with me," wrote Dorsey, who co-founded Twitter in 2006 and stepped down as CEO last year. "I own the responsibility for why everyone is in this situation: I grew the company size too quickly. I apologize for that," he said on Twitter.

## UN urges Musk to ensure Twitter respects rights

**WASHINGTON:** UN rights chief Volker Turk on Saturday urged Twitter's new owner Elon Musk to make respect for human rights central to the social network after he sacked around half the company's employees. Reports of Musk laying off the platform's entire human rights team were "not, from my perspective, an encouraging start", Turk said in an open letter.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said he was writing with "concern and apprehension about our digital public square and Twitter's role in it". He warned against propagating hate speech and misinformation and highlighted the need to protect user privacy. Musk, the richest person in the world, took control of the platform a week ago in a contentious deal.

After completing his mammoth \$44 billion acquisition, Musk quickly set about dissolving Twitter's board and sacking its chief executive and top managers. Twitter on Friday fired roughly half of its 7,500-strong workforce. "Like all companies, Twitter needs to understand the harms associated with its platform and take steps to address them,"

Many Twitter employees had been waiting for their former boss, a charismatic and influential figure in Silicon Valley, to react after Musk, the world's richest man, took control of the platform a week ago in a contentious deal. Dorsey had endorsed the takeover by Musk, calling it "the right path" in a Twitter post in April.

"Folks at Twitter past and present are strong and resilient," Dorsey wrote Saturday. "They will always find a way no matter how difficult the moment." Dorsey left the Twitter board of directors earlier this spring, but remains an indirect shareholder in the company. Musk completed his mammoth \$44 billion acquisition late last week and quickly set about dissolving its board and firing its chief executive and top managers. "I am grateful for, and love, everyone who has ever worked on Twitter," Dorsey tweeted. "I don't expect that to be mutual in this moment...or ever...and I understand." —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** In this file photo taken, Twitter CEO and co-founder Jack Dorsey interacts with students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in New Delhi. —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo illustration taken on October 28, 2022, the suspended Twitter account of former US President Donald Trump is displayed on a mobile phone with Trump's Truth's page shown in the background in Washington, DC. —AFP

wrote Turk.

"Respect for our shared human rights should set the guardrails for the platform's use and evolution. In short, I urge you to ensure human rights are central to the management of Twitter under your leadership." Turk posted the open letter on Twitter,

where he has more than 25,000 followers.

Turk, an Austrian longtime UN official who took up his post as the UN rights chief on October 17, spelled out some fundamental human rights principles, urging Musk to put them at the heart of Twitter's management going forward. —AFP



## LuLu Hypermarket launches 'World of Beauty 2022' promotion

**KUWAIT:** LuLu Hypermarket, the destination of choice for discerning shoppers in Kuwait, launched a week-long celebration featuring the highest quality beauty products from 2-8 November, at all its outlets in Kuwait. The 'LuLu World of Beauty 2022' promotion was inaugurat-



ed at the LuLu Hypermarket, Fahaheel, on 3 November by popular online influencers in beauty and fashion, in the presence of top LuLu Hypermarket management in Kuwait and, a large gathering of shoppers and well wishers.

Top quality branded health and beauty products are on special offer at strikingly affordable prices during the 'LuLu World of Beauty 2022' promotion. Aside from the dazzling promotional offers on popular skincare, haircare and wellness products, other highlights of the promotion include several beauty stalls set up by leading brands that not only showcase their range of products but also allow shoppers to test and sam-

ple the premium products.

In addition to highlighting their high-quality products, well-known beauty and wellness brands, such as Nivea, P&G, Unilever, L'Oréal, Enchanteur, Labello, Gillette, Johnson's, Hansaplast, Parachute and Kotex, are also supporting the promotion as sponsors.

LuLu World of Beauty 2022 promotion allows shoppers an opportunity to indulge in an authentic beauty care shopping experience, and reiterates LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to providing customers with an unrivaled shopping experience, while offering high quality products from around the world at exceedingly competitive prices.



## US Powerball jackpot grows to record \$1.9 bn

The US Powerball jackpot has grown to a massive \$1.9 billion after no one won Saturday's already record prize. The winning numbers were 28, 45, 53, 56 and 69, with a Powerball of 20. With no ticket matching the five numbers and the Powerball, the pot rolls over with a grand prize of \$1.9 billion up for grabs in Monday's draw, organizers said.

The Powerball jackpot is the biggest ever amassed, surpassing the already record \$1.6 billion which went unclaimed in Saturday's draw. The odds of winning the jackpot are still 1 in 292.2 million, organizers said. If there are duplicate winners who select the same combination of numbers, they would share the jackpot. While no one claimed the big prize on Saturday, 16 tickets matched the five main numbers to win \$1 million each. It costs \$2 to buy a Powerball ticket, and a winner could choose a lump sum payment, calculated for Monday's jackpot at \$929 million. Or they could opt for payments over 29 years. — AFP

# Hungarian traveler Alfred Maleczki: Kuwait is a small country with a big heart

By Faten Omar

Traveling opens your eyes, helps you learn who you are and creates meaningful relationships. Hungarian traveler Alfred Maleczki decided to explore the world, leaving his comfort zone behind to live the adventure, discover culture and meet new people. Kuwait Times spoke with Maleczki as he arrived in Kuwait, to

traveling after I first made a long trip across the world to Australia about 22 years ago. Since that time the desire for traveling lives with me like the desire for breathing. During my college years, I made several cycling trips in summers in different parts of the world, for example, Hungary to Morocco, Hungary to Indonesia, across Canada, across South America, etc. I just found no reason why I should stop.



learn more about his journey around the world that began with a step towards a dream.

**Kuwait Times: Tell us more about yourself.**

**Maleczki:** My name is Alfred Maleczki. I was born in Hungary. I am 38 years old, working as a quality manager at an automotive factory.

**KT: When did you start your journey around the world?**

**Maleczki:** I started dreaming about

**KT: How many countries have you been to so far?**

**Maleczki:** Currently 115 countries, out of which 10 are not among the 193 recognized countries.

**KT: How did you find Kuwait?**

**Maleczki:** Kuwait will always remain a shining moment in my life thanks to the amazing people I got to know here. No matter how far out cultures are, the new friends I met here make me truly feel at home. A small country with a big heart.



**KT: What attracted you the most in Kuwait?**

**Maleczki:** The modern and brilliant architecture, the exotic culture, the rich flavors of food, but of course, the people in the first place. I usually prefer destinations with good weather, as I grew up in the cold and dark winters of Europe, but I'm sure even if was 30 Celsius below zero, I would feel the same warmth here.

**KT: What do you think of traditional Kuwaiti cuisine?**

**Maleczki:** Whatever I tasted was incredibly delicious. Normally I'm not so enthusiastic about eating, but very enthusiastic about trying local food. Arabic and Indian food are on the top of my list, so Kuwait is also a great food destination for me.

**KT: Tell us more about your experience with people in Kuwait.**

**Maleczki:** I expected nice and friendly people obviously, as I had traveled to several Arab countries before, but wasn't sure how Kuwaiti people will compare to people from other Gulf countries. The local Couchsurfing community here is just brilliant. Even though I have an

introverted personality, I felt very comfortable and always got a lot of positive energy from everyone. I will always refer to Kuwait as one of the countries when people ask me about my favorites. I always highlight I don't have favorites — I just love different countries for different reasons.

**KT: What are your plans after Kuwait?**

**Maleczki:** I'll take a flight back home on Monday morning and will be back at work the same day, probably a bit late. Back to reality — this is five days of work and two days of traveling. I'll have non-stop weekend trips until the end of the year, when I'll finally make a longer trip to close the year, probably to India.

**KT: Did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your journey?**

**Maleczki:** COVID-19 did not stop me at all, except for one month. It made my trips more complicated, but I always found a way to travel, and probably spent a thousand hours on the phone rebooking dozens of flights after repeated cancellations. Airports were scary, deserted places, destinations were empty; it was a very different way of traveling.

**KT: What is the scariest situation you faced during your travels?**

**Maleczki:** Believing that I was being kidnapped in Ecuador during my cycling trip across the continent. I only found out I wasn't weeks later.

**KT: What is your message to our readers?**

**Maleczki:** Be open to accepting people whoever they are, wherever they came from. Be curious and hospitable and it will be an amazing experience for everyone. I wish the same lovely experience for all.



In this file photo singer Aaron Carter arrives for the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. — AFP

## Singer Aaron Carter dies at 34: TMZ

Aaron Carter, the American singer who soared to fame at the turn of the millennium with his hit album "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)," died Saturday, TMZ said. He was 34 years old. The entertainment outlet reported that the brother of Backstreet Boy Nick Carter was found dead in his tub at his residence in Lancaster, California. A police spokesperson told AFP that officers responded to Carter's home at 10:58 am and found a deceased body, but were not yet able to publicly identify the person.

Carter's manager did not immediately respond to an AFP query. The artist born December 7, 1987 in Tampa, Florida began performing at age seven, releasing his debut album at age nine in 1997. His sophomore effort "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)" sold three million copies stateside, propelling him to teen heartthrob status. He became a regular on preteen Nickelodeon and Disney shows, including an appearance on the popular "Lizzie McGuire." Carter toured with the boy band The Backstreet Boys-his elder brother is a member-as well as Britney Spears, and saw his next album, "Oh Aaron," go platinum.

As he aged the musician's star began to fade but Carter remained in the public eye, appearing on a number of reality shows and off-Broadway productions, and releasing some new music online. But his personal life struggles became tabloid fodder, including apparent strife among the five Carter siblings and family fights over money. In 2011 it was revealed that Carter had entered a treatment facility, with the star telling his fans that "the main thing in life is not to be afraid of being human."

After leaving rehab the artist began doing one-off shows, and later a Canadian tour. He released another album in 2018. He had filed a bankruptcy petition in 2013 over millions in debt, much of it tax-related. Carter also faced several run-ins with the law primarily over possession charges and reckless driving. In 2017 he began discuss publicly his arrests and skinny appearance that had fueled rumors of illness or illegal drug use.

He admitted himself to another treatment center over prescription drug use aimed at anxiety and sleep issues, reporting improvement in 2018. Earlier this year he told the Daily Mail he vied to no longer be seen as a "train wreck." "I am not how some people try to paint me," he told the outlet. "If somebody wants to call me a train wreck, well I've been a train that's been wrecked multiple times and derailed by many different things." — AFP





US singer-songwriter Dolly Parton performs with friends during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Microsoft Theatre. — AFP photos



Inductee singer-songwriter Dolly Parton performs during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



US singer-songwriter Dolly Parton performs during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Microsoft Theatre.

# 'I'm a rock star now!': Dolly, Eminem join Rock Hall of Fame



US singer-songwriters Dolly Parton and Pink perform during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran performs with inductee US rapper Eminem on stage.

**D**olly Parton led a supergroup in a rousing rendition of "Jolene" as Eminem brought the entire room to its feet at Saturday's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame gala, which inducted its most eclectic group of legends in years in an ode to rock's spirit. The country queen and rap agitator were joined by pop futurists Eurythmics, smooth rocker Lionel Richie, confessional lyricist Carly Simon and enduring rock duo Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo in entering the music pantheon.

"I'm a rock star now!" yelled Parton as she took the stage, fists in the air. The 76-year-old had tried to decline the prestigious honor because she didn't feel rock enough—"I didn't understand at the time that it's about a little more than that," she said with her infectious smile.

Artists including P!nk and Brandi Carlile gathered to perform Dolly classics including "9 to 5," before Parton returned to the stage in a stunningly body-con outfit dripping in chains. The icon then jammed out on a crystal-encrusted electric guitar to debut her new rock song, which included a mean solo from Parton herself. "I've still got rock and roll down in my country soul / and I'll be rockin' it til the cows come home," she belted.

### Rap village

Eminem delivered a blend of hits old and new, after one of music's master provocateurs walked out to the quintessential "My Name Is." His loyal mentor Dr Dre inducted the artist behind "The Marshall Mathers LP"—one of the best-selling albums of all time—who gained the



Inductee US rapper Eminem performs on stage.

hall's coveted recognition in his first year of eligibility.

The superstar built a massive career off his blistering flow and lyrical talent, but at times fueled it with eyebrow-raising controversy. Eminem invited none other than Steven Tyler to perform "Sing For The Moment" which samples "Dream On," and Ed Sheeran made a surprise appearance to sing Dido's "Thank You" sample in "Stan."

The now 50-year-old then donned his

glasses to read his acceptance speech, touching on the obstacles he overcame including a troubled childhood and addiction struggles. But he spent most of his time at the podium thanking dozens of fellow rappers. "They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well it took a whole genre and culture to raise me," he said. "I'm a high school dropout, man, with a hip hop education, and these are my teachers." "And it's their night just as much as it is mine."



Rapper Dr Dre (right) gives inductee rapper Eminem his award.



New inductees US singer-songwriter Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo speak on stage.



Musicians Sheryl Crow and Zac Brown perform during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Microsoft Theatre.



Inductee US rapper Eminem and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler perform on stage.



Inductees British musicians Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart of Eurythmics perform on stage.



Inductee US singer-songwriter Lionel Richie holds his award.



English band Duran Duran (from left to right) John Taylor, Nick Rhodes, Simon Le Bon and Roger Taylor pose with their inductee trophy on stage.



US singer Olivia Rodrigo performs under a photo of Carly Simon, on stage.

**Rock vibes**  
The 2022 class saw the hallowed institution continue to bring rappers, pop, R&B and country stars into the hall's fold. "Rock and roll is not a color, it is a feeling, it is a vibe," said Richie to a chorus of cheers. "If we let that vibe come through, this room will grow and grow." Richie's show-stopping performance included a sing-off with Dave Grohl, who offered guitar riffs to accompany the classic "Easy (Like Sunday Morning.)" Synthpop pioneers Eurythmics—the duo comprised of Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart—also took their place among rock's greatest, but not before delivering a performance that included their classic "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)." And Duran Duran met the moment with a best-of medley including "Girls On Film" and "Hungry Like The Wolf."

But the British group also held a somber moment for former member Andy Taylor. Frontman Simon Le Bon read an open letter from the guitarist that revealed he had been struggling with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer for years. But Taylor said he was "sure as hell glad I'm around to see the day" that the hitmakers made it into the rock hall. Simon, known for her deeply personal songwriting, was inducted by Sara Bareilles but unable to attend, as two of her sisters recently both died of cancer. "One of the greatest things about music," Simon said in a message read by Bareilles, "is its uncanny knack for making physical art out of formless emotions like joy and pain." Pop sensation Olivia Rodrigo then took the stage to perform Simon's seminal 1970s hit "You're So Vain," as audience members including Carliie and LL Cool J bobbed their heads and sang along. Inducted by Sheryl Crow, Benatar and Giraldo delivered a heart-thumping rendition of their top songs including "Love is a Battlefield" and "Heartbreaker." And none other than Bruce Springsteen, who attended Saturday to give a special induction to master producer Jimmy Iovine, took the stage to perform alongside John Mellencamp in honor of the late Jerry Lee Lewis. The Boss slayed a fiery guitar solo as the band delivered a rollicking version of the original hall of famer's "Great Balls of Fire." — AFP



English singer Simon Le Bon of band Duran Duran performs on stage.



Inductee US singer-songwriter Lionel Richie performs on stage with US musician Dave Grohl (right).



Inductees British musicians Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart of Eurythmics hold their award on stage.



Irish musician Edge from U2 introduces Eurythmics during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



US singer-songwriter Lenny Kravitz speaks on stage.



Rob Halford, lead vocalist of Judas Priest, receives the Musical Excellence Award from Alice Cooper.



US singer-songwriter Lenny Kravitz speaks on stage.



US actor Robert Downey Jr speaks on stage.



K.K. Downing (left) and Richie Faulkner (right) of Judas Priest, perform on stage.



Musicians John Mellencamp (left) and Bruce Springsteen (right) perform during the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



US singer-songwriter Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo perform on stage.

## Sports

## Astros thump Phillies to grab second World Series crown

## Alvarez smashes a three-run homer

WASHINGTON: Yordan Alvarez smashed a three-run homer and the Houston Astros captured their second World Series in six seasons on Saturday with a 4-1 victory over Philadelphia. The Cuban slugger's sixth-inning blast off Phillies relief pitcher Jose Alvarado gave Houston the lead for good as the Astros took Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship final four games to two.

"I just tried to stay a little calm and get a good pitch to swing at and that's what I did," Alvarez said of his third game-winning playoff homer. "It was amazing. When I was rounding second base I felt the whole stadium moving." The home victory brought 73-year-old Astros manager Dusty Baker his first World Series crown in 25 seasons as an MLB bench boss. "That's the final chapter to the movie," Baker said. "They told me in spring training they were going to win. Now what's next? Party."

Baker, whose 2,093 wins were the most for any manager without a World Series title, quickly enjoyed the long-sought title. "It hit me all right," Baker said. "It hit me as soon as Yordan hit that ball over the moon out there." The Astros, in their fourth World Series in six seasons and fifth overall, won their only prior title in 2017. Many MLB fans see that as a tainted title after the Astros were found to have used an electronic sign stealing system, allowing Houston batters to know what pitch was coming.

Baker took over in January 2020 after A.J. Hinch was fired over the scandal and helped the Astros put the shameful episode behind them. "All the stuff we've been going through the last three years, hopefully it's over," Baker said. "You've got to let it ride." The Astros, who lost the 2019 World Series to Washington and 2021 Series to Atlanta, were emotional about winning the crown for Baker. "He means everything," said Astros star Jose Altuve, among five players from 2017 still on the roster. "He came here at the right time with the right team."

Houston's Jeremy Pena became the first rookie position player to be named World Series Most Valuable Player and only the second rookie MVP of a league final and World Series. The 25-year-old Dominican became the first rookie with a hit in each of the first six games of a World Series. "Individual awards are cool and all but



HOUSTON: Michael Brantley #23 of the Houston Astros celebrates with the Commissioner's Trophy after defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 in Game Six of the 2022 World Series on November 05, 2022. — AFP

that's the trophy we want right there," Pena said, looking at the champion's trophy. "This is what we dream about."

The Phillies, who sought their third World Series crown after 1980 and 2008, had not reached the playoffs since 2011 and hadn't reached the World Series since 2009. "I'm really proud of them," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "They came to play every day. They played hard." Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler took his second loss of the Series while Dominican left-hander Framber Valdez struck out nine and improved to 3-0 in the playoffs. Kyle Schwarber blasted a solo homer in the sixth to give Philadelphia a 1-0 lead. But in the bottom of the sixth, Altuve reached first base on a fielder's choice and took third on a Pena single, prompting the Phillies to remove Wheeler for Alvarado.

## Amazing pitching

Alvarez then blasted the ball over the centerfield wall to put the hosts in front. "Yordan has been doing it all year," Pena said. "Always trust the big man. That was impressive." "I knew as soon as he hit that one it was a big one," Altuve said. "I thought 3-1 would be a good lead for us to win the ball game." Alex Bregman added another run in the sixth when he walked, advanced on a wild pitch and scored on a Christian Vazquez single to create the final margin. Astros relief pitchers allowed only two runs over 18 1/3 innings with 25 strikeouts in five games and again dominated Phillies batters over the final three innings to seal victory. "This pitching staff has been amazing all year," Houston's Martin Maldonado said. "The bullpen has been really good. We get to them and then adios." — AFP

## Flightline pulls away for a majestic win in Breeders Cup Classic

WASHINGTON: Undeclared Flightline cemented his superhorse status in spectacular fashion, pulling away in the stretch for a breathtaking 8 1/4-length triumph in Saturday's \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic. French jockey Flavien Prat rode the heavily favored four-year-old colt to victory in the 1 1/4-mile showdown, which capped a two-day, 14-race card worth more than \$30 million at Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky.

"This is one of the great horses of all time. I think history will show that," Flightline trainer John Sadler said. Flightline left behind his last rival at the top of the final stretch and surged to an impressive victory. "He showed so much talent," Prat said. "We were expecting a great run from him. I thought it was one of the deepest fields but he was an all-pro."

"He broke really well. I was traveling well and he relaxed really well down the back side. I felt like I was in control the whole race." The 2-5 favorite, Prat's fourth career Breeders' Cup winning ride, improved to 5-0 with 25-1 Olympiad left a distant second and Taiba (8-1) finishing third. "This is a very special animal to our sport," Flightline co-owner Kosta Hironis said. "We need a hero. We need a champion. We need an undefeated horse and somebody that can really go out and do his thing. And that's Flightline."

Asked about the horse's future, a prior plan to retire him to stud or perhaps possible future races in the wake of the Classic romp, Hironis said no decision has been made. "The partnership group will get together in the next couple days and consider how we're going to move forward," he said. —AFP



LEXINGTON: Jockey Flavien Prat celebrates after riding Flightline to win the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic during the 2022 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland Race Course on November 05, 2022. — AFP



## Kuwait Equestrian Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Equestrian Club Rider Rakan Al-Hasawi won the first place in horse jumping Fourth Local Championship for the current season 2022-2023, following strong competition with other riders. He won in 31.12 seconds without faults. Masayel Club rider Abdullah Al-Awadi took the second place, followed by Fawaz Al-Subaie, Mohammad Al-Mousa and Nadiyah Al-Mutawa respectively. In the 120 cm hurdles, Nick Chaning took the first place; Ali Al-Kharafi (second) and Abdullah Al-Awadhi (third). Yousuf Al-Nuaimi won the 110 cm event followed by Abdelaziz Al-Ajeel and Madhi Al-Khamees.

## South Korea's DRX crowned League of Legends champions

SAN FRANCISCO: South Korean team DRX were crowned League of Legends world champions on Saturday after scoring a surprise 3-2 victory over compatriots T1 in a thrilling final of the eSports tournament in San Francisco. T1, the most successful team in eSports history, started as favorites and took the lead in the first round of the competition. But DRX took command after many upsets, in particular thanks to 19-year-old Kim "Zeka" Geon-woo.

Their win, the team's first ever, was highly anticipated for talented 26-year-old Kim "Deft" Hyuk-kyu, who started competing in 2014 but had only made it past the quarter-finals once, also in 2014. No player so "old" had ever won the world championships until this year. "I'm too old to cry like this but I'm really overwhelmed right now. Ever since my debut, every single night I've been dreaming about myself winning the world championship," Deft said on stage before brandishing the cup with his four teammates.

"It was only a dream but now I made it and I'm so happy right now," he said after the final in front of 16,000 spectators at the Chase Center in San Francisco, home to the Golden State Warriors NBA team. It was an amazing result for DRX, who did not shine in the South Korean league this year and had struggled to qualify for the world championships.



## 'Crazy year'

"This year was crazy, it's impossible to describe how I am feeling right now," said Zeka. "I feel like crying but Deft has been crying so much, so thank you Deft for crying for me." LoL commentator Fabien "Chips" Culie praised the team's "outstanding resilience." "It's an incredible storyline," said Chips. "In the quarter-finals they beat last year's world champions, they were down 2-0, then won the last three games, it's only happened twice in the world championships." The final was equally memorable, with many twists greeted by the crowd chanting the names of the two teams in turn.

"I think DRX had better concentration heading into the later phase of the series," T1's Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok told a press conference afterwards. "Our players worked so hard throughout the year and thanks to that we were able to get this potential where we were so close to winning worlds finals," he said. It was a particularly bitter defeat for the T1 veteran after victories in 2013, 2015 and 2016. In South Korea, Faker enjoys fame and fortune comparable to that of basketball stars.

The final, followed by millions of people online, opened with a performance by rapper Lil Nas X and Hong Kong singer Jackson Wang, a former member of K-pop group GOT7. "We were watching it in person for the first time, it's fantastic, so much better than online," said Maddie Zhang, 24, who came from Chicago especially for the final. "It was a very good game, very well played but we are heartbroken because our team lost," added her friend Jessica Zhou, from Los Angeles. —AFP

## News in brief

## Ovechkin sets NHL record

WASHINGTON: Alex Ovechkin broke the National Hockey League record for most goals with one team on Saturday by scoring his 787th for the Washington Capitals in a 3-2 loss to Arizona. The 37-year-old Russian left wing scored the game's first goal 8:55 into the second period on the power play with a one-timer blast from the left faceoff circle - an area nicknamed "Ovie's Office" for his frequency of scoring from there. Ovechkin had matched the old one-team goals mark of 786 set by Gordie Howe with a second-period goal Thursday in a 3-1 Washington loss at Detroit, where Howe played for most of his career. "Obviously, right now it's a special night," Ovechkin said. "My wife, my kids are here, all my friends, and I know my parents are watching back home."

## Dryburgh wins Japan Classic

OTSU: Gemma Dryburgh became the first Scot to win on the LPGA Tour since 2011, staying "surprisingly calm" to claim victory by four strokes at the LPGA Japan Classic on Sunday. World number 199 Dryburgh rattled off seven birdies with no bogeys on her final round to capture her first title on the elite LPGA Tour. She also gave Scotland its first winner on the tour since Catriona Matthew at the 2011 Lorena Ochoa Invitational. Dryburgh began the day one shot behind leader Momoka Ueda but carded a final-day score of 65 to put her 20-under overall, four shots clear of Japanese runner-up Kana Nagai. The 29-year-old from Aberdeen said winning the tournament was "overwhelming" but showed no signs of nerves as the prize got closer. "I was surprisingly calm," said Dryburgh, who finished her round with a birdie.

## Xiaoyuan retains bars title

LIVERPOOL: China's Wei Xiaoyuan retained the uneven bars title at the World Gymnastics Championships in Liverpool on Saturday against a high-class field including Olympic champion Nina Derwael. Many leading competitors had been absent when Wei, now 18, triumphed in Kitakyushu last year. But Wei proved that success was no fluke as she inflicted Belgium star Derwael's first defeat at a World Championships since 2017. Wei gave China their first women's gold medal in Liverpool with a winning score of 14.966. Shilese Jones of the United States, the all-around silver medalist, was second on 14.766 and Derwael third on 14.700.

## Ledecy sets world record

LOS ANGELES: Katie Ledecy broke the 800m freestyle short course world record on Saturday at the FINA World Cup meeting in Indianapolis, her second world mark in a one-week span. The US freestyle great clocked 7min 57.42 at the World Cup event in Indiana, breaking the previous record of 7:59.34 set in 2013 by Spain's Mireia Belmonte. Ledecy had opened her season at the World Cup stop in Toronto last weekend, where she shattered the 1,500m freestyle short course record with a time of 15:08.24sec. That sliced almost 10 seconds off the previous mark of 15:18.01 set by Germany's Sarah Wellbrock in 2019 in Berlin.

## Philipsen pips Vingegaard

SAITAMA: Jasper Philipsen pipped Tour de France champion Jonas Vingegaard to the line in a sprint finish to win the Saitama Criterium in Japan on Sunday. Vingegaard said he had "no chance" of beating Belgian sprint specialist Philipsen when the pair and Welshman Geraint Thomas closed in on the line after almost 60 kilometers of street racing. "I had to try in the sprint but 10 out of 10 he would beat me," said the Dane. "Of course I would have liked to win, but in a sprint I don't really have a chance against Jasper." Vingegaard won the inaugural Singapore Criterium last week after a blistering final lap battling against a hot tropical sun. Conditions were cooler as the Japanese race returned for the first time since 2019 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but Vingegaard could not give himself enough breathing space to avoid the sprint finish.

## Scotland survive Fiji fright

EDINBURGH: Scotland saw off Fiji 28-12 at Murrayfield on Saturday in unconvincing fashion as they revived their Autumn Nations Series campaign. George Turner's try gave Scotland an early lead but the visitors, coached by former Scotland boss Vern Cotter, hit back with two of their own before the hosts managed to lead 14-12 at the interval. Tries either side of half-time from Adam Hastings and Duhan van der Merwe gave Scotland breathing space before replacement Ben White crossed late on. Victory came after Scotland started their end-of-year program with a 16-15 loss to Australia at Murrayfield last weekend. But a double-figure penalty count against Fiji was a worrying sign for Scotland coach Gregor Townsend ahead of New Zealand's visit a week on Sunday, with the Scots yet to beat the All Blacks in 31 matches spanning 117 years. — From AFP

## Sports

# Pique takes Camp Nou bow as Barca beat Almeria to go top

## Osasuna overpower Celta Vigo 2-1

**BARCELONA:** Gerard Pique bowed out at Camp Nou on an emotional night as Barcelona beat Almeria 2-0 to move top of La Liga, despite missing several clear chances on Saturday. This was the 35-year-old defender's last home game for the club, whom he has played for 616 times, and the World Cup winner will retire from football after Tuesday's visit to Osasuna. Goals from Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong allowed Pique to go out in style in front of the home fans as Barcelona eased two points clear of Real Madrid, who visit Rayo Vallecano on Monday.

A giant banner was draped over the centre-circle bearing the message "Sempr3" - a play on "always" in Catalan and Pique's shirt number - as he led the team out wearing the captain's armband, instead of Sergio Busquets. Whistles from recent weeks because of Pique's struggles turned to cheers every time he touched the ball, as fans paid their respect to a club legend and arguably their best ever central defender. "Sometimes loving is letting go," Pique told supporters in a tearful speech after the game.

"I am sure in the future I will be back here again. It's not a goodbye. I left after 17 years to get some air. My grandfather made me a club member. I was born here and I will die here. Visca Barca." Pique, who won 30 trophies with the club over 14 years since re-joining from Manchester United, lined up in a makeshift defense featuring three left-backs. Jordi Alba played in his natural position, while Alejandro Balde started at right back and Marcos Alonso at centre-back, as Barcelona wait for their injured defenders to return.

### Missed chances

Barcelona had the chance to go ahead early on when they were awarded a soft penalty for a handball by Kaiky, but Lewandowski scuffed his effort wide, off the outside of the post. Fans had called for Pique to take the penalty, but the defender appeared to turn the opportunity down and left the league's top goalscorer, and player of the month for October, with the ball. Almeria created an opportunity of their own when Largie Ramazani broke through and Marc-Andre ter Stegen rushed out to deny him, while Gonzalo Melero cleared a Ferran Torres effort off the line.

Then the Barcelona winger, when well placed to shoot himself, generously crossed for Dembele. The French international inexplicably headed straight at Almeria goalkeeper Fernando Martinez with the rest of the goal gaping. Dembele finally grabbed the opener early in the second half, dribbling in from the right wing and then slotting home superbly.

Minutes later he had another huge chance but after dribbling around goalkeeper Fernando, refused to pull the trigger, and the recovering defense managed to stifle Dembele before he got a shot away. Ansu Fati, on as a substitute, should have scored himself but fired straight at Fernando on Alba's fine cross, but De Jong was on hand to turn home the rebound. Pique received an ovation as he was replaced in the final stages, embracing each of his team-mates on the pitch and blowing kisses to supporters before departing.

The game continued, virtually unnoticed, as Camp Nou paid homage to Pique by chanting his name as he hugged Barca coach Xavi, the substi-



**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's Spanish defender Jordi Alba kicks the ball during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and UD Almeria on November 5, 2022. — AFP

tutes and the staff. "It was a historic night and complete for everyone, especially for Gerard," Xavi told DAZN. "We had a great game, we wanted to say goodbye to him in the best way possible. The bigger the game is for him, the bigger he plays. I have already said he is a Barca legend and we are very

grateful to him." Earlier an impressive Chimy Avila brace helped Osasuna win 2-1 at Celta Vigo and climb provisionally fifth, continuing their strong start to the season. It was a disappointing start to life at Balaidos for new Celta coach Carlos Carvalhal. — AFP

## Giroud spares Milan embarrassment

**MILAN:** Olivier Giroud spared AC Milan the embarrassment of having their Serie A title defence damaged by Paolo Maldini's son on Saturday with a stunning late volley which earned his team a 2-1 win over Spezia. Milan moved up to second, six points behind league leaders Napoli, after substitute Giroud crashed in a superb finish from Sandro Tonali's cross in the 89th minute just as it looked like Daniel Maldini had left them trailing even further behind.

In the bedlam that followed his winner veteran striker Giroud, 36, was sent off as he ripped his shirt off in celebration and was given a second booking. France international Giroud was on a high as he scored twice and set up two more on Wednesday, when Milan moved into the Champions League last 16 for the first time in nine years, and has now scored nine goals in all competitions.

"It was a great goal but it was a brilliant pass from Sandro," said Giroud to Sky Sport Italia. "I'm annoyed because I forgot (about the first yellow card), but it is what it is." On loan at Spezia from Milan, Daniel Maldini curled in a superb leveller just before the hour mark to stun the 70,000 fans present to watch what was expected to be a simple win for the champions, especially after Theo Hernandez had poked the hosts ahead in the 21st minute.

The strike from 21-year-old midfielder Maldini, whose only other senior career goal came against Spezia for Milan last season, would have left Stefano



**MILAN:** AC Milan's French forward Olivier Giroud (2nd left) pushes Spezia's Swedish defender Emil Holm during the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and Spezia on November 5, 2022. — AFP

Pioli's side eight points off the pace had Giroud not stepped in with another huge goal. "He's a great player and he needs to get games. We're waiting for him to come back here as soon as he can," Theo Hernandez said to Sky Sport Italia.

A draw with 17th-placed Spezia would have been a big blow for Milan as Napoli went eight points clear earlier on Saturday by beating Atalanta 2-1 in Bergamo earlier on Saturday as they hunt a first Scudetto since 1990. Milan struck the woodwork twice through Ismael Bennacer and Rafael Leao, while Tonali thought he had given Milan the lead five minutes after Maldini's leveller only to see his superb long-range effort chalked off for a foul

by Fikayo Tomori in the build-up. "It was a hard game, in the first half we had five or six clear chances and when you don't score they can," added Hernandez.

Napoli's aspirations of a first league crown since the days of Diego Maradona look more serious with each passing week and getting past Atalanta side in Bergamo further strengthened their Scudetto credentials. Napoli have won nine league fixtures on the bounce and pulled further away from the chasing pack after first-half strikes from the league leading scorer Victor Osimhen and Eljif Elmas cancelled out Ademola Lookman's 19th-minute penalty for the hosts. — AFP

## Lens edge Angers to keep pressure on PSG

**PARIS:** Lens stayed second in Ligue 1 as they won 2-1 at bottom side Angers on Saturday. Earlier, Ajaccio, who started the day level with Angers, fought back to beat visiting Strasbourg 4-2 with all the goals coming in a crazed first half. Lens kept up their light pressure on leaders, Paris Saint-Germain, who travel to fourth-placed Lorient on Sunday.

Lens are two points behind PSG after playing a game more. They moved six points clear of Rennes, who visit Lille on Sunday. Lens continued a recent pattern. They have now won six of their last eight games, five of them by a single goal. But the Angers goal, scored by Miha Blazic, came so late it was little more than a consolation.

Wesley Said gave Lens a 21st minute lead finishing off a magnificent team move. Facundo Medina gave the visitors a cushion with a second in the 51st minute, Blazevic headed home a corner from Nabil Bentaleb with three minutes left but Lens took the win. "If we put the ingredients in every game, we are rewarded," Lens captain Seko Fofana told French broadcaster on Canal+. "We don't look at



**ANGERS:** Angers' Algerian forward Farid El Melali is tackled by Angers' Ivorian defender Souleyman Doumbia (left) during the French L1 football match between SCO Angers and RC Lens on November 5, 2022. — AFP

the table. As long as we take opportunities like this, we will not stop dreaming."

In Corsica, there were six first-half goals, three penalties and a red card. Jean-Ricner Bellegarde and Kevin Gameiro had the visitors two goals up after 17 minutes then winger Youcef Belaili and the raucous home crowd took over. The Algerian, who joined Ajaccio last month, scored his first goal for the club when he whacked a 33rd minute penalty

straight into the centre of the goal after a handball by Thomas Delaine.

A minute later Mounaim El Idrissy leveled for the home team. After Delaine fouled Belaili in the 39th minute, the winger wrong-footed goalie Matz Sels from the penalty spot. Belaili set up the fourth with a dribble and cross for Riad Nouri to score just before the break. Belaili had a chance of a penalty hat-trick after 63 but missed the target. — AFP

## Bale rescue act as LAFC down Union to win MLS Cup

**LOS ANGELES:** Gareth Bale scored a dramatic stoppage-time equalizer before Los Angeles FC defeated Philadelphia Union on penalties to clinch their first MLS Cup crown on Saturday. Wales star Bale headed home in the eighth minute of time added on after 30 minutes of extra-time to snatch a 3-3 draw for 10-man Los Angeles at the Banc of California Stadium.

Unheralded Los Angeles goalkeeper John McCarthy—who had only come as a substitute in the 117th minute after Maxime Crepeau was sent off—then saved twice in the shootout before Ilie Sanchez struck the winning spot-kick. Relieved Los Angeles coach Steve Cherundolo praised the game-saving contribution of Bale after the win. "It's Gareth being Gareth," Cherundolo said. "He's a big player with big qualities and a guy who makes big plays."

But Cherundolo joked that Bale's knack of rising to the occasion does not extend to Wales' World Cup opener against the United States in Qatar on November 21. "Let's hope he doesn't in the first game of the World Cup for all the Americans here," Cherundolo said. "But it was just Gareth being Gareth. He does it in training, he's done it this season, when he's feeling well and healthy he makes a difference in games. And that's why we bring him on in those moments."

Former Real Madrid star Bale meanwhile was left delighted after scoring another goal in a major final—he has also netted in three different Champions League finals. "It's always nice to score in finals and I seem to have the knack of doing that," Bale said. "It's big. It's important for the club, it's important for the fans. Credit to everybody to keep pushing and to keep fighting. It was nice to get the goal and help the team. Where it ranks? I'm not too sure—but it's a great feeling."

Bale had not appeared at all for Los Angeles during their march through the playoffs to Major League Soccer's championship game. But the veteran Welshman was brought on in extra-time for Los Angeles captain Carlos Vela after the game had finished 90 minutes locked at 2-2. It looked as if Bale's appearance would be in vain, however, as momentum appeared to swing decisively in Philadelphia's favor in the second period of extra-time.

Los Angeles goalkeeper Crepeau was dismissed for bringing down Cory Burke as the Philadelphia substitute bore down on goal. That brought inexperienced back-up John McCarthy onto the field with three minutes remaining. — AFP

## Spain and Germany butt heads in tricky Group E

**BARCELONA:** European giants Spain and Germany face off in World Cup Group E, the only one featuring two nations who have previously won the tournament. The other two teams, Japan and Costa Rica, will be looking to cause an upset, with most expecting the heavyweight sides to sew up the top spots and reach the latter stages.

Both Spain and Germany suffered at Russia 2018,

eliminated in the last 16 and group stage respectively, but hopes are significantly higher ahead of kick-off in Qatar, with their clash booked for November 27. Germany, four-time World Cup winners and the defending champions in the previous edition, were humiliated by finishing bottom of their group, failing to progress for the first time since 1938 in one of the biggest shocks in the competition's history.

Joachim Loew's side, who romped to a famous 7-1 win over Brazil in the 2014 World Cup and then beat Lionel Messi and Argentina in the final, also suffered at Euro 2020, where England knocked them out in the last 16. It spelt the end for Loew, and former Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick took the reins, giving the team an overdue refresh and

operating with a high-pressing, intense gameplan.

Germany have a crop of exciting players, including Bayern duo Serge Gnabry and Jamal Musiala, plus Chelsea's Kai Havertz, as well as established stars like Joshua Kimmich and Thomas Mueller. Spain are in a similar position, with youngsters like Pedri, Gavi, and Ansu Fati, mixed in with older heads like Sergio Busquets and Alvaro Morata. La Roja won their only World Cup trophy in 2010, beating Germany in the semi-finals on the way. They also beat Germany in the Euro 2008 final.

Luis Enrique's side produced a stunning 6-0 win over Germany in November 2020 when Loew was still at the helm, with Ferran Torres scoring a hat-trick in the emphatic Nations League triumph. However Spain went on to lose to France in the final

of that tournament and were knocked out in the Euro 2020 semi-finals by Italy, leaving fans hungry for more silverware after their golden era between 2008-2012. Spain's last international trophy was the 2012 Euro, followed by an appalling showing of their own as defending World Cup champions in 2014, knocked out in the group.

In Russia they did not fare much better, sacking coach Julen Lopetegui on the eve of the tournament after he was announced as Real Madrid's next manager, before being eliminated by the hosts on penalties in the last 16. Coach Luis Enrique splits opinions in his homeland for some of his selection decisions but his results have been good with Spain, who also press high and maintain plenty of possession. — AFP

## Kuwait beat Kazma to win Super Cup



KUWAIT: Kuwait SC won the Kuwait Super Cup for the sixth time in its history after beating Kazma SC 2-1 on Sunday. — KUNA

### Arsenal back on top; Salah double lifts Liverpool

MANCHESTER: Arsenal beat Chelsea 1-0 to dispel doubts over their Premier League title credentials and go top of the table on Sunday as Liverpool bounced back with a 2-1 win at Tottenham. Manchester United were blown away 3-1 by an inspired Aston Villa on Unai Emery's bow as boss, while Newcastle moved up to third with a 4-1 victory at Southampton.

Gabriel Magalhaes bundled in Bukayo Saka's corner for the only goal at Stamford Bridge, but the slender margin of victory was the very least Arsenal deserved. Chelsea offered barely anything going forward as they slipped to back-to-back Premier League defeats for the first time in two years.

"For such a young team, the maturity, the composure they showed, the resilience and courage to play how we wanted to play was phenomenal to do it against these kind of players," said a proud Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. "Winning in this stadium is an extra thing, another step for this team to keep believing they can do it under pressure and against big opponents."

Victory takes Arsenal back two points clear of Manchester City at the top of the table. Chelsea remain in seventh, behind Brighton, who Graham Potter left in September to take charge of the Blues. Liverpool had slipped down to 10th before kick-off at

the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium after consecutive defeats to Nottingham Forest and Leeds.

But Mohamed Salah's first-half double secured a first away league win of the season for Jurgen Klopp's men. The Egyptian coolly slotted home Darwin Nunez's pass before pouncing on an error from Eric Dier. Harry Kane pulled a goal back 20 minutes from time, but Spurs could not keep up their run of impressive late fightbacks to suffer a third defeat in four league games.

#### Emery's dream start

United were unbeaten in nine games as the Red Devils appeared to be taking shape under Erik ten Hag. But despite the lavish amounts spent to assemble the United squad, a lack of strength in depth was exposed with Antony, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane missing due to injury and Bruno Fernandes suspended.

Emery could not have asked for a better start to his time in charge of Villa as Leon Bailey smashed across David de Gea and Lucas Digne's free-kick found the top corner inside 11 minutes. "You have to be ready for the game, we were not," said Ten Hag. "We lost the game at the start of the first half and start of the second half. That's not acceptable."

Luke Shaw's strike that deflected off Jacob Ramsey into his own net gave the visitors hope just before half-time. Villa, though, quickly restored their two-goal lead when Ramsey side-footed into the top corner on 49 minutes. Cristiano Ronaldo captained United just weeks after being disciplined for refusing Ten Hag's orders to come on as a substitute.

On another frustrating afternoon for Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner survived a VAR review



BIRMINGHAM: Aston Villa's Argentinean goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez (2nd right) catches the ball during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Manchester Utd on November 6, 2022. — AFP

for a red card after clashing with Tyrone Mings. Newcastle's sixth win in seven games took them above Tottenham into third. Miguel Almiron continued his stunning form with a seventh goal in as many games to open the scoring in sodden conditions at St. Mary's.

There was no way back for Ralph Hasenhuttl's men once substitute Chris Wood found the far corner

before Kieran Trippier set up Joe Willock to make it 3-0. Romain Perraud pulled a goal back a minute from time, but Newcastle had the final word when Bruno Guimaraes curled into the bottom corner to leave the Saints still rooted in the relegation zone. Michael Olise struck the winner for Crystal Palace deep into stoppage time as a 2-1 win at West Ham lifted the Eagles up to 10th. — AFP

### No Giannis, no problem as Bucks remain unbeaten

LOS ANGELES: The Milwaukee Bucks didn't miss a beat with two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo sidelined for the first time this season, pushing their record to 9-0 Saturday with a 108-94 victory over Oklahoma City. Antetokounmpo was listed as out with left knee soreness a night after he posted his first triple-double of the season in a victory at Minnesota. Brook Lopez helped fill the void with 25 points as the Bucks improved on their already best-ever start to the season.

Elsewhere, there were overtime wins for the Atlanta Hawks and Sacramento Kings, and the Boston Celtics set a franchise record with 27 three-pointers with a 133-118 victory over the New York Knicks. In Milwaukee, Lopez connected on 10 of 16 shots from the floor to pace the Bucks, who had 17 three-pointers. Bobby Portis and Jrue Holiday both posted double-doubles and the Bucks led by as many as 24. De'Aaron Fox was the hero in Orlando, draining a three-pointer from near half-court as time expired to lift the Kings to a 126-123 overtime victory over the Magic in Orlando.

Fox scored a game-high 37 points. That included the first six in overtime, but they were tied 123-123 with 2.5 seconds left in the extra session after Orlando's Chime Okereke seized upon a Kings turnover and drove for a dunk. "I just tried to get as in front of the basket as I possibly could, and just tried to get it up," Fox said. "It felt good, and it went in." The Kings had out-scored the Magic 36-12 to erase a 20-point third-quarter deficit. They traded the lead five times in the fourth, with Fox's bank shot tying it up in the final second.



MILWAUKEE: Josh Giddey #3 of the Oklahoma City Thunder drives to the basket against MarJon Beauchamp #0 of the Milwaukee Bucks during the second half of a game on November 05, 2022. — AFP

Sensational rookie Paolo Banchero led the Magic with 33 points and 15 rebounds. The 19-year-old joined LeBron James as the only teenagers to record at least 30 points and 15 rebounds in an NBA game. In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 34 points to lead five Hawks players in double figures in a 124-121 overtime victory over the New Orleans Pelicans. Zion Williamson and CJ McCollum scored 29 points apiece for the Pelicans, who have dropped three overtime decisions in the first three weeks of the season.

In New York, Jaylen Brown scored 30 points and Jayson Tatum added 26 for the Celtics, who buried the Knicks with a long-range barrage. Brown and Tatum had half a dozen three-pointers each and reserve guard Sam Hauser had five as all nine Celtics who played connected from beyond the arc. Elsewhere, the New Jersey Nets notched a second straight win since star Kyrie Irving was suspended, rallying from a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the Hornets 98-94 in Charlotte. — AFP

### India set up T20 WCup semi-final against England

MELBOURNE: India will face England and New Zealand play Pakistan in the semi-finals as a Twenty20 World Cup full of shocks wrapped up its Super 12 stage in suitably scintillating fashion on Sunday. South Africa had been fully expected to seal their place in the final four in Australia as they met the Netherlands at the Adelaide Oval on the last day of the group stage. But the Dutch refused to read the script, Colin Ackermann blasting 41 off 26 balls as the Netherlands stunned the heavily fancied Proteas by 13 runs.

South Africa had been touted as dark horses for the title but instead it extended their wretched run in white-ball World Cups and saw Mark Boucher's reign as coach end in bitter disappointment. "Gutted, to be honest," he said. "I think this squad deserved to give themselves a better chance. Unfortunately it didn't happen for us, which is very disappointing for me and certainly every single guy who's in our dressing room at the moment." The Dutch finished a heady fourth in Group 2 and so will not need to go through qualifying for the next World Cup.

"The fact that we now have an opportunity to just walk straight in, I think it's a good confidence booster and very good for Dutch cricket," said bowler Brandon Glover, who took 3-9 against shell-shocked South Africa. "Hopefully we can take advantage of it." Dutch delight changed the complexion of Group 2. It sent top-ranked T20 side India into the semi-finals before they even played Zimbabwe and turned Pakistan versus Bangladesh into a virtual quarter-final.

Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi then put three months of injury misery behind him with his career-



MELBOURNE: India's Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot for six runs during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between India and Zimbabwe on November 6, 2022. — AFP

best T20 figures of 4-22 to lead Pakistan into the last four. Pakistan's World Cup campaign had looked dead and buried after an agonizing last-ball defeat to India in their opener and then a shock loss to Zimbabwe. Now they will face last year's beaten finalists New Zealand on Wednesday in Sydney for a place in the November 13 final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Rampant India thrashed Zimbabwe by 71 runs in the final group game to ensure they topped Group 2 ahead of arch-foes Pakistan and now face Jos Buttler's England at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday. Suryakumar Yadav hit a blazing unbeaten 61 and KL Rahul 51 as India piled on 186-5 against Zimbabwe, then bowled them out for 115 front of 82,507 mostly Indian fans at the MCG. It was an ominous warning of intent from the 2007 champions. "The fans have been brilliant all this while," said India skipper Rohit Sharma. "Almost everywhere we've gone we've got a full house and we expect the same in the semi-finals as well. — AFP