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3 Jahra Nature Reserve seeks to promote local ecotourism



10 Sun-soaked North Africa pushes for cheap energy



14 Fans, trophy and teams arrive in Qatar for World Cup countdown



16 England beat Pakistan to win T20 World Cup



Speaker proposes comprehensive bill to resolve nationality issues

Draft legislation addresses three main groups of citizenship applicants

Residency, visit visa curbs eyed; fees to increase

KUWAIT: Informed sources said it was agreed between members of the parliamentary interior and defense committee and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to hold a meeting at the end of the month to discuss the new residency law, new mechanisms to grant visit visas and the rules of issuing residency permits. Sources said Sheikh Talal told MPs that he is ready to attend the meeting, adding the government's amendments to the new residency law are ready and will be sent to the National Assembly

soon, where they will be discussed by the interior and defense committee.

The sources said the minister told MPs that restricting residencies is the title of the new law, and fees will be tripled. Amendments to visit visas will be issued in January along with doubling existing fees, with fewer categories able to obtain visas. Sheikh Talal said strict security campaigns will continue against residency violators, adding that isolating areas that are full of expatriates is highly possible to hunt for violators.

Sheikh Talal told MPs that the new residency law includes a five-year residency permit, as it was in the draft law that was sent to the previous Assembly, but this permit is not for investors, businesspeople or children of Kuwaiti women. But he said this item is left for MPs to discuss with the government in case they want to amend or cancel it.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun on Sunday presented a draft law that aims to resolve problems of Kuwaiti citizenship applicants, including the decades-old plight of stateless people or bedoons. Saadoun's draft legislation addresses three main groups - people who applied for Kuwaiti nationality to the Higher Nationality Commission at the Cabinet, and applicants through the Martyrs' Office at the Amiri Diwan covering relatives of non-Kuwaitis who lost their lives in battles.

The third and largest group by far is an estimated 120,000 bedoons, who or their forefathers had entered Kuwait on or before 1965 and were counted in the 1965 census. These people are listed under the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). The draft law states that the ministry of interior, after one year of this law becoming effective, will start listing all the names of applicants for Kuwaiti



Ahmad Al-Saadoun

nationality in the three categories.

All people listed under these three groups will be given a civil ID valid for a specific period in line with PACI rules. The civil IDs will be renewed until their case is finally settled.

Continued on Page 6

Dems celebrate Senate win over distraught Reps



Catherine Cortez Masto

WASHINGTON: Democrats celebrated Sunday a stunning victory to hold the US Senate, leaving Republicans in disarray and providing a critical base of political and legislative support for the remainder of Joe Biden's presidency. Although the fate of the lower House of Representatives is still up in the air, retaining control of the upper chamber in a midterm election many predicted they would lose by a wide margin is, in itself, a major triumph.

"I feel good and I'm looking forward to the next couple years," said Biden, who is attending a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Cambodia. The Senate oversees the confirmation of federal judges and cabinet members, and having the 100-seat body in his corner will be a major boon for Biden as he seeks to keep his policy agenda on track.

US midterms traditionally deliver a rejection of the party in power, and with inflation surging and Biden's popularity ratings cratering, Republicans had been expecting to ride a mighty "red wave" and capture both houses of Congress in Tuesday's vote.

Continued on Page 6

TEC sets up World Cup viewing site

KUWAIT: Touristic Enterprises Company announced on Sunday the launch of a "container park" on the beach off Blajat Street where the public can watch matches of the 2022 World Cup and enjoy a variety of entertainment and sports activities and musical performances. TEC Chairman Mohammad Al-Saqqaq said in a statement while inspecting the project's construction site that the park will have recreational

games for adults and youngsters, in addition to restaurants and cafes.

Saqqaq said the opening of container park is part of efforts exerted by the company to revitalize and revive touristic facilities it manages with innovative recreational facilities that provide diverse services and means of entertainment to citizens and residents. He added the park is the second entertainment destination developed in the Blajat beach area.

The container park will open daily from Nov 20 from 10 am until midnight, where football fans will be entertained with four huge screens. Full-day tickets will be sold at nominal prices, while children under five and domestic workers will be allowed in free of charge. — KUNA



Artist's rendition of the container park where World Cup matches will be broadcast. — KUNA

Six killed in 'terror' blast in Istanbul

ISTANBUL: An explosion tore through a busy Istanbul shopping street on Sunday, killing six and wounding dozens in what Turkey's president said bore the signs of a terror attack. Police cordoned off an area around Istiklal, where crowds were dense on Sunday afternoon, and helicopters flew over the city center as sirens sounded. "I was 50-55 meters away, suddenly there was the noise of

an explosion. I saw three or four people on the ground," witness Cemal Denizci, 57, told AFP. "People were running in panic. The noise was huge. There was black smoke," he said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned what he called a "vile attack" that killed six people and wounded over 50 others. "It might be wrong if we say for sure that this is terror but according to first signs... there is a smell of terror there," Erdogan told a press conference. Authorities offered few details and no groups immediately claimed the blast, but Turkish cities in the past have been struck by Islamists and other groups.

Continued on Page 6



ISTANBUL: A forensic team of the crime scene investigation police work after a strong explosion shook the busy shopping street of Istiklal on Nov 13, 2022. — AFP

Biden arrives in Bali for G20, Xi summit

NUSA DUA, Indonesia: US President Joe Biden arrived in Indonesia's Bali on Sunday for a summit of the world's 20 largest economies and a high-stakes meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The US leader said he expects to establish "red lines" in Washington's fraught relations with Beijing in his first face-to-face talks as president with Xi. The

superpower sit-down will come on the sidelines of the G20 summit from Monday, the biggest gathering by the group since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

Biden said he was going into the discussions with Xi "stronger", after his Democratic Party's unexpected success in midterm elections they had been forecast to lose heavily. But the summit comes with Beijing and Washington's rivalry intensifying as a more powerful and assertive China tries to disrupt the US-led international order.

The world's two largest economies are at loggerheads on everything from trade to human rights in China's Xinjiang region and the status of the self-ruled island of Taiwan, and Biden said he expected "straightforward discussions" with Xi. "I know Xi

Jinping, he knows me," he told reporters in Phnom Penh where he met with Asian leaders before heading to the Indonesian resort island of Bali. "We have very little misunderstanding. We just got to figure out what the red lines are," Biden said.

Biden hopes to "come out of this meeting with areas where the two countries and the two presidents and their teams can work cooperatively on substantive issues, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters as the US leader flew to Bali. He will push China to rein in North Korea after a record-breaking series of missile tests fueled expectations that Pyongyang will soon carry out its seventh nuclear test.

Continued on Page 6



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Local



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs and Chairman of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid. He also received Deputy Chairman of KDIPA Wafa Al-Qatami and Director General of KDIPA Dr Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who presented to HH the Crown Prince the seventh annual report of the 2021-2022 financial year.— KUNA



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of his appointment.—KUNA



Suad Al-Sabah first woman to receive Al-Quds Shield

KUWAIT: Al-Quds Fund and Endowment granted the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Shield to Sheikh Suad Al-Sabah in appreciation of her support for charitable and development projects in Jerusalem, and for her honorable struggles and positions in support of the Palestinian cause. This came during the visit of a delegation from the Al-Quds Fund and Endowment to Kuwait, headed by Chairman Munib Rashid Al-Masri, Vice President Michel Al-Sayegh, President of Al-Quds University and the fund's Secretary Imad Abu Keshk, member of the general authority Omar Al-Masri and Director of fund Taher Al-Disi.

The delegation was received by Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Sheikh Shaima Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah welcomed the delegation, praising their visit to honor his mother, Sheikh Suad Al-Sabah, who apologized for not attending because she had the flu.

Munib Al-Masri spoke about Sheikh Suad Al-Sabah's giving, decades ago, to Palestine in general and to the city of Jerusalem in particular, and also her stances in supporting Palestine at all levels. "I

have known Sheikh Suad Al-Sabah for more than three decades, and we are honored today to come to Kuwait to honor her and say thank you for all this love for Palestine," Masri said.

Keshk said Sheikh Suad has always been one of the main pillars of supporting the Jerusalem endowment fund and developing its charitable projects, which had a significant impact on the contribution of strengthening the steadfastness of Jerusalem.

Disi spoke about the great positions that Sheikh Suad embodied, especially as she was contributing on her own, and requested that she be provided with charitable and development projects in Jerusalem. He said she avoids the media and honors by saying this is the least duty towards Jerusalem and Palestine, and therefore it does not need praise. Disi added that these values are considered the highest and finest values of giving.

Sheikh Najeh Bakir, Deputy Director General of Al-Quds Fund and Endowment and a sharia education official at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, said Jerusalem and its people cherish Sheikh Suad's giving and all that Kuwait offers by its leadership, government, people and charitable societies. At the end of the ceremony, the Palestinian delegation presented the Al-Quds Shield to the family of Sheikh Suad.

Sheikha Suad is the first woman to receive the shield, which is granted annually. In previous years, it was awarded to a number of rulers, including Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Arab Media Forum forms Roqay Club

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Arab Media Forum inaugurated the "Roqay Club" at the National Library on Saturday, sponsored by the ministry of information, to support the media and cultural scene in Kuwait. "We aim to shed light and support media and cultural events and activities and to create a platform that aims to provide opportunities for media professionals, intellectuals and youth to find training and qualification opportunities to show their skills," Arab Media Forum Secretary General Madi Al-Khamees said in a speech during the inauguration ceremony.

"Our focus is on media on reviewing the entire media system in Kuwait for its development. The club will be active by holding various dialogue and discussion sessions, and studying laws and legislation to try to amend them, which helps in the development of the media and culture industry, as well as training and qualifying media professionals," he said.

Khamees said Roqay Club will seek to cooperate with various concerned parties from universities and training centers, as well as civil society institu-



Madi Al-Khamees

tions to achieve the club's goals by upgrading culture and media in general. He revealed that the club will launch branches in Egypt and Jordan to reach one of its most important goals in the scientific and cultural exchange between the Arab countries in an effort to create a distinguished cultural and media platform.

Roqay Club will focus on holding many different cultural seminars and lectures, opening horizons of cooperation and exchange with authorities concerned with information and culture, and strengthening cooperation with them. The club's work will be based on supporting activities, events, initiatives and distinctive cultural content and media ideas, as well as alerting the public and decision-makers to the necessity of a valid cultural and media environment in which people can achieve more. This in addition to the need to ease restrictions that burden intellectuals in completing their work and implementing their ideas while being active in the fields of culture, arts, and literature.



KUWAIT: Arab Media Forum inaugurates the "Roqay Club" at the National Library. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

40% of type 2 diabetics prone to kidney disease

KUWAIT: Around 40 percent of type 2 diabetes patients and 30 percent of type 1 patients are likely to develop chronic kidney disease, internal medicine and nephrology consultant and President of Kuwait Nephrology Association Dr Anas Al-Yousef said on Sunday. Dr Yousef, speaking to KUNA, explained that the disease is detected through finding protein in urine samples, which reveals decreased kidney efficiency to around 60 percent.

To avoid such complications, Dr Yousef explained, on the occasion of World Diabetes Day on Monday, diabetes patients should maintain low blood sugar levels and take their prescribed med-

ications. He said a 2021 survey by the International Diabetes Federation revealed 537 million adult type 2 patients worldwide, and by 2045, the number is expected to rise to 783 million.

Dr Yousef also revealed that in the past few years, medication with the ability to decrease kidney complications, reduce urine protein as well as total kidney failure has been developed, mentioning that such medication is available in Kuwait's medical centers. Dr Yousef urged people with diabetes to persevere with routine examinations to ensure early detection and treatment in case of infection.—KUNA



Dr Anas Al-Yousef



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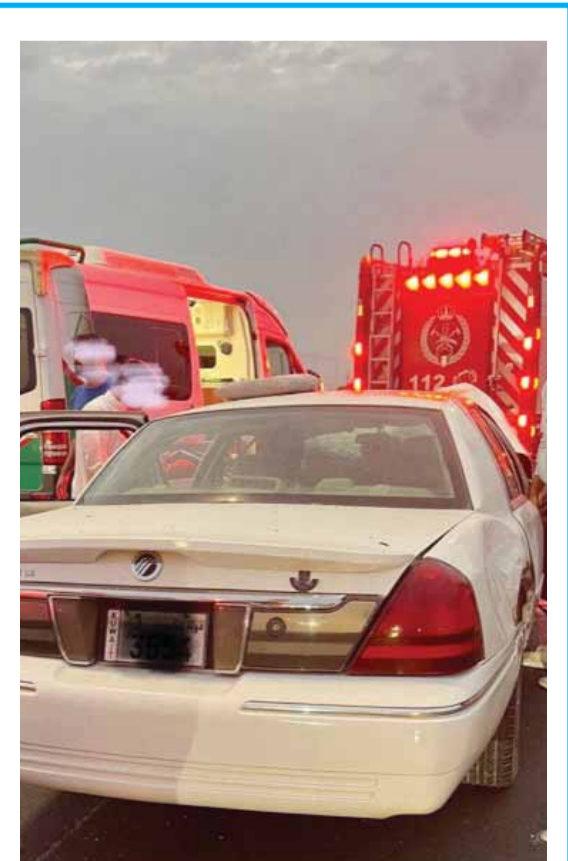


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KUWAIT: Two cars crashed on Fourth Ring Road on Saturday, and a person was stuck inside one of the cars. Firemen used special tools to extract the injured person, who was transferred to hospital.

Local

Jahra Nature Reserve seeks to promote local ecotourism

New observation deck opens for visitors • Reservations can be made online



KUWAIT: Views of Jahra Nature Reserve. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Abdullah Ashkanani

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Winter has arrived in Kuwait, and Jahra Nature Reserve has opened its doors to receive visitors for the new season. The reserve is considered to be the first ecotourism project in Kuwait, with the aim of increasing environmental awareness and appreciating nature. Speaking to Kuwait Times, Abdullah Ashkanani, spokesperson of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Environment Public Authority, said the Jahra Nature Reserve reopened on Nov 4 and will welcome visitors until the end of February from 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.

Ashkanani pointed out that this year, there is a new observation deck for visitors, taking the total to three, explaining that visiting the reserve and reserving the observatory can be done by booking appointments on the authority's electronic platform at specific times for every five members of the same family or multiples, with visiting limited to an hour and a half.

"The reserve also has a walking tour, which is a quick tour that takes a half an hour. There is no need for reservations. The visit will be guided and limited to selected areas and there are electric cars to transport visitors and ensure their safety so they do not get lost inside," Ashkanani said. He revealed hundreds of citizens and residents visited the reserve last weekend, while online reservations were fully booked.

"The reserve organizes visits for school students through the ministry of education to raise awareness



of Kuwait's natural environment and the recycling process, where the reserve contributes to reviving ecotourism in Kuwait and spreading environmental awareness in the community," he said. Ashkanani affirmed that there is a continuous development to preserve ecological life, including wildlife and plants. Also, there will be activities for visitors in winter, he said, pointing out the reserve is also open to owners of small and medium enterprises after the approval of the public relations department to display and market their products in order to support them and contribute to spreading environmental awareness.

Ashkanani noted that the reserve has a total area of 18 sq km and contains more than 300 species of migratory and endemic birds, and some wild animals. It also includes five diverse environments. The authority has worked to protect the reserve since 1987 to preserve its nature, as it is a major crossing for birds. It also has worked continuously on cultivating plants in the reserve to increase the green area and diversify its wildlife. The authority stressed the need to respect the environmental protection law, warning legal measures will be taken against violators.

Legalese

Marrying a non-Kuwaiti

By Fajer Ahmed



Local@kuwaittimes.com

One of the things that I am proudest to say about Kuwait is its diversity and how multicultural it is, and has been ever since its inception. It's beautiful to see many people from so many cultures. It's also beautiful to see two people come together in the name of love, regardless of their cultural differences.

With that said, the laws in many aspects don't portray this diversity. One of the ways this diversity seems to not be accepted is the rights of Kuwaiti women marrying non-Kuwaiti men. Today I look into the most common questions about this issue:

Question: Can Kuwaiti women pass on their nationality to their children or husbands if they are married to non-Kuwaiti men?

Fajer: Unfortunately, the answer is no. The citizenship is not passed on, which means they lose many rights attached to Kuwaiti nationality, such as voting, receiving monetary benefits from the government, certain jobs and so on. This may cause many issues between families. Also, many women leave Kuwait and choose to not live here. This is clear discrimination and makes women choose between their country and love.

Question: Can I marry a non-Kuwaiti man even though my father does not agree?

Fajer: Generally no - you cannot marry without the consent of your father. This is for both Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti men. But if you are over the age of 35, then you can ask the judge for permission to get married.

I really hope the laws in Kuwait can be looked into again, and that necessary changes are made.

OPERATION TURTLES



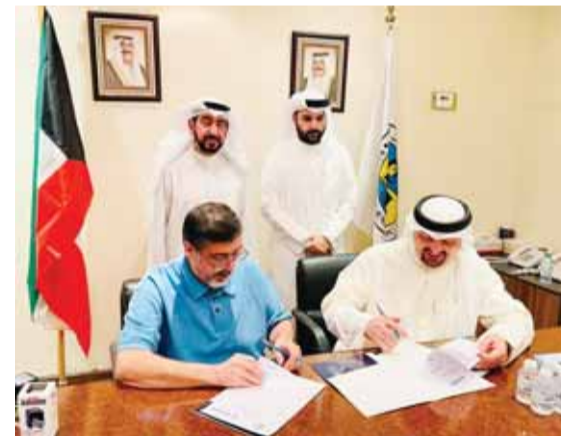
'Operation Turtle' to be held on Nov 19

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Japan in Kuwait announced that the Japanese Society in Kuwait will hold a beach cleaning campaign called "Operation Turtle" on Saturday, Nov 19, 2022 at Shuwaikh Beach Park from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. The campaign was launched in 2000 with the goal of restoring the environment of Kuwaiti beaches so that sea turtles can come back, and enhance people's awareness of the importance of environmental protection. It is open to the public and the Japanese Society welcomes any participant interested in this campaign.

KJA, PR society sign agreement

KUWAIT: A memorandum of understanding was signed between Kuwait Journalists Association and Kuwait Public Relations Association at the KJA headquarters, as both sides agreed to cooperate on utilizing the most modern means in the field of public relations to contribute to development and achieve mutual goals.

KJA Secretary Jassem Kamal said the signing of the MoU is part of KJA's keenness on developing the technical and professional abilities of journalists in the field of public relations, adding both sides agreed to exchange expertise and hold training courses. Head of the Public Relations Society Jamal Al-Nasrallah lauded the cooperation between the



two sides and presenting logistical support to KJA in the field of public relations and the art of communications with the public.

KEPS sets up booth at COP27

KUWAIT: Head of Kuwait Environment Protection Society Dr Wejdan Al-Uqab appreciated the organizers of the Green Zone at the COP 27 summit being held in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt to facilitate the booking of a booth for the society to display its projects, productions and programs. She said the booth includes video displays and awareness posters, in addition to specialized publications.

There is also a display of a series of documentaries documenting the wildlife of Kuwait, which includes more than 200 episodes covering many environmental topics such as sustainable development and the effects of climate change on wildlife, in addition to environmental problems resulting from wrong practices in dealing with the environment.



Uqab said the official spokesman of environmental engineers Yousuf Al-Ramzi took care of the logistical and technical support for the society's delegation. She said the Kuwait booth received a large number of visitors from all over the world. Dr Uqab lauded the visit of the Director General of the Environment Public Authority Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah to the society's booth, which reflects Kuwait's official pavilion's interest in supporting Kuwait's civil society entities.

Kuwait fire force team heads to Qatar

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Chief Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad on Sunday bade farewell to the Kuwaiti force that will participate in security plans for Qatar's FIFA 2022 World Cup. Mekrad, on behalf of and on the directions of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, urged the force to be up to the responsibility in the mission entrusted to them, to be executed in cooperation with the Qatari civil defense, KFF said in a statement.

The fire squad consists of 155 officers and non-commissioned officers, tasked to secure stadiums, hotels and fans, as well as tourist sites and headquarters of the participating teams, it added. The farewell ceremony was attended by Deputy Head of the Combat Sector, Maj Gen Jamal Bader Nasser and Assistant Commander of the Air Force Maj-Gen Bandar Al-Muzain. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Chief Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad bids farewell to the Kuwaiti force that will participate in the security plans for Qatar's FIFA 2022 World Cup. —KUNA

News in brief

Ministerial action workshop
discusses govt program

KUWAIT: A ministerial action workshop led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Barak Al-Sheetan was held Saturday, in the presence of some ministers to discuss the government program. The program will be referred to the National Assembly once the Cabinet endorses it, head of the government communication center and spokesman Tariq Al-Mizrem said. The workshop held its second meeting on Saturday at Seif Palace to focus on the program. Mizrem added in a statement issued by the center. This comes in line with article 98 of the constitution, which stipulates that every ministry after being formed provides its program to the National Assembly, which will see if there are remarks on the program, he indicated.

Syrian jailed for
forging citizenship

KUWAIT: After the discovery of forged Kuwaiti nationality and revoking it from a suspect in 2006, the man was investigated for presenting a forged ID to the prosecution, which falsely proves he is a Kuwaiti national. The prosecution officer discovered that data in the ID card was different from the data on the computer, as it showed the suspect is a Syrian national. The suspect admitted of forging the nationality, as his nationality was revoked 16 years ago. The cassation court sentenced the accused to three years in jail without appeal. In other news, the criminal court sentenced media personality Fajer Al-Saeed to three years in prison after a complaint by activist Abdullah Fairuz.

Chamber launches
app for certification

KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched an app that will certify bills and documents from November 15 in order to save time and reduce traffic at the chamber. "Users can fill in the required data and upload documents through the 'Huma' app," the chamber said. The chamber also called on its members to make use of electronic services presented to them.

KFAED plays key role in
developing countries

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has played a key role in supporting and achieving sustainable development in developing countries, the fund's advisor Tariq Al-Munaiyes said Saturday. This came during a speech delivered by Munaiyes as part of the Kuwaiti pavilion's activities at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the fund said in a statement. Munaiyes reviewed the contributions of the fund, which have seen it offering aid and sustainable development projects in the fields of energy, health, water and agriculture, amongst others, it added. — KUNA

KSPS signs
agreement
with ASPS

BOSTON: Kuwait Society for Plastic Surgeons signed an agreement with the American Society of Plastic Surgeons to enhance the practice in Kuwait. The agreement allows members of KSPS to join their counterparts in the US and gain the advantages of data and research, as well as exchange experiences and train staff to develop the practice in Kuwait.

"We hope for more cooperation to exchange experiences and guide young members to aim for medical practice that is based on evidence," Head of KSPS Dr Hesham Bo-Rezq said. Secretary general of the society Dr Ahmad Al-Ali said: "After months of organization, we thank all members of the management council of the society as well as all authorities for their continuous support."

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Flamingoes are seen feeding on a beach north of Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Negative phenomena committee
has both supporters, detractors

Citizens torn between freedoms and holding on to traditions

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: With the start of work of the new National Assembly in Kuwait, approval was given to reinstate the committee for negative phenomena to tackle negative behaviors in the local community and fight scourges that are widespread in the community, such as drugs, domestic violence and harassment, according to the committee.

The reestablishment of this committee led to conflicting opinions among citizens. Opponents believe it interferes in the personal liberties of an individual, which is not the role of the Assembly, while supporters consider it a necessary step to reduce negative behaviors that are increasing in the Kuwaiti community, such as inappropriate clothing, homosexuality and immoral content presented to youths by media platforms.

Kuwait Times spoke to people and asked for their opinion about this committee and whether it should have legal powers. Amal Abdullah, a 58-year-old Kuwaiti, said she supports the creation of this committee. "We as parents and grandparents no longer have any kind of power over our children to raise them to have good manners, due to the wrong thoughts that are affecting them negatively," she said. "We are not against development and openness or improving the standard of living, but we are a conservative society and have traditions."

Regarding the negative behaviors that she thinks the committee should eliminate, Amal pointed out to "indecent clothes that do not reflect our culture", adding the committee should set laws that prevent shops from selling these types of outfits. "The committee should have a supervisory role over media and video games that have negative messages affecting our children's minds, such as homosexuality, violence and leaving their religion under the pretext of freedom," she pointed out.

Mai Humood, a 32-year-old Kuwaiti, said although she does not approve of many of the behaviors among the new generation, pointing out to homosexuality as an example, she stressed she is against the formation of this committee. "We have traditions that everyone is committed to. We don't need guardianship from any committee. If they real-



KUWAIT: A general view of the National Assembly during its inaugural session. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ly want to change negative behaviors, it should be through strong awareness campaigns and rehabilitation of the society all over again, away from the weak awareness campaigns that we are used to since long," she said.

Bader Mohammad, a 27-year-old Kuwaiti, said he supports the establishment of the committee. He said although he is a young man, he believes that the freedom that some people are claiming is not acceptable. "The country is suffering from corruption, theft of public funds and nepotism, which are also negatively affecting the society. Therefore, this committee should have legal powers and not only participate in setting laws and holding awareness campaigns," he said.

"The role of this committee should be to supervise both genders in the community. We are a conservative community that respects women, and we don't want to limit their freedom. But there are traditions and religion we have to respect and follow,

which should be applied on men as well," Bader told Kuwait Times. Abdelaziz Ali, a 28-year-old Kuwaiti, said that some of the negative behaviors affecting the youth include the spread of smoking and vaping among girls, which is a result of a lack of supervision on advertisements that urge them to do it. "It is affecting both their health and violates the traditions we were raised on," he said.

Abdelaziz added that those violating these traditions are not only women, but also men, who are attracted to things that are against religion, such as wearing tattoos, which is spreading among young girls as well. "Not to mention girls wearing skimpy dresses at malls and everywhere, which is inappropriate and provocative." He pointed out that the best solution to prevent these negative behaviors is through the committee imposing fines. "Anyone who fears paying money will adhere to the law. So I agree that this committee should have legal powers," he added.

Kuwait auto club organizes classic car show



KUWAIT: Kuwait International Automobile Club organized on Friday a gathering of owners and lovers of classic cars to help them show their cars which often appear in winter. The owners of these cars like driving their vehicles in winter due to cold weather, which protects the quality, and interior and exterior parts of such cars. Some classic cars have sunroofs and wide windows that fit for winter more than summer. —KUNA



Six dead as WWII planes collide at Dallas air show

Press freedom fears as Italy PM Meloni takes Saviano to trial

Page 7

Page 6



KHERSON, Ukraine: This photograph taken on November 12, 2022, shows a woman hugging a Ukrainian soldier as Ukrainians celebrate the liberation of their town in Kherson, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

Relief in Kherson after Russian occupation

Russians destroyed all critical infrastructure before fleeing Kherson: Zelensky

KHERSON, Ukraine: Ukrainians in the liberated southern city of Kherson expressed a sense of relief on Sunday as they adjusted to life under Kyiv authorities after months of Russian occupation. Residents said the Russians left a trail of destruction after an eight-month occupation, and an animal rights group said Moscow's forces had even stolen a racoon, wolves and squirrels from a local zoo. There were no scenes of jubilation on Sunday, an AFP correspondent said, but many locals said they felt a great sense of relief after Kyiv had wrested back control of the city.

Residents queued to get food, and many adults and children walked around wrapped in Ukrainian flags. Some gathered on the city's main square, mostly to use Starlink satellite internet and connect with relatives.

"They took everything with them. They cleared out the stores," said Viktoriya Dybovska, a 30-year-old sales clerk. "They switched off the lights three or four days ago just as they were leaving. They simply vanished overnight," added Antonina Vysochenko, 29.

Oleksandr Todorchuk, founder of UAnimals, an animal rights movement, said the Russian troops had stolen animals from a local zoo. "They have taken most of the zoo's collection to Crimea: from llamas

and wolves to donkeys and squirrels," he said on Facebook. In a major humiliation for the Kremlin, the Russian army withdrew from the city of Kherson on Friday.

Kherson was one of four regions in Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed to have annexed in September. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that before fleeing Kherson, the Russians "destroyed all critical infrastructure—communication, water supply, heat, electricity."

Ukrainian television broadcasts have returned and officials said on Saturday that authorities were working to de-mine the city, record Russian crimes and restore power supplies. On Saturday, in the formerly occupied village of Pravdyne, outside Kherson, returning locals embraced their neighbours, with some unable to hold back tears. "Victory, finally!" said Svitlana Galak, who lost her eldest daughter in the war. "Thank god we've been liberated and everything will now fall into place," the 43-year-old told AFP.

"We are Ukraine," added her husband, Viktor, 44.

Several disabled anti-tank mines and grenades could be seen in the settlement, which is home to a Polish Roman Catholic church, with a number of dam-

aged buildings also visible. While de-mining is carried out, a curfew has been put in place and movement in and out of the city has been limited, local authorities said.

Evacuation orders

The city of Kherson—which serves as a gateway to the Black Sea—was the first major urban hub to fall after Russia invaded in February. Zelensky has said that Ukraine's forces had established control over more than 60 settlements in the Kherson region. Ukraine's police chief Igor Klymenko said on Saturday that around 200 officers were erecting roadblocks and recording "crimes of the Russian occupiers".

He urged Kherson residents to watch out for possible landmines laid by the Russian troops, saying one policeman had been wounded while de-mining an administrative building. A woman and two children were taken to hospital with injuries after an explosive device went off near their car in the village of Mylove, police said. Across the Dnipro River in the east, local pro-Moscow authorities in the district of Kakhovka issued an evacuation order to its employees to head to the Russian region of Krasnodar. Ukraine's armed

forces said late Saturday that Russian forces were "strengthening fortification" of the defensive lines on the left bank of the Dnipro. Kherson's full recapture opens a gateway for Ukraine to the entire Kherson region, with access to both the Black Sea in the west and the Sea of Azov in the east.

'What was it all for?'

On Saturday, an increasingly isolated Putin spoke by phone with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, pledging to intensify political and trade cooperation, the Kremlin said. Shunned by the West over his offensive in Ukraine, the 70-year-old leader will not travel to Indonesia for the G20 leaders' summit next week. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hailed the "remarkable courage" of Ukraine's military and people and vowed US support "will continue for as long as it takes" to defeat Russia.

In London, British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said Russia's "strategic failure" in Kherson could prompt ordinary Russians to question the war. "Ordinary people of Russia must surely ask themselves: 'What was it all for?'" The Kremlin insists that Kherson remains part of Russia. — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales (Centre left) and Britain's King Charles III (Centre right) arrive to attend the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in central London, on November 13, 2022. — AFP

Charles III leads Remembrance Sunday as king

LONDON: Charles III led his first Remembrance Sunday event as king, laying a wreath in tribute to UK and Commonwealth war dead, as Britain's new prime minister also lauded Ukraine's defenders.

The 73-year-old monarch had previously deputized for his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who died in September aged 96 after a year of failing health.

Since 2017, she had watched the annual service from a balcony of the foreign ministry overlooking the Cenotaph in central London. Last year a back complaint forced Elizabeth to miss the ceremony, just weeks after an unscheduled overnight stay in hospital.

Charles, who served in the Royal Navy in the 1970s, laid a wreath on her behalf. Now king and commander-in-chief of British forces, he laid his first wreath at the war memorial as reigning monarch, dressed in a field marshal's ceremonial uniform. Charles stood in silence after depositing the ring of red artificial poppies—Britain's symbol of remembrance.

The wreath was mounted on black leaves, with a ribbon in the king's scarlet, purple and gold horseracing colors. Two minutes' silence was observed after Big Ben tolled 11 times, marking the resumption of full operations for the newly restored Great Clock in the nearby Houses of Parliament.

Cannon fire marked the beginning and end of the silence, culminating in buglers playing the Last Post in front of the Cenotaph, before UK politicians and Commonwealth ambassadors laid their own wreaths. New Conservative leader Rishi Sunak was attending his first Remembrance Sunday as prime minister.

"This year more than ever, we are reminded of the huge debt of gratitude we owe those who lay down their lives to protect their country," Sunak said in a statement. "As we fall silent together on Remembrance Sunday, we will honor the memories of the men and women we have lost, and pay tribute to the brave soldiers of Ukraine as they continue their fight for freedom." Speaking to Sky News, Chief of the Defense Staff Admiral Tony Radakin said there was particular emotion attached to this Remembrance Sunday. "I think there's a special poignancy this year with both the loss of Her Majesty, another loss of a Second World War veteran," he said.

"I also think it's poignant when we have once again the specter of war in Europe and all that that entails, and a country that's been invaded and is fighting for its freedom," he said, referring to war in Ukraine. Remembrance Sunday in Britain is the culmination of days of events to pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in conflict. On Thursday Queen Consort Camilla laid a cross at the Field of Remembrance outside London's Westminster Abbey, alongside 70,000 other symbols left by military associations, and a space dedicated to Elizabeth. On Friday—Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I—a service was held at the National Memorial Arboretum in central England.—AFP

Melania Trump lawyer to be Slovenia's first woman president

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia: Slovenians were voting on Sunday in a run-off poll expected to elect the country's first woman president—a lawyer linked to former US first lady Melania Trump. Natasja Pirc Musar, backed by the centre-left government, is running against ex-foreign minister Anze Logar, a veteran of conservative politics, in the EU country of two million.

A lawyer, Pirc Musar was hired to protect the interests of Slovenian-born Trump during her husband's presidency, stopping companies attempting to commercialize products with her name. She is forecast to win just slightly above 50 percent of the vote, ahead of Logar who is due to get between 44 and 49 percent, according to the latest polls.

Pirc Musar, who headed the country's data protection authority for a decade, says her victory would make her "the voice of women" in Slovenia and abroad. Though the president's role is largely ceremonial, the human rights advocate has vowed to be a "moral authority".

"The president cannot be neutral... and have no opinion... I have never been afraid to speak out," the former television presenter, 54, told AFP. Pirc Musar, who is a keen motorcyclist, has come under attack because of her husband's lucrative investments—especially in tax havens.

Her opponent Logar, 46, also ran as an independent but is a long-time member of the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) of Janez Jansa, who failed in his bid to be re-elected as premier in April.

"I entered this campaign to win," Logar said, casting his ballot in the capital Ljubljana.

'More balance'

Critics accused Jansa of attacking media freedom and the judiciary and undermining the rule of law in his latest term in office. Logar plays the cello and is a keen mountaineer who cycled to the presidential debates. "It is good if the president represents a different view than the ruling coalition — (it) provides more balance... which is better for a democratic system," Logar told AFP ahead of Sunday's vote.

Newspaper columnist Uros Esih said Pirc Musar has surrounded herself with "strong advisers", allow-

ing her to compete with the relatively more experienced Logar. But Logar would "more likely be a mere instrument" of Jansa's party, Esih said. "I hope a candidate that will bring people together will win," Rok Novak, an economist in his early 50s, said at a Ljubljana voting centre.

"Slovenia is so polarized right now," Logar came first in the first round last month when the centre-left votes were split largely between Pirc Musar and another candidate.



RADOMLJE, Slovenia: Slovenian Presidential candidate Natasja Pirc Musar (left) and her husband Ales Musar leave the polling station in Radomlje, after casting their voting ballots during the run off of presidential election on November 13, 2022. — AFP

Analysts say a low turnout would favor Logar, but polls predict about half of those eligible will vote, as in the first round, putting Pirc Musar ahead. Polling stations opened in the former Yugoslav republic at 7:00 am (0600 GMT) and are due to close at 7:00 pm, with partial results expected later the same day.

Incumbent Borut Pahor, a former Social Democrat, could not run for re-election after having held the post for two five-year stints. Pensioner Silva Lotric was optimistic as she cast her ballot.

"I hope my candidate will win... if my candidate wins, she will definitely bring changes," to the role of the president. — AFP

International

Veteran ex-premier Netanyahu tapped to form next government

Netanyahu will have at least 28 days to build a coalition with his allies

JERUSALEM, Undefined: Zionist entity's veteran ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu secured a mandate Sunday to form a new government, paving the way for his comeback at the helm of what is expected to be the most right-wing administration in the country's history.

After a period of unprecedented political gridlock tested the electorate with five votes in less than four years, November 1 polls gave Netanyahu and his far-right allies a clear majority in the 120-seat parliament.

"I have decided to assign to you, Benjamin Netanyahu, the task of forming a government," President Isaac Herzog told him at a ceremony in Jerusalem.

Accepting the mandate, the 73-year-old right-wing politician widely known as "Bibi" vowed to serve all Zionists, "those who voted for us and those who did not — it is my responsibility".

Netanyahu, who is fighting corruption allegations in court, will have at least 28 days to build a coalition with his allies — two ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and a rising extreme-right alliance called Religious Zionism.

Herzog noted Netanyahu's ongoing trial: "I am not oblivious, of course, to the fact that there are ongoing legal proceedings against Mr Netanyahu at the Jerusalem District Court, and I do not trivialise this at all". But he said that recent precedent made clear Netanyahu could serve as prime minister while contesting the allegations.

Netanyahu can seek a two-week extension to his

initial mandate but is expected to announce a coalition deal reasonably quickly, given broad ideological unity within the incoming government.

Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, co-leaders of the Religious Zionism bloc, have publicly demanded control of two key ministries — public security and defence — at a time violence has soared between Israel and the Palestinians.

'Prophetise catastrophe'

Netanyahu's next moves will be closely scrutinised as unease mounts in some quarters over his policy plans and the goals of his controversial governing partners.

Netanyahu, however, insisted that those seeking to "prophetise catastrophe and scare the public" are misguided. "It's not the first time we have heard this kind of talk," he said, making unspecific references to his own previous governments. "It was wrong then and it is still wrong today."

The new government is however widely expected to pass sweeping judicial reforms, a long-held priority of Zionist entity's right. That could include a so-called "override clause" giving parliament the right to overrule the supreme court any time it declares legislation to be illegal.

Netanyahu's government may also take full control over appointing supreme court judges, a task currently performed by a panel of lawmakers, sitting judges and lawyers.

Suzie Navot, a constitutional law professor at the Zionist Democracy Institute think tank, said "it is



JERUSALEM, Undefined: Zionist's President Isaac Herzog (R) and Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands after the former tasked the latter with forming a new government, in Jerusalem, on November 13, 2022. —AFP

difficult for me to exaggerate the damage and danger" of the proposed reforms.

The centrist Yesh Atid party of outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Sunday condemned a "dark day for Zionist's democracy," in an apparent refer-

ence to the judicial reform package. Religious Zionism has also called for the main charge against Netanyahu — "breach of trust" — to be abolished. Yesh Atid charged that the incoming government's goal was to "save Netanyahu from his trial". — AFP

Iran charges 750 for involvement in 'recent riots'

TEHRAN, Iran: Iran's judiciary has charged more than 750 people in three provinces for participating in "recent riots", local media reported, amid nationwide protests since the death of Mahsa Amini.

More than 2,000 people had already been charged, nearly half of them in the capital Tehran, since the demonstrations began in mid-September, according to judiciary figures. Dozens of people, mainly demonstrators but also security personnel, have been killed during the protests, which the authorities have branded as "riots".

Judicial chief for the southern province of Hormozgan, Mojtaba Ghahremani, said 164 people had been charged "after the recent riots", the judiciary's Mizan Online news website reported Sunday. They face accusations including "incitement to killing", "harming security forces", "propaganda against the regime" and "damaging public property", the website said, adding that their trials would begin "from Thursday in the presence of their lawyers". Another 276 people were charged in the central province of Markazi, its judiciary chief Abdol-Mehdi Mousavi was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

However, 100 young people were released after signing pledges not to participate in any future "riots", IRNA said. In central Isfahan province, judicial chief Asadollah Jafari said 316 cases had been filed in connection with the

recent strife. Twelve have already gone to trial, the Tasnim news agency reported him as saying late Saturday.

Amini's death on September 16 came days after her arrest by the morality police for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress rules for women. Authorities have denied claims by rights groups abroad that some 15,000 people have been detained in the ensuing unrest.

Meanwhile, Iran on Sunday criticised a recent meeting between the French president and opponents of the Islamic republic, calling Emmanuel Macron's comments after the encounter "regrettable and shameful". Macron on Friday met with four prominent Iranian dissidents, all of them women, as protests that have rocked Iran for weeks after the death of Mahsa Amini show no signs of abating. The 22-year-old had been arrested by the morality police for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress rules for women.

The meeting was "a flagrant violation of France's international responsibilities in the fight against terrorism and violence", foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said. "We consider that France favours these sinister phenomena," he added. US-based activist Masih Alinejad, who for years has led a campaign encouraging Iranian women to remove their obligatory headscarves, and Ladan Boroumand, co-founder of Washington-based rights group Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, were among those at the meeting. Alluding to Alinejad, Kanani said it was "surprising that the president of a country that stands for freedom would degrade himself by meeting" her, charging that she had "tried to spread hate and carry out violent and terrorist acts in Iran and against Iran's foreign diplomatic missions". After his meeting with the women, Macron spoke of his "respect and admiration in the context of the revolution they are leading". —AFP

Six dead as WWII planes collide at Dallas air show

HOUSTON, United States: At least six crew members were killed when two World-War-II-era planes collided in mid-air at a show in Dallas, a pilots association said, with witness footage showing Saturday's crash ending in a fiery explosion on the ground.

By early Sunday it was still unclear exactly how many people were in the two aircraft, a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and a smaller Bell P-63 Kingcobra, the Federal Aviation Administration said. But the Allied Pilots Association, the collective bargaining agent for American Airlines, confirmed two of its retired members died in the Texas accident. "Our hearts go out to their families, friends, and colleagues past and present," the group said late Saturday in a statement on Twitter. It was not yet known whether anyone survived the afternoon crash, which occurred during the Wings Over Dallas Airshow at Dallas Executive Airport.

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson called the incident "a terrible tragedy," and said on Twitter that "no spectators or others on the ground were reported injured." Hank Coates, the chief executive of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) whose planes were involved in the accident, said the B-17 "normally has a crew of four or five," while the P-63 is operated by a single-pilot. He said the Sunday part of the air show was cancelled. Multiple videos posted on social media showed dramatic scenes of the smaller



DALLAS, United States: This image obtained from the twitter account @GollyltsMollie, shows smoke rising from the crash after two planes collided mid-air during the Wings Over Dallas Airshow at Dallas Executive Airport. — AFP

plane descending towards the lower-flying B-17 and crashing into it. After the collision, the planes appeared to break apart into several large pieces before crashing to the ground and exploding in a ball of fire, creating a huge plume of black smoke. The crash scattered debris across the airport grounds as well as on a nearby highway and strip mall, Johnson said.

The FAA said its agents and the National Transportation Safety Board would investigate the incident. The CAF's Coates said the pilots who operate the planes during such shows are experienced volunteers with "very thorough training" and are often retired military pilots. — AFP

Speaker proposes comprehensive...

Continued from Page 1

The bill states that all the names gathered by the interior ministry under the three groups will be published by the ministry within six months of collecting them. The bill gives every Kuwaiti citizen the right to object to any name on the lists, supported by authentic documents. The draft legislation stipulates

that the government must provide a comprehensive and final solution to the first two groups within one year of publishing the names. The government must provide a comprehensive and final solution to the third group within a period to be set by the Cabinet.

Under the final solution, Kuwaiti citizenship will be granted to people in the lists who fulfill the pre-conditions in line with the needs of the country and its interests. This does not mean that all people in the lists will be naturalized, the bill states. Until their cases are settled, people listed under this law will enjoy all civil rights including all official documents, the right to work, medical care, education and driving licenses.

meanwhile, are left to consider what went wrong, given the fair political winds they had at their backs going into the ballot. After the Senate result was projected, Republican Senator from Missouri Josh Hawley called in a tweet for the party to "build something new". "The old party is dead. Time to bury it," he said.

Trump's response has been to double down on unfounded claims of ballot rigging, posting on his Truth Social platform that the results were a "scam" and down to "voter fraud". Republicans are slightly favored to eventually take control of the House of Representatives, but with a far smaller majority than they had envisaged going into Tuesday's election. It remains to be seen just how strong an impact the poor Republican performance will have on Trump's standing in the party - and on his aspirations for a return to the White House.

While there are already senior party voices suggesting the time has come to move away from Trump's conspiracy-fueled, hard-right leadership style, the former president still enjoys major grassroots support and running against him for the presidential nomination would be a formidable task. One possible challenger, Maryland's outgoing Republican Governor Larry Hogan, said the party had to switch direction and move on.

"It's basically the third election in a row that Donald Trump has cost us the race and it's like, three strikes and you're out," Hogan, a vocal Trump critic, said on CNN's State of the Union talk show Sunday. "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result. "Donald Trump kept saying, we're gonna be winning so much, we'll get tired of winning. Well, I'm tired of losing. I mean, that's all he's done," Hogan said. — AFP

Six killed in 'terror' blast...

Continued from Page 1

Istiklal Avenue had already been hit in the past during a campaign of attacks in 2015-2016 that targeted Istanbul and other cities including the capital Ankara. Those bombings were mostly blamed on the Islamic State group and outlawed Kurdish militants, and killed nearly 500 people and injured more than 2,000. Sunday's explosion occurred shortly after 4:00 pm in the famous Istiklal shopping street which is popular with locals and tourists.

According to images posted on social media at the time of the explosion, it was accompanied by flames and immediately triggered panic, with people

running in all directions. A large black crater was also visible in those images, as well as several bodies lying on the ground nearby. According to an AFP video journalist on the scene, police established a large security cordon to prevent access to the damaged area for fear of a second explosion.

Istiklal in the historic district of Beyoglu, is one of the most famous arteries of Istanbul, entirely pedestrian on 1.4 km. Crisscrossed by an old tramway, lined with shops and restaurants, it is used by large crowds during the weekend. In the neighboring district of Galata, many stores closed early while some passersby, who came running from the site of the explosion, had tears in their eyes. A massive deployment of security forces equally barred all entrances, while a heavy deployment of rescue workers and police were visible. A reaction came quickly from Greece, which "unequivocally" condemned the blast and expressed condolences to the government and people of Turkey. — AFP

Dems celebrate Senate win over...

Continued from Page 1

The deciding moment in the battle for control of the Senate came late Saturday, when US networks called the Nevada race for Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto, giving the party the 50 seats it needs for an effective majority.

Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote if the chamber is evenly split 50-50. One Senate race remains undecided - a runoff in Georgia set for Dec 6, in which the Democrats could add to their majority. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the result was a "vindication" of Democrats' achievements, and a clear rejection of the "anti-democratic, authoritarian, nasty and divisive direction" offered by former president Donald Trump and his loyalists.

Trump was the biggest Republican draw on the midterms campaign trail, and the party's performance - with many candidates he personally endorsed losing their high-profile races - was a damaging blow. Trump is widely expected to declare his 2024 White House bid on Tuesday - an announcement he had planned as a triumphant follow-on to an expected crushing election victory by the party he still dominates.

On Sunday House Speaker Nancy Pelosi toasted her Democrats for their strong performance, noting on CNN how the Republican "red wave" that had been predicted by pundits and the GOP collapsed into "a little tiny trickle". Republicans,

Biden arrives in Bali for G20...

Continued from Page 1

China is North Korea's main ally and while Biden is not expected to make demands, he will warn Xi that further missile and nuclear build-up would mean the United States boosting its military presence in the region - something Beijing bitterly opposes. Biden met Japan and South Korea's leaders before flying to Bali, with the allies pledging a "strong and resolute response" to any North Korean nuclear test.

The US-China talks will cast a long shadow over the first post-pandemic G20, a reunion that Russian President Vladimir Putin has pointedly opted to skip. He instead sent his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who arrived earlier on Sunday. Putin's invasion of Ukraine has made the trip to Bali logistically difficult and politically fraught, and while the war is not officially on the summit agenda, the conflict will dominate discussions.

Soaring energy and food prices have hit richer and poorer G20 members alike - and both are directly fueled by the war. There is likely to be pressure on Russia to extend a deal allowing Ukrainian

grain and fertilizer shipments through the Black Sea when the current agreement expires on Nov 19. At a minimum, Biden and his allies want the G20 to make it clear to Putin that nuclear war is unacceptable. Even that once uncontroversial position is likely to be blocked by a mixture of Russian opposition and Chinese unwillingness to break ranks with its ally in Moscow or give Washington a win.

At a recent meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Xi said a nuclear war could not be won and should never be fought. Ryan Hass, a former director for China at the US National Security Council, said Xi "likely will not be as magnanimous in his meeting with Biden". "He will not want to be perceived as satisfying a request from Biden, whether on Ukraine, nuclear use, North Korea, or any other issue," Hass told AFP.

G20 host Indonesia - still careful not to favor either China or the United States - is not confident that the leaders will be able to break the deadlock. Ministerial meetings hosted by Indonesia in the run-up to the summit have failed to agree on a final joint communique - a procedural-sounding tradition that can be important in driving cooperation. "Honestly, I think the global situation has never been this complex," said Indonesian government minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan on the eve of the summit. "If eventually (the G20) leaders do not produce a communique, that's that, it's OK." — AFP

International

Press freedom fears as Italy PM Meloni takes Saviano to trial

Saviano faces up to three years in prison if convicted in the trial

ROME: Italian anti-mafia journalist Roberto Saviano stands trial next week on defamation charges brought by Giorgia Meloni, now Italy's prime minister, for a 2020 outburst criticising her stance on migrants. Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy was at the time a small opposition party, but took office last month after a sweeping election victory driven in part by its promise to stop the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean.

Saviano, who is best known for his international mafia bestseller "Gomorra", faces up to three years in prison if convicted in the trial, which opens on Tuesday. The 43-year-old told AFP it was an "unequal confrontation, decidedly grotesque", while press freedom groups warned it sent a "chilling message" to journalists.

Watchdogs say such trials are symbolic of a culture in Italy in which public figures—often politicians—intimidate reporters with repeated lawsuits, threatening the erosion of a free and independent press. Italy ranked 58th in the 2022 world press freedom index published by Reporters Without Borders, the lowest level in western Europe.

Intimidation

The case dates back to December 2020 when Saviano was asked on political TV chat show "Piazzapulis" for a comment on the death of a six-month-old baby from Guinea in a shipwreck. He pointed a finger at Meloni and Matteo Salvini, the leader of

the anti-immigrant League party, which is now part of her coalition government.

Meloni said in 2019 that charity vessels which rescue migrants "should be sunk", while Salvini, as interior minister that same year, blocked the vessels from docking. "I just want to say to Meloni, and Salvini, you bastards! How could you?" Saviano said on the show.



Saviano has been sued for defamation

Meloni sued, as did Salvini, whose separate case is expected to go to trial in February. PEN International, an organisation that defends free speech, sent an open letter to Meloni this week urging her to drop the case. "Pursuing your case against him would send a chilling message to all journalists and writers in the country, who may no longer dare to speak out for fear of reprisals," it said.

Meloni will be represented by lawyer Andrea Delmastro, who she recently nominated deputy justice

minister. Saviano said he has been sued for defamation "dozens of times", but only Meloni and Salvini's suits have gone to trial. The author, who has been under police protection since publishing "Gomorra" due to threats from the mafia, said the tactic was to "intimidate one in order to intimidate 100".

Passivity and inaction

Within weeks of taking office, Meloni's government showed it would be tough on migrants by blocking rescue vessels from its ports last weekend, in the process sparking a row with France, which took in one of the ships.

"This extreme right-wing government needs enemies who meet two criteria: not having a voice (like the migrants) or being very well known so that the punishment can appear exemplary," he told AFP.

"It will be even more difficult (for journalists) to report on what is happening and express an opinion if the prospect is having to defend one's freedom of expression in court and seeing your words put on trial when they criticise power and its inhuman policies," Saviano said.

In 2017, the latest available data from the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) showed nearly 9,500 defamation proceedings were initiated against journalists in Italy. Sixty percent were dismissed, while 6.6 percent went to trial.

Defamation through the media can be punished in Italy with prison sentences from six months to three



ROME: This combination of pictures created on November 12, 2022 shows Italian journalist Roberto Saviano (left), known for his fight against the mafia, is facing a defamation lawsuit on November 15, 2022 from Giorgia Meloni, Italy's current prime minister. — AFP

years. But Italy's Constitutional Court urged lawmakers in 2020 and 2021 to rewrite the law, saying jail time for such cases was unconstitutional and should only be resorted to in cases of "exceptional severity".

Ricardo Gutierrez, head of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), told AFP the "passivity and inaction of the government and parliament" could only be interpreted "as complicity with the enemies of press freedom". — AFP

Australian premier hails 'constructive' talk with China's Li

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Sunday hailed a "positive" meeting with Chinese premier Li Keqiang—the first in-person encounter between leaders of the two countries since 2019.

Albanese, whose Labor government is keen to scrape the ice off of Canberra's frosty relationship with Beijing, spoke to Li at a gala dinner on Saturday night at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Phnom Penh. "I had a great conversation with Premier Li. It was very positive and constructive," Albanese told reporters on Sunday.

Ties with Beijing had hit an all-time low in recent years under the previous conservative government in Australia. China whacked Australia with trade sanctions costing billions of dollars in merchandise and service exports after Canberra called for an independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

Former prime minister Scott Morrison was the last Australian leader to speak with Li and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2019. Saturday was the first time Li and Albanese met in person, and they discussed the 50-year anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic ties.

"I think it's a good thing that it happened. I've said repeatedly about the relationship with China—that we should cooperate where we can and that dialogue was always a good thing," Albanese said.

Asked if he thought China was looking to recalibrate its relationship with other countries, he answered: "We should cooperate with China where we can and that's what we're doing."

Albanese hopes to secure a meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the coming G20 summit in Bali, but the appointment has yet to be confirmed. Albanese also had a 40-minute meeting in Phnom Penh with US President Joe Biden, who has said he would seek to identify the "red lines" in his country's relations with Beijing when he holds talks with Xi at the G20 on Monday. — AFP



China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang. — AFP

One body found after buildings collapse in France

LILLE, France: Rescue workers retrieved one body early Sunday in the northern French town of Lille, following an hours-long search through the rubble of two collapsed buildings.

Two small adjoining houses collapsed in a shopping street in the city centre at around 9:15 am local time (0815 GMT) on Saturday. At first the collapses did not appear to have caused any casualties. The homes were evacuated during the night as a precaution following a warning by a resident that one of the walls was "warped", police said.

Authorities soon realised a doctor was missing after calls to his phone went unanswered. He had been lent an apartment in the building for the weekend.

A body was located shortly before 1:30 am on Sunday and fire service Lieutenant Colonel Stéphane Beauventre, who is leading the rescue operations, said



VLEUTEN, Netherlands: Evert van Zijtveld, 67, poses on November 9, 2022 in Vleuten during an interview with AFP ahead of the verdict in the trial of four suspects accused of being involved in the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on July 17, 2014. — AFP

'Hunt them down': MH17 families hope for justice

VLEUTEN, Netherlands: Each night before bedtime in the small Dutch town of Vleuten, Evert van Zijtveld lights two candles at a concrete shrine next to his front door to remember his murdered children.

Eight years and four months ago his daughter Frederique, 19, and son Robert-Jan, 18, died with 296 others when Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot from the sky over war-torn Ukraine. Now the 67-year-old is hoping for justice and closure in a high-security Dutch courtroom on Thursday, where judges will deliver their verdicts on four suspects who remain at large.

"Those who are responsible for downing MH17 should be sent to prison. If they are guilty, the international community should hunt them down," Van Zijtveld told AFP in an interview. For Van Zijtveld and others who lost loved ones when the Boeing 777 travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was hit by what prosecutors say was a Russian-supplied missile, the loss is still raw years later. Large photographs of Frederique and Robert-Jan adorn the home of Van Zijtveld and his wife Grace, who also lost her own mother Neeltje Voorham, 77, and stepfather Jan van der Steen, 71, in the disaster.

One picture shows a smiling Van Zijtveld cuddling his daughter, which in a tragic irony was taken in the departures lounge at Schiphol airport when Frederique was departing on another trip.

'Search for justice'

"Angry is not the right word," sighed Van Zijtveld, a tall and dapper Dutchman who has earned widespread respect through his work in helping other relatives of victims deal with their grief, and setting up a fund for underprivileged children. "I am just very sad. My children and

my parents-in-law were taking a holiday in the eastern part of the world. They were hit by a BUK. They were murdered. They were wonderful people." Prosecutors say the four suspects—three Russians and a Ukrainian—played a key role in supplying the missile and have demanded life sentences if the men are convicted.

About an hour's drive to the east, in the village of Renkum, Sander Essers says he often listens to music to help him deal with his grief. The 72-year-old lost his brother Peter, sister-in-law Jollette Nuesink and their two children Emma, 20 and Valentijn, 17.

"Some evenings I take some time to listen to my brother's favourite Brazilian music, to think about him and his family and to cry," Essers told AFP. "For me, the verdict will be the partial end for the search for justice for my dear family... I hope the legal proof will be sufficient to come to a verdict."

'I cannot forgive'

Both Van Zijtveld and Essers say the verdict, whatever the judges decide, will be a milestone after more than eight years of heartache, often under the intense glare of the media. Many bereaved relatives testified during the trial which started in March 2020, offering heartbreaking accounts of the impact from the loss of their loved ones.

"This is a kind of a closure, this phase. It's too heavy to start it all over again," Van Zijtveld said. He had tough words for the four accused, Russians Igor Girkin, Sergei Dubinsky and Oleg Pulatov and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko. "They are real cowards" for not coming to court, he said, his eyes for the first time flashing with anger.

Essers urged those involved in the downing of MH17 to come clean, saying there was no chance of forgiveness until they spoke. "Open up, if you ever want to be at peace with yourself and to be able to look at yourself with at least some feeling of dignity," he said when asked what his message was to those involved. But Van Zijtveld took a harder line. "I cannot accept it," he said. "My children and parents-in-law were murdered. I cannot forgive them. I can never do that." — AFP

Taliban ban Afghan women from gyms and public baths

KABUL: Gyms and public baths are now also off limits to Afghan women, the Taliban confirmed Sunday, days after banning them from parks and funfairs. Women are increasingly being squeezed out of public life since the Taliban's return last year despite the hardline Islamists promising a softer version of the harsh rule that characterised their first stint in power that ended in 2001.

Most female government workers have lost their jobs—or are being paid a pittance to stay at home—while women are also barred from travelling without a male relative, and must cover up with a burqa or hijab when out of the home.

Schools for teenage girls have also been shuttered across most of the country since the Taliban's August 2021 return.

"Gyms are closed for women because their trainers were male and some of them were combined gyms," Mohammad Akif Sadeq Mohajir, spokesman for the Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue, told AFP.

He said "hammams"—traditional public bathing houses that have always been segregated by sex—were now also off limits. "Currently, every house has a bathroom in it, so it won't be any issue for the women," he said.

One video clip circulating on social media—which could not immediately be verified—showed a group of women, backs to the camera, lamenting the gym ban. "It's a women-only gym—the teachers and trainers are all women," a voice says, breaking with emotion.

"You can't just ban us from everything. Do we not have the right to anything at all?" Activists have said the increasing restrictions on women are an attempt to stop them from gathering to organise opposition to the Taliban's rule.

Small groups of women have staged frequent flash protests in Kabul and other major cities, risking the wrath of Taliban officials who have beaten and detained them. Earlier this month the United Nations voiced concern after the Taliban disrupted a press conference in the capital, submitting female participants to body searches and detaining the event organiser and several others. — AFP

they believed the victim was the doctor.

"The body went to the forensic institute. It will be clearly identified later," Beauventre said. Officials visited neighbouring houses on Saturday to check for cracks or gas leaks after the collapse. A resident of one of the buildings first noticed something was amiss in the early hours of Saturday, when he returned home and saw that "the building had moved".

"We could not open the door, we heard rubble falling," Thibault Lemay told French radio, adding that he immediately warned emergency services. Municipal police and firefighters decided to evacuate the buildings, as "there was a real risk", said Lille's mayor Martine Aubry.

Another resident, Benjamin Lopard, 35, told AFP: "I was not yet asleep when the firefighters began to bang on the doors, but I thought they were party people and I stayed in bed." "When the police arrived, I realised it was serious," he said, adding that he left around 5:30 am with his papers, computer and a change of clothes.

Both three-storey houses had crumbled by around 9:15 am. "I realise now the incredible luck we had," Lopard said. Without the evacuation, he said, "we would all be in wooden boxes". — AFP



LILLE, France: Mayor of Lille Martine Aubry walks near a collapsed building in the city of Lille, northern France, on November 12, 2022. Two small adjoining buildings collapsed on November 12, 2022 morning in a shopping street in the centre of Lille. — AFP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Business

Britain warns of impending tax hikes after Truss fiasco

Pain will fall disproportionately on the better off: Hunt

LONDON: The UK government on Sunday warned of impending tax hikes, especially for the wealthy, as it bids to repair economic havoc wrought by Liz Truss's short-lived tenure as prime minister. Truss's successor Rishi Sunak, who was heading to a G20 economic summit in Indonesia, has vowed to get soaring inflation under control even if it means more pain for hard-pressed consumers and businesses.

His finance minister, Jeremy Hunt, told Sky News that the pain would fall disproportionately on the better off when he unveils an emergency budget statement on Thursday. "We're all going to be paying a bit more tax, I'm afraid," he said, while refusing to be drawn into detail on the plan, after a tax-cutting budget by Truss caused panic on financial markets. Hunt conceded that the UK economy was already likely in recession after a contraction in the July-September quarter, "but we are a resilient country and we've faced much bigger challenges, frankly, in our history".

"We will be asking everyone for sacrifices," the chancellor of the exchequer stressed. "But I think in a fair society, as we are in the UK, we need to recognize that there's only so much you can ask from people on the very lowest incomes, so that will be reflected in the decisions that I take."

Hunt is reportedly looking at changing income tax brackets, to raise more revenue from high earners, and impose strict curbs on government spending for years to come even as inflation hits double digits.

He is seeking up to £60 billion (\$71 billion) in

savings and extra revenue-half of which was left by a budget black hole bequeathed by Truss, according to the Resolution Foundation, a think tank. "We do have to do some tax rises, do some spending cuts, if we're going to show that we're a country that pays our way," Hunt said, insisting his policies would make any recession "shallower and quicker".

'Badge of shame'

Hunt said the surge in energy prices linked to the war in Ukraine amounted to an economic hit of £140 billion. "It's like the economy supporting an entire second NHS (National Health Service)," the chancellor said. Asked if the NHS was on the brink of collapse after the Covid pandemic, Hunt acknowledged "massive pressures" in the service and "unbearable pressure" for doctors and nurses.

But he rejected a 17-percent pay claim lodged by Britain's main nursing union, which last week voted to go on strike for the first time in its 106-year history.

"We have to recognize a difficult truth that if we gave everyone inflation-proof pay rises, inflation would stay," he said. Ahead of Hunt's budget, the opposition Labour party accused the government of leaving public services such as the NHS "on their knees" after 12 years of Conservative rule.

Labour's finance spokeswoman Rachel Reeves told Sky that "austerity 2.0" was not the right way forward in this week's budget, calling it a "badge of shame" that the nurses felt compelled to go on strike. Tens of thousands of staff in vari-



LONDON: In this file photo taken on November 21, 2021, a customer (right) pays a stallholder a five pound note for fruit and vegetables at Walthamstow Market in east London. —AFP

ous industries—from the postal and legal systems to ports and telecommunications—have already gone on strike across Britain since the summer to press for higher pay. Hunt was also challenged about growing evidence that Britain's exit from the European Union is causing long-term harm,

with comparable economies recovering much faster from the pandemic.

"I don't deny there are costs to a decision like Brexit, but there are also opportunities, and you have to see it in the round," said Hunt, who voted in 2016 to stay in the EU. —AFP

G20 ministers launch \$1.4bn pandemic fund

NUSA DUA: G20 health and finance ministers launched a \$1.4-billion fund Sunday to tackle the next global pandemic ahead of the bloc's leaders gathering for a summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali but the host's president said it was not enough. The 24-nation fund is viewed as one of the early global outcomes of the summit next week where little progress is expected on the Ukraine crisis with Russian President Vladimir Putin not in attendance.

It was launched at a news conference Sunday opened by Indonesian President Joko Widodo and addressed by World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and World Bank President David Malpass. "The G20 agrees to build a pandemic fund to prevent and prepare for a pandemic. Donors from G20 and non-G20 members, as well as philanthropic organizations, have contributed to the funds. But it is not enough," Widodo said in a video address.

He said \$31 billion was required to tackle the next global pandemic. "We must ensure community resilience in the face of a pandemic. A pandemic can no longer take lives and destroy the joints of the global economy."

The United States has contributed \$450 million to the fund, nearly a third of the total.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the joint fund was an example of what the G20 can do to tackle global problems. "I am proud of what we have



NUSA DUA: Co-chair of Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention Chatib Basri and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (right) take selfie before launching a pandemic fund as part of the G20 dialogue, in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on November 13, 2022. —AFP

accomplished. I think the steps we have taken this year will help deliver on a vision of a healthier and more responsive global health architecture," she said.

Indonesia was at one point an epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic when a wave of Delta strain cases hit the country in mid-2021. Its health system was overwhelmed by the number of infections and Jakarta produced its own homegrown vaccine as lower income countries became frustrated at more developed nations hoarding inoculations for their citizens.

The fund's major donors include the United States,

Britain, India, China, France, Canada, Australia and Japan. "We meet at a time of multiple crises... this new dedicated fund is an important tool that will support low and middle income countries to be better prepared for global health crises," said Malpass, who urged more countries to commit to the fund.

"The pandemic fund can help make the world safer," Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told a news conference Saturday Saudi Arabia was expected to contribute to the fund, without specifying how much. —AFP

Musk will not go to G20 business meet in Indonesia

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk, the billionaire new owner of Twitter, will not go to Indonesia for a business gathering on the sidelines of the G20 summit, but will instead attend virtually, a senior Indonesian official said Sunday. Musk, who also owns electric car maker Tesla, was due to speak at the so-called B20 business conference on the resort island of Bali but a court case over his 2018 pay package worth about \$56 billion in stock options is slated to begin next week.

"In regards with Elon Musk, he has a trial. He must be present at the court," Indonesia's coordinating minister of maritime and investment affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan told reporters at the business conference on the eve of the G20 leaders' summit starting on Tuesday. His office said the world's richest person would instead



Elon Musk

take part in an hour-long virtual discussion on "future disruption of global technological innovation" at the B20 on Monday with Indonesian tycoon Anindya Bakrie.

The B20 lists Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as attendees. Pandjaitan said Musk would visit Jakarta in December "after his issue at the court finishes". Indonesian President Joko Widodo travelled to Texas to meet Musk earlier this year for talks about Tesla investing in the country's nickel industry. Indonesia has the largest nickel reserves in the world, and the pioneering electric car company is reportedly eyeing them for components for its batteries. The colossal pay packet being challenged in a Delaware court by a Tesla shareholder was approved by the company's shareholders at the time.

But the plaintiff argued Musk as majority shareholder presided over a conflicted transaction approved by a board controlled by him and that it should be rescinded. The case will be overseen by the same judge who last month ruled Musk must honor his multi-billion dollar buyout of Twitter. World leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden will travel to the summit on the mostly Hindu island for talks with other G20 leaders. Russian President Vladimir Putin will be absent from the meet as war continues to rage in Ukraine. —AFP

Thousands protest in Berlin over rising food prices

BERLIN: Thousands of people demonstrated in Berlin on Saturday calling for food prices to be controlled and for the rich to face higher taxes as Germany faces a cost of living crisis. Marching behind banners, one of which was emblazoned with the demand "Redistribute!", the demonstrators marched through the German capital after a call by left-wing organizations to protest against soaring prices and rents. Both police and organizers said at least 3,000 people took part in the protest which took place to the backdrop of rising inflation caused in part by the war in Ukraine which has hit energy and food supplies.

Other banners said the current economic order "puts profits over people's needs". Inflation in Germany is at its highest level in more than 70 years and reached 10.4 percent in October, according to figures released on Friday. The price rises are hitting household budgets as well as industry in the eurozone's largest economy.

The government, which is forecasting a 0.4 percentage point contraction in GDP next year, has sought mitigate surging energy prices, imposing a partial cap on the price of gas and electricity that will come into force in 2023. Most of the other miti-



BERLIN: Demonstrators carry banners and flags during a demonstration titled "Umverteilen!" (Redistribute!) on November 12, 2022 in Berlin, in order to protest against too expensive rents, rising prices and heating costs that have become unaffordable. —AFP

gating measures, including subsidized rail travel, have already ended. German economic experts on Wednesday proposed raising taxes on higher earn-

ers to help households struggling with soaring energy bills, but the suggestion was immediately shot down by the country's finance minister. —AFP

Business



KUWAIT: Jawad Bukhamseen (center) and James Riley (right) exchange partnership documents as Emad Bukhamseen (left) looks on.



Honoring ceremony

Bukhamseen Group announces a new luxury hotel project in Kuwait

Mandarin Oriental, Kuwait to be the anchor of an iconic 80-storey tower

KUWAIT: Bukhamseen Group Holding Company has announced on Sunday that it will manage a luxury hotel in Kuwait, projected to open in 2028. The hotel will be located in the heart of the financial district and will bring a new standard of luxury and elegance to the city.

Mandarin Oriental, Kuwait will be the anchor of an iconic 80-storey tower, designed by the award-winning architects, Foster & Partners, comprising a podium with variety of international retail and entertainment centers, as well as premium office space. It will also be the headquarters of the Bukhamseen Group Holding Company,

who are developing the overall project. The hotel will feature 159 guest rooms, including 33 suites, and 10 serviced apartments, providing outstanding views over downtown Kuwait, including the landmark Kuwait Towers and Al-Hamra Towers.

The hotel will offer a wide range of restaurants and bars comprising a signature dining experience, an all-day dining venue, a poolside bar and restaurant, a lobby lounge with a Mandarin Oriental Cake Shop, a club lounge and a shisha bar. There will also be extensive banqueting and meeting spaces to accommodate social and business events.

A comprehensive Spa at Mandarin Oriental will provide a wide range of spa, beauty and wellness experiences and will feature eight private treatment rooms, a fitness center, and both an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool set within a landscaped pool deck.

Jawad Bukhamseen, the founder and Chairman of the Bukhamseen Group Holding Company said, "We are pleased to be partnering with Mandarin Oriental to create Kuwait's most sophisticated luxury hotel. We look forward to welcoming the legendary quality of service for which Mandarin Oriental is renowned to this important destination".

James Riley, Group Chief Executive of Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group said, "We are delighted at the opportunity to extend Mandarin Oriental's presence in the Middle East with this important landmark in Kuwait. We look forward to collaborating with Bukhamseen Group Holding Company to create an iconic luxury property and we share their passion for ensuring the building meets the most stringent sustainability credentials."

The hotel is well placed for access to the city's financial, commercial and governmental institutions and is a 20-minute drive to Kuwait's International Airport.



KUWAIT: Jawad Bukhamseen announces the new luxury hotel project.



KUWAIT: A group photo following the ceremony.

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Dollar plunges amid softer inflation data

KUWAIT: Last week was a quiet week in markets with all eyes on US inflation report that was released on Thursday. Market participants were expecting a softer inflation reading and that would imply a less hawkish monetary policy by the Fed. The central bank of the US was keen on fighting inflation; hence all stakeholders were looking forward to an easing inflation reading and improved market sentiment towards risk-off mode.

On Thursday, the inflation report was published and showed that headline consumer price index (CPI) rose by 0.4 percent m-o-m while economists were expecting a 0.6 percent increase. The reading resulted in a fall in the annual inflation rate from 8.2 percent to 7.7 percent. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy sectors, rose by 0.3 percent on monthly basis against the consensus of 0.5 percent. The core inflation fell from 6.6 percent to 6.3 percent on yearly basis. The primary drivers of the downside surprise to inflation in October came from core prices. Core goods prices fell 0.4 percent m-o-m, while core service prices rose 0.5 percent. For the core goods CPI, this was the first decline in seven months.

Market reaction

Following the release of the inflation report, all asset classes soared as investors sentiment revived their risk appetite. The Nasdaq spiked by 7.35 percent on Thursday's session alone followed by the S&P 500 posting gains of 5.54 percent and the Dow Jones at 3.70 percent on the same day. Long dated treasury yields relaxed by around 30 basis points pushing the 10-year yield to 3.81 percent from around 4.08 percent. The markets are currently pricing in a mere 28 percent of a 75 basis point hike by the Fed in the last meeting of 2022, which will be held on December 14th. Nevertheless, the market can be seen as over optimistic on a single reading and a 50 basis point hike remains fully priced in.

On the FX sphere, the inflation report unleashed an attack on the dollar and sent

major currencies to levels we have not seen in 3 months or more. The greenback fell from its high horse levels of 110 to 106 within 24 hours of the release of the inflation data. The single currency soared beyond 1.03 and the cable jumped to 1.18 levels while the yen gained more than 6 figures and reached 138. The Swiss franc appreciated and broke the 0.96 level towards 0.95.

Lagarde on monetary policy

Pressure is mounting on central banks across the world after the Federal Reserve hinted at smaller interest rates moving forward. In Europe, ECB President Christine Lagarde and her deputy had previously signaled the central bank was determined to do its part to fight inflation and called on the 19 governments of the euro zone to avoid fueling prices with heavy spending. Although Lagarde acknowledged that the interest rate increases worked with a lag, she also argued that policymakers do not have the "luxury" to wait to see the full effect. "What we have to do at the moment is difficult," Lagarde said in an interview. "We have to bring inflation back to 2 percent in the medium term—that's our objective, that's our primary concern, that's our compass."

UK's GDP falls

UK GDP fell in September by 0.6 percent on monthly basis against market consensus of a 0.4 percent drop. September GDP was affected by the Queen's funeral, which saw almost all shops and businesses closed, and potentially also by the financial market turmoil that followed the so-called 'mini budget' towards the end of the month.

China on Friday eased some of its heavy-handed COVID rules, including shortening quarantines by two days for close contacts of infected people and for inbound travelers, and removing a penalty for airlines for bringing in too many cases. The loosening of the rules, a day after President Xi Jinping led his new Politburo Standing Committee in a meeting on COVID, cheered markets even as many experts warned that the measures are incremental and reopening probably remains a long way off.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30915.

FTX working to secure assets

WASHINGTON: The new CEO of troubled cryptocurrency platform FTX said Saturday the company was making "every effort to secure all assets" following unauthorized transactions potentially worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. "Unauthorized access to certain assets has occurred," CEO John Ray said in a statement posted to Twitter by FTX's general counsel, Ryne Miller.

FTX officials did not detail the quantity of unauthorized transactions made, but cryptocurrency analysis firm Elliptic said in a report published Saturday that "\$477 million is suspected to have been stolen." More than "\$663 million in various tokens" had been drained from FTX's wallets only 24 hours after it filed for bankruptcy, Elliptic said, with the difference "believed to have been moved into secure storage by FTX themselves." FTX US and FTX.com "continue to make every effort to secure all assets, wherever located," Ray, who specializes in corporate turnarounds, said in the statement.

The announcement comes a day after FTX filed for bankruptcy, part of a stunning collapse that has reverberated through the relatively young sector, sending other cryptocurrencies plummeting

and drawing scrutiny from government regulators. Additionally, the platform's chief executive, 30-year-old Sam Bankman-Fried, once considered a star in the free-wheeling cryptocurrency world, resigned. As recently as 10 days ago, FTX was considered the world's second-largest



WASHINGTON: In this February 9, 2022 file photo Samuel Bankman-Fried, founder and CEO of FTX, testifies during a Senate Committee in Washington, DC. — AFP

cryptocurrency platform, at one point valued at \$32 billion. But the company is now left trying to reassure a skeptical public.

Fall from grace

"Among other things, we are in the process of removing trading and withdrawal functionality and moving as many digital assets as can be identified to a new cold wallet custodian," Ray said in the statement. "Cold storage" refers to moving cryptocurrency assets to a hardware "wal-

let" unconnected to the Internet-to assure its security.

Ray added that "an active fact review and mitigation exercise was initiated immediately in response" to the unauthorized transactions. Overnight, Miller had tweeted about an investigation into anomalies and other unclear movements, and by Saturday morning indicated that "unauthorized transactions" had occurred. FTX's troubles first surfaced amid press reports that its Alameda Research trading house was involved in a risky financial arrangement with FTX.com that appeared to involve grave conflicts of interest.

Financial media reported that FTX executives knew the platform was using billions in customer funds to prop up Alameda. Adding to the drama, Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, agreed to buy FTX.com on Tuesday-before scrapping the takeover just a day later. FTX is being investigated by both the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the New York state Justice Department, according to the New York Times, which cited sources close to those probes.

The fall from grace even stretched to the world of sports, where the Miami Heat announced its FTX Arena is set for a rename and the Mercedes Formula One team said it had suspended a sponsorship deal with FTX and removed the company's logos from its cars ahead of this weekend's Sao Paulo Grand Prix. — AFP

ever found south of the Sahara — that were discovered in the northern Cabo Delgado province in 2010. Estimates have shown that once all the gas deposits were tapped, Mozambique could become one of the world's 10 biggest exporters.

But the region has since been hit by an insurgency waged by Islamic State-linked militants that has cast doubts over the viability of LNG exploration sites, and stalled progress. Eni's Coral Sul is the only one of three mega-projects in the Muslim-majority region to be on track. The other two, operated by TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil, have been put on hold because of the unrest.

'Europe's energy security'

The first floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility deployed in deep waters off Africa, Coral Sul can produce 3.4 million tonnes of LNG a year. Eni's CEO Claudio Descalzi hailed the

first gas shipment as a "significant step forward" in the firm's strategy "to leverage gas as a source that can contribute in a significant way to Europe's energy security, also through the increasing diversification of supplies". Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted gas supplies to Europe, sparking an energy crisis that has seen a major push to expand LNG production and import capacity across the globe.

The start of exports showed the southern African country offered "a stable, transparent and predictable environment for the realisation of multi-billion investments" Nyusi said, repeating calls to restart work on the two land projects.

French oil giant TotalEnergies halted its \$20 billion LNG project last year, after a deadly raid on the coastal town of Palma. Forces from Rwanda and other African countries deployed last year have since helped Mozambique retake control of much of Cabo Delgado.—AFP

Business

Sun-soaked North Africa pushes for cheap energy

Tunisia turns to renewables as fuel subsidies bill soars 370%

TUNIS: Solar panels glint in the sun on a Tunisian lagoon, part of a long-delayed drive to harness the North African country's vast renewable energy potential. While industry insiders complain of red tape, fossil fuel prices that soared after Russia's February invasion of Ukraine created a powerful incentive for such investments across the Maghreb region.

"Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, each have an abundance of solar energy resources as well as ample wind energy resources," said Michael Tanchum, an expert on the sector. "Extreme price pressures on natural gas, especially in Europe, have changed the calculus for investments in renewable energy."

Omar Bey, of French-based renewables developer Qair, hopes the firm's 200-kilowatt floating solar station on a lake next to a Tunis industrial park can be a prototype for bigger projects nationwide.

"Tunisia doesn't have any choice but to go for renewables, given the situation around hydrocarbons and particularly gas," he said, adding that innovations like floating solar stations could help. Being on reservoirs or lakes helps cool the panels, making them more efficient, and "means we can use water instead of taking up land that can be used for other things like farming or homes," Bey said.

It also helps reduce evaporation, another benefit in the water-stressed region, he said. Tunisia, on the sun-drenched Mediterranean Sea, is well-placed to produce clean energy both for domestic use and for export to energy-hungry Europe.

In 2015 the country set ambitious targets for renewables. But last year green sources accounted for only 2.8 percent of the country's energy mix and the rest came from natural gas, according to the state Tunisian Company of Electricity and Gas (STEG).



LE KRAM, Tunisia: A view of solar panels in a water reservoir in Le Kram, on the eastern edge of Tunisia's capital Tunis. —AFP photos

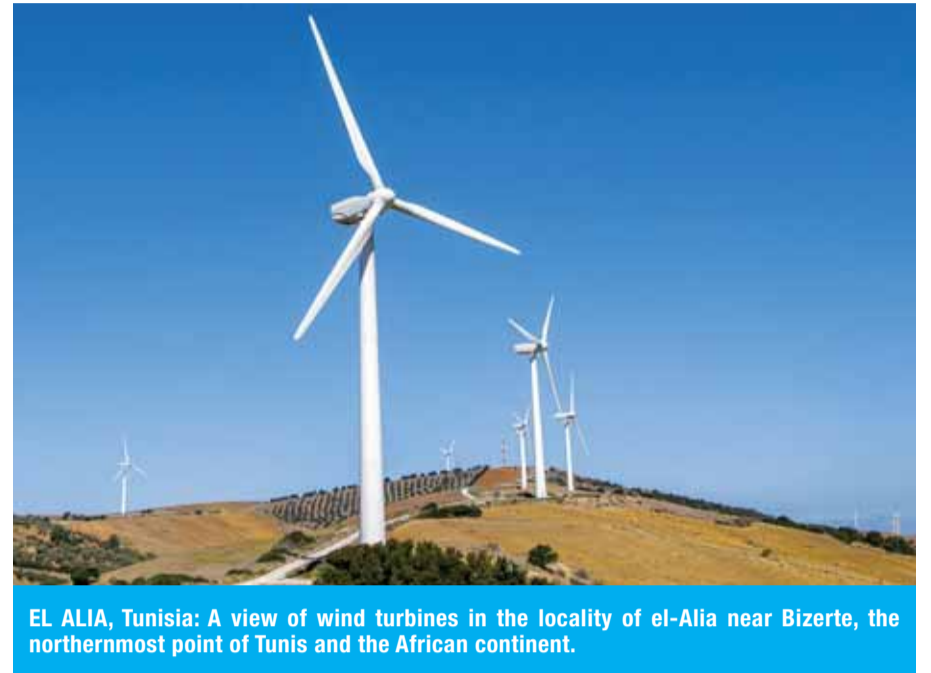
Tanchum, a non-resident scholar at Washington's Middle East Institute, said "political paralysis" was holding the sector back. Tunisia has suffered more than a decade of turmoil since its 2011 revolution. Ideological wrangling has often taken precedence over transforming the economy, which depends heavily on food and energy imports.

The state's fuel subsidies bill soared 370 percent in the first half of this year compared to the same period of 2021, official figures show. Yet, despite incentives to push for renewables, such efforts have been held back by legal and administrative obstacles, according to Ali Kanzari, president of an association representing solar firms. "Sometimes (imported solar panels) sit for a month or more in customs," he said. "We need more flexible laws. Everything needs to be sped up."

Morocco leads

One major solar station in the desert near Tataouine was finally connected to the grid in October, two years after its completion. Project head Abdelmomen Ferchichi blamed difficulties in getting permits, and the station's distance from the grid. Bey said "misunderstandings" among some union members within STEG, wary of attempts to privatize the sector by stealth, had also delayed development.

"Today, all that's behind us," he said. Tanchum told AFP that despite the renewables potential of the entire Maghreb, "only Morocco has emerged as a regional leader". Morocco decided in 2009 to boost renewables to 52 percent of its energy mix by 2030 and it currently produces around a fifth of its electricity from clean sources, according to the government.



EL ALIA, Tunisia: A view of wind turbines in the locality of el-Allia near Bizerte, the northernmost point of Tunisia and the African continent.

Its energy ministry says "this vision has started bearing fruit, with 111 renewable energy projects completed or under development". They include a solar and wind facility to generate more than 10 gigawatts of power and send it to the United Kingdom via a 3,800-kilometre (2,360-mile) undersea cable. Tunisia dreams of doing something similar.

In October, it applied for a European Union grant for an 800-million euro (\$828 million) cable to Italy covering 200 kilometers, to go online by 2027. For Kanzari, the association president, the link can't come soon enough. "They're going to have a cold winter" in Europe, he said. "If we'd had a cable that was ready, and four or five gigawatt solar power stations in the desert, we'd be selling electricity and earning hard cash."

Tanchum said that although Maghreb countries could benefit from this type of

project, much of the energy should be for domestic use, so they "don't become the green battery of Europe".

Algeria's ambitious target

Neighboring Algeria, Africa's top natural gas producer, has set the ambitious target of 15,000 megawatts from solar by 2035. The first part of a 1,000-megawatt project is set to come online by late next year, but for now the country generates just three percent of its electricity from the sun.

Intissar Fakir, head of the North Africa and Sahel Programme at the Middle East Institute, said Algeria's cash glut from gas exports is going to upgrade the fossil fuel infrastructure, not to renewables. There are also "big hurdles for foreign investment in the sector— not least Algeria's notorious bureaucracy," she added. — AFP



NUSA DUA, Indonesia: Russia's Finance Minister Anton Siluanov (left) and Saudi's Finance Minister Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan (right) attend the G20 Finance and Health Ministers meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali 12 November 2022. — AFP

Who is attending the G20 summit?

NUSA DUA: Leaders from the world's top economies will gather on the Indonesian resort island of Bali next week for a G20 summit overshadowed by the war in Ukraine.

Here is a snapshot of who will attend:

Joe Biden

The US leader will arrive in Indonesia to reassert America's leadership on the world stage and to again rally Western allies behind Washington's effort to increasingly isolate Russia over its Ukraine invasion. Before that, he will hold direct talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. The pair are not short of topics to discuss, with Washington and Beijing at loggerheads over issues ranging from trade to human rights and the status of Taiwan.

Xi Jinping

The G20 summit will serve as a diplomatic re-emergence for Xi following his confirmation in October as China's leader for a third term. As well as meeting Biden, he is also set for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron less than a fortnight after hosting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Beijing.

Sergei Lavrov

Moscow's top diplomat will head the Russian delegation after President Vladimir Putin said he would not attend, in an apparent bid to shield the Russian leader from criticism on the international stage. The Kremlin blamed his absence on scheduling conflicts. Lavrov walked out of a G20 meeting in Bali in July after the Ukraine invasion was condemned, and he can expect another cold reception.

Volodymyr Zelensky

The Ukrainian president will attend the summit virtually at the invitation of Indonesia. He is expected to lobby global leaders for a stronger response to Russia's invasion.

EU leaders

Macron will be the biggest name representing the European Union at the summit and is expected to meet with China's Xi. Scholz will be representing Europe's biggest economy, while Italy will be led by far-right prime minister Giorgia Meloni. — AFP

IKEA launches The Welcoming Home

KUWAIT: IKEA, the leader in life at home, launched The Welcoming Home. With The Welcoming Home IKEA continues to celebrate the everyday moments at home, and the time we spend with our families and friends.

"At IKEA we believe that a better home must always be warm and welcoming, look beautiful and make you feel good and proud. It is a home that feels cozy, reflects your personality, full of natural light, comfortable temperature, good smells, and lots of indoor and outdoor activities with our beloved ones," said Mersad El Aji, Manager of IKEA Kuwait. "Whatever the size of your home, whatever your lifestyle, IKEA is by your side to help you with inspiration, ideas and value for money solutions to make your home more welcoming for you, your family, friends and guests," added El Aji.

As a part of The Welcoming Home, IKEA launched the Extraordinary Pop-Up at 360 Kuwait from the 10th of November until 9th of December, to celebrate the outdoor season in Kuwait. IKEA Extraordinary Pop-Up welcomes everyone to bring family and friends together and enjoy the wonderful weather of the winter in Kuwait.

"As the weather cools down, it is now the perfect time of the year to enjoy being outside and do fun activities with your beloved ones. At IKEA's Extraordinary Pop-Up at 360 Kuwait, our expert team brings people of Kuwait lots of solutions and



ideas to make your outdoor space more functional, welcoming, and beautiful. We will also have activities and workshops where we share all our knowledge and bring experts to learn how to create a better life and have fun together," El Aji explained.

The IKEA Extraordinary at the Ordinary Magazine - in its fourth issue launched on 11th November - highlights many affordable solutions creating a personalized welcoming home for your indoor and outdoor spaces.

Climate activists take to the trees to save German village

LUTZERATH, Germany: After the last farmer packed up and left in October, climate activists are the only people left in the village of Luetzerath, Germany, which sits above a rich vein of coal.

In huts perched six meters (19 feet) above ground in the trees, the young campaigners say they can hold out against the authorities if they try to clear them out. They are there in an effort to stop the village being bulldozed to allow the extension of a neighboring open-air coal mine.

They do not know when the police might come to force them out, but with Germany in need of more coal, most think it will be soon. Europe's largest economy has restarted part of its mothballed inventory of coal power plants to relieve the pressure on gas-powered facilities, following a cut to supplies from Russia in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.

More than a thousand protesters descended Saturday on Luetzerath, now a symbol of the resistance to fossil fuels, to urge more action from participants at the COP27 conference in Egypt.

Many had painted their faces with the words "Stop coal". Activists unfurled a huge yellow cross—a symbol against coal mine expansion—in a field. Alma, a French activist who uses a pseudonym, earlier said she did not know when the evacuation was planned. "It's a question of responsibility, one that is difficult to take for the authorities because it's a huge opera-



LUTZERATH, Germany: A woman stands on the edge of the Garzweiler lignite open cast mine near Luetzerath, western Germany, on November 12, 2022, as in background can be seen wind engines. — AFP

tion, for which thousands of police officers need to be mobilized over several weeks," she said.

Mining deal

After studying, Alma decided to go full time as an activist and was one of the first to set up the activist camp in Luetzerath two years ago. One by one, the residents of Luetzerath have left as their homes were expropriated and they were compensated and rehoused.

She and the dozens of others who have joined her in the occupied village felt betrayed earlier this year when the government, led by Social Democrat Olaf

Scholz, announced a compromise with the energy giant RWE to allow the extension of the nearby mine. Under the agreement, five nearby villages will be spared, but Luetzerath is set to disappear.

Even though RWE, long one of Europe's biggest emitters, said it would stop producing electricity with carbon in 2030, the activists are not persuaded. "If RWE extracts all the coal under Luetzerath, Germany will certainly violate the Paris (climate) accord because of the emissions from the mine. The village is therefore not just a symbol, it's a critical point in the fight against climate change," said Alma. —AFP

GMO skeptics still distrust big agriculture's climate pitch

Multinationals hyping ability of GM crops to boost yields

NEW YORK: As a changing climate intensifies extreme weather, agricultural multinationals are hyping the ability of genetically modified crops to boost yields when facing drought, heat or even heavy rainfall. But skeptics of engineered foods, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs), still aren't buying it.

"I don't see why we should evolve our views when they're still doing the same things," said Bill Freese, science director at the non-profit Center for Food Safety, criticizing the "dramatically increased toxic herbicide use" following the proliferation of GMOs. Seeds designed to thrive in specific local conditions have been developed for centuries through conventional breeding, by crossing together plants with relevant characteristics and selecting the desired offspring.

But as more severe weather creates hostile growing conditions for conventional seeds, companies such as Bayer/Monsanto, Corteva and Syngenta are promoting GMOs as more efficient. And newer technologies can reduce development times for these heartier varieties "by many years" compared with traditional crop modification techniques, according to a spokesperson for Germany's Bayer.

"Drought tolerance is a complex trait involving many genes," the spokesperson said. "Therefore, the ability to develop drought-tolerant traits through classic breeding methods such as cross-breeding is limited." Longtime GMO critics say they are open to new approaches but are not sold on the latest industry pitch, viewing conventional seed products as safer and with fewer environmental drawbacks.

"How many times have we read that we won't be able to feed the world by 2050 unless we have GMOs?" said Freese, referring to the argument of GMO proponents that genetically modified crops will be necessary to produce enough food for a growing population on a warming planet.

But for Freese, that claim is "just a really effective smoke screen put on by the pesticide and seeds conglomerates to put a good face on this new technology." US company Corteva said it, too, is focused on "new breeding technologies such as gene editing" to "take advantage of the genetic diversity that already exists within the plant's DNA" when it comes to creating new seed types.

Such GMO products can help normalize a crop's performance, even if extreme moisture from rain or



Agrochemical companies have long developed seeds designed to thrive in particular local conditions. —AFP

flooding promotes the spread of fungus or pests, companies say. In July, the World Economic Forum highlighted the potential for GMOs to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating breeds that remove more carbon dioxide than conventionally grown crops.

Safety, environmental concerns

Many American growers favor GMO options because, while more costly, they require less human labor, Freese said. More than 90 percent of the corn, cotton and soybeans grown in the United States is currently genetically modified to withstand herbicides and/or insects, according to US government figures. Farmers have been growing corn meant to tolerate drought since 2011. Whether or not this trait is achieved with traditional breeding or with GMO seeds, the resulting plants are then usually combined with GMOs that can withstand herbicides.

"They told us in the '70s and '80s that GMOs were going to be more nutritious, fix the nitrogen level, withstand everything," said Michael Hansen, a senior scientist at Consumer Reports. "What did we

see? Mainly herbicide-tolerant crops."

Dana Perls, senior food and agricultural program manager at environmental network Friends of the Earth, said GMOs "go hand in hand with harsh chemicals that perpetuate pesticide pollution," harming insect populations, soil health and water quality. Perls acknowledged "incredible advances" in mapping and manipulating genetic material, but said scientists "are still quite limited in our understanding of the functioning of the incredible complexity of life, both within a single organism and within ecosystems." For now, she advocates for regulatory oversight of new GMO technology "rooted in a precautionary approach."

Andrew Smith of Rodale Institute said using GMOs to help crops withstand droughts and other extreme conditions is "nearsighted" unless the health of the soil is ensured.

Smith favors agricultural practices such as rotating crops, limiting chemical inputs and reducing soil tillage. Such techniques, known as regenerative agriculture, leads to healthier soil able to retain more water. "It's a strategy to mitigate climate change," said Smith. —AFP

SoftBank net profit boosted by sales of Alibaba shares

TOKYO: Japan's SoftBank Group on Friday posted a net profit in the second quarter, partly thanks to gains from the recent reduction of its stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. But falling share prices for many of its tech start-up ventures continue to hurt the company's balance sheet. The investment behemoth has made huge bets to find and grow new tech companies around the world-making its earnings vulnerable to fickle market forces. SoftBank's results have lurched between dizzying highs and lows in recent years, while China's crackdown on its tech sector has also taken a toll on the company.

In August, the group announced it would sell down some of its shares in Alibaba, reducing its stake in the Chinese tech giant to around 15 percent from 24 percent. This helped boost SoftBank's earnings in the second quarter for a net profit of 3.03 trillion yen (\$21.4 billion).

Over the first half of this financial year, however, it suffered a net loss of 129 billion yen, brought down by its record net loss in the first quarter. SoftBank's performance in the April-to-June quarter was dragged down by a global tech share rout, triggered by interest-rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and other central banks to tackle inflation. The bleak investment climate caused losses in SoftBank's investments in ventures from US food delivery app DoorDash to South Korean e-commerce brand Coupang. And the trend continued in the second quarter, which saw investment losses on its two main tech-focused funds of 1.4 trillion yen (nearly \$10 billion).

CEO Masayoshi Son said in August that he expected the "winter" for tech start-ups will continue, pledging to cut personnel at the group's tech-focused Vision Fund. In September, SoftBank confirmed to AFP that 30 percent of its investment advisors would lose their jobs. Son is known for his unconventional and often sanguine presentations at earnings announcements, where he highlights the thinking behind sometimes controversial decisions, such as investing generously in risky ventures like the troubled WeWork. —AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 10 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	39,064	8,460.44	2.7%	3.3%	10.8%	492,615,305	228,812,362	30,781	28.6	2.6	79.6%
Main Market	10,009	5,603.81	1.3%	2.1%	-4.8%	833,469,692	86,204,733	30,159	44.9	1.3	20.4%
All Share	49,073	7,541.81	2.4%	3.1%	7.1%	1,326,084,997	315,017,095	60,940	32.0	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	31,079	1,850.57	2.4%	3.3%	14.0%	257,662,897	150,623,608	15,541	26.1	2.6	63.33%
BASIC MATERIALS	784	879.17	3.2%	2.7%	-14.2%	11,408,288	4,018,544	1,291	9.4	1.3	1.60%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	988	1,475.02	3.0%	5.6%	10.4%	77,224,667	10,088,996	4,467	33.7	11.6	2.01%
CONSUMER STAPLES	140	458.15	1.8%	0.7%	-37.3%	7,249,388	2,605,228	385	29.4	1.0	0.28%
ENERGY	224	1,075.09	3.7%	5.3%	-24.7%	13,281,043	605,552	710	11.8	1.0	0.46%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,299	1,330.50	3.7%	4.3%	-6.5%	671,380,954	77,437,380	20,313	100.0	2.0	8.76%
HEALTH CARE	239	481.52	1.9%	-0.1%	-39.6%	1	0.499	1	13.4	3.6	0.49%
INDUSTRIALS	4,020	1,136.85	2.6%	2.9%	-0.4%	81,161,113	33,815,374	7,494	45.5	1.5	8.19%
INSURANCE	621	1,498.67	-1.5%	-1.8%	-2.3%	1,741,393	676,833	155	8.9	1.0	1.26%
REAL ESTATE	2,707	1,264.50	2.5%	2.9%	-4.7%	176,294,374	19,440,708	7,292	19.0	1.3	5.52%
TECHNOLOGY	9	653.29	8.2%	7.2%	-4.5%	177,313	15,071	71	0.0	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,749	1,222.42	0.8%	0.9%	12.2%	26,039,175	15,208,959	2,889	13.6	2.1	7.64%
UTILITIES	215	513.16	1.0%	1.0%	-14.5%	2,464,391	480,842	331	16.0	1.8	0.44%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
ASIYA	56	28.60%	64,538,343	3,289,896.448	2,049
JIYAD	26.4	22.79%	50,476,055	1,268,337.693	1,477
ALSAFAT	117	19.88%	48,072,451	5,373,943.967	1,844
GFC	95	15.85%	38,800	3,327.774	28
MARAKEZ	58	15.77%	2,346,280	128,632.085	284

Top Losers

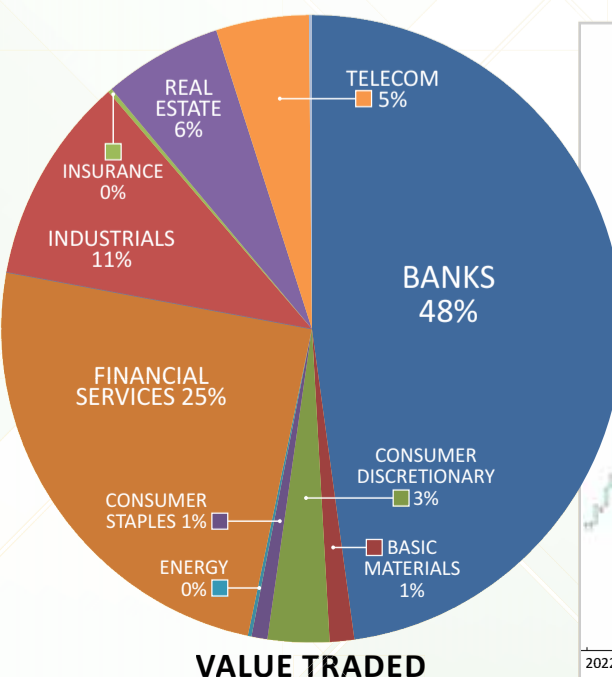
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KMEFIC	93.3	-19.57%	3,721,010	352,079	374
KUWAITRE	259	-9.44%	275	73	-
ALAQARIA	31	-8.53%	1,185,766	38,360	55
ALDEERA	163.0	-6.86%	14,650	2,509	15
WINSRE	120.0	-6.25%	523,683	63,152	60

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFH	81	5.87%	182,034,106	14,631,818	3,936
KFH	848	4.95%	112,436,978	93,485,572	6,981
AAYAN	138	4.55%	96,812,150	13,212,400	1,496
ASIYA	56	28.60%	64,538,343	3,289,896	2,049
NIND	237	0.00%	60,090,789	14,316,857	1,108

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	848	4.95%	112,436,978	93,485,572	6,981
NBK	1,120	0.90%	19,491,613	22,045,771	2,349
AGLTY	803	3.21%	19,694,441	15,806,943	2,567
GFH	81	5.87%	182,034,106	14,631,818	3,936
NIND	237	0.00%	60,090,789	14,316,857	1,108



Market Summary:

- Premier Market's weekly volume and value increased by 21% and 12%, and Main Market increased by 144% and 119%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices crossed a downtrend created in May which predicts a further increase in the index to reach higher levels.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7541, with support levels at 7503, 7461, and 7417, and resistance at 7574. The Premier index closed at 8460, with support levels at 8427, 8335, and 8273, while resistance at 8527. The Main index closed at 5603, with 5601, 5757, and 5550 support levels while resistance at 5616.

Lifestyle | Features



Journalists take images as astronauts and geologists of the European Space Agency work on the summit of an ancient volcano during a training program to learn how to explore the Moon and Mars in the Timanfaya National Park in the Canary island of Lanzarote. — AFP photos



German astronaut Alexander Gerst (right) collects rock on the summit of an ancient volcano.



German astronaut Alexander Gerst (left) collects samples on the summit of an ancient volcano during a training program.

'Like the Moon': Astronauts flock to Spanish isle to train

Kneeling on the edge of a deep crater, astronaut Alexander Gerst uses a chisel to collect a sample of volcanic rock which he carefully puts inside a white plastic bag. Gerst is not on the Moon, even if it looks like it. He is in the middle of Los Volcanes Natural Park on the island of Lanzarote in Spain's Canary Islands, off the northwest coast of Africa. With its blackened lava fields, craters and volcanic tubes, Lanzarote's geology can be uncannily similar to that of the Moon and Mars—so much so that the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA have for years been sending astronauts to the island to train.

"This place has lavas that are very, very similar to the ones that we find on the Moon," Gerst, a 46-year-old German astronaut with the ESA, told AFP. He said the island was "a unique training ground". Gerst, who has completed two missions on the International Space Station, is one of about a dozen astronauts who have taken part in the ESA's Pangaea training course in Lanzarote over the past decade. Named after the ancient supercontinent, Pangaea seeks to give astronauts as well as space engi-

neers and geologists the skills needed for expeditions to other planets.

Trainees learn how to identify rock samples and collect them, do on-the-spot DNA analysis of microorganisms, and communicate their findings back to mission control. "Here, they are put into the field to experience the exploration of a terrain, which is something they will have to do on the Moon," said Francesco Sauro, the technical director of the course.

Six-year eruption

Gerst said the Pangaea training course, which he has just completed, helps prepare astronauts to work in a remote setting on their own. "If we run into a problem, we have to solve it ourselves," he said. He completed the Pangaea training along with Stephanie Wilson, one of NASA's most senior astronauts. Both are possible candidates for NASA's next crewed Moon missions. Named for the goddess who was Apollo's twin sister in ancient Greek mythology, NASA's Artemis program aims to return astronauts to the Moon's surface as early as 2025, though many experts believe that time frame might slip.



Astronauts and geologists of the European Space Agency walk on an ancient volcano during a training program to learn how to explore the Moon and Mars.

Twelve astronauts walked on the Moon during six Apollo missions from 1969 to 1972, the only spaceflights yet to place humans on the lunar surface. NASA and the ESA also regularly use Lanzarote's landscape of twisted mounds of solidified lava to test Mars Rovers—remote controlled vehicles designed to travel on the

surface of the Red Planet.

Lanzarote's unique geography stems from a volcanic eruption that began in 1730 and lasted six years, spewing ash and lava over large swathes of land. Considered one of the greatest volcanic cataclysms in recorded history, the eruption devastated over 200 square kilome-

ters (77 square miles) of terrain—about a quarter of the island which is currently home to around 156,000 people.

'See far away'

While there are other volcanic areas such as Hawaii that could also be used for astronaut training, Lanzarote has the advantage that it has little vegetation due to its desert-like climate. "You have a lot of different types of volcanic rocks in Lanzarote. And they are exposed. You don't have trees," said Pangaea project leader Loredana Bessone. "You can see far away, as if you were on the Moon," she told AFP.

The Canary Islands is making a big contribution to space exploration in another way too. The island of La Palma is home to one of the world's largest optical telescopes. Located on a peak, the Great Canary Telescope is able to spot some of the faintest, most distant objects in the Universe. La Palma was selected as the site for the telescope because of its cloud-free skies and relatively low light pollution. — AFP



This file photo shows a violin and bows at the studio of French bow maker Edwin Clement in Paris.— AFP photos

Bow makers fear demise as Brazil seeks ban on rare wood trade

Global classical stars including US cellist Yo-Yo Ma and British conductor Simon Rattle joined a campaign on Tuesday to stop Brazil blocking the trade in a rare wood used for making bows. The world's greatest bows for violins and other stringed instruments are overwhelmingly made from the Paubrasilia Echinata, or pernambuco, which grows exclusively in northeastern Brazil and gave its name to the country. But Brazil's outgoing president, Jair Bolsonaro, has submitted a petition to criminalise trade in the wood, due to be heard by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its next meeting on November 25.

Bow makers say the government's claim that they are threatening the tree's survival is absurd—not least since Bolsonaro has done so much to encourage industrial deforestation in the Amazon. The world's bow makers use only around 200 trees a year, according to British violin dealer Martin Swan, and have funded the

International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative which has planted some 250,000 new seedlings since 2000.

Criminalizing the trade will only encourage smuggling, adds the National Pau-Brasil Foundation, a Brazilian conservation group. "Let us not make the musical world a scapegoat for deforestation," said the petition signed by dozens of global musicians and orchestras. Bow makers say banning the trade would decimate their industry, while also requiring musicians and orchestras to carry special passports for each bow made from pernambuco when they travel.



Photo shows French bow maker Edwin Clement playing violin in his studio in Paris.

"We are not denying reality—there is a problem of deforestation in Brazil," said French stringed instrument maker Fanny Reyre-Menard. "But it's not the bow makers who are responsible for it. They are part of the conservation effort."

Artisans claim nothing beats the precise resistance, density and elasticity of pernambuco for projecting the sound of stringed instruments. "This wood is the origin of the modern bow. If we replace it, we will no longer play the violin as it has been played for 250 years," Parisian bow maker Edwin Clement told AFP. — AFP

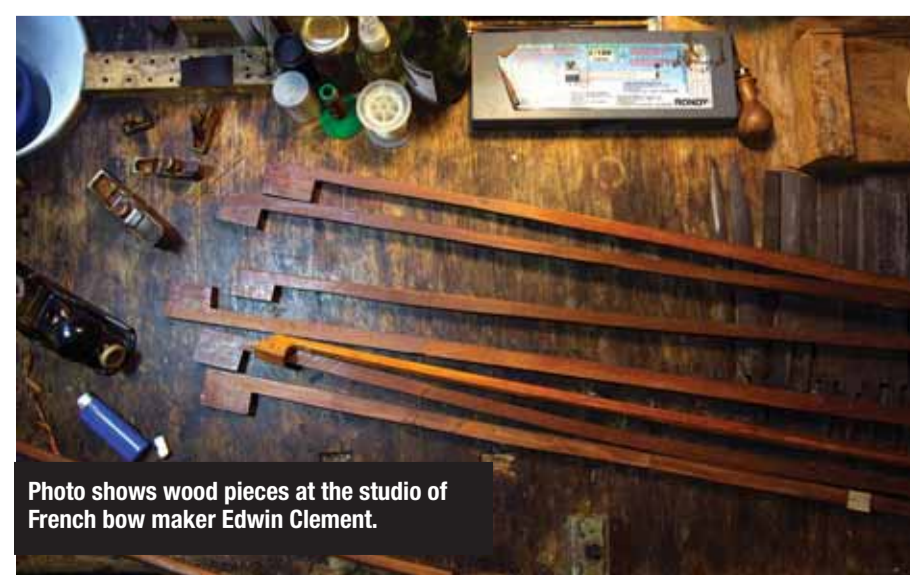


Photo shows wood pieces at the studio of French bow maker Edwin Clement.

Despite crisis, UK's Blackpool keeps the lights on

At this time of year, the British coastal resort of Blackpool shows its best face by night, when one million LED lamps light up the seafront for more than six miles (10 kilometers). After the COVID pandemic, the tourism-reliant town in northwest England was aiming for brighter times. Then the war in Ukraine and an energy-fuelled inflation crisis hit.

Even though organizations across Britain face soaring electricity bills, the Blackpool Illuminations will stay on this autumn, from early September to January 2. "It is unthinkable not to have our autumn illuminations," Ivan Taylor, the deputy leader of the town council, told AFP. "In terms of our tourism sector, it is very, very important," he said. Blackpool claims to be among the first towns to turn on permanent electric street lighting, with eight arc lamps in 1879 — shortly before Thomas Edison patented his breakthrough design for a bulb.

With pauses for the two world wars, the illuminations have been an annual occurrence since a royal visit to Blackpool in 1912, and today attract around 3.5 million visitors a year. The council had budgeted to spend £1.75 million (\$2.07 million) on the lights this year, but that did not take account of the rocketing price of electricity, which will show up in next year's figures.

For large UK businesses, energy bills have doubled or tripled on average since a year ago, while consumer inflation is running at a four-decade high above 10 percent. The cost-of-living crisis could also reduce visitor numbers to places like Blackpool. Just when it was recovering from the pandemic, more than a third of the UK's hospitality sector is now at risk of failure, according to an industry survey last month by groups representing pubs and restaurants.

Climate efficiency

The operator of the council-owned Blackpool Winter Gardens entertainment venue, which is a key part of the town's attractions during the illuminations, proposed to shutter it on quieter days to save money. Councillors refused the request, fearing it would send a message to the public that Blackpool was closed for business.

The town faces a tricky balancing act. "I know it brings a lot of tourists but at the same time, you have got to balance that with the cost," said Jo Berry, a Manchester resident in her early 40s who was visiting the illuminations. A light display is a sensitive issue when many Britons say they cannot afford to turn on their heating, she added.

"Let's just hope we get through the winter and it carries on being mild because it's so far been unusually warm. "I hope it stays that way. Because a lot of people can't turn the heating on at all, never mind only turning it on for a few hours." Chris Wheeler, a pensioner visiting the town, said the council did not have a choice. "You can see the benefits of the lights to the Blackpool economy," he said. "If everybody spends a couple of hundred quid (pounds), it's a lot of money for Blackpool."

At least the illuminations' running costs have come down in recent years, after inefficient bulbs were swapped out for low-voltage LED lights. In 2004 wind turbines contributed to powering the light show for the first time, as climate change came into sharper focus.

Today the Blackpool Illuminations only use green energy from renewable sources like wind, hydropower and biogas, according to the council. Taylor said if energy costs were to go up much more, the organizers would "make economies within the show in other ways". "The return on investment is absolutely worth it," the Labor councillor stressed. "They (visitors) are all spending money when they get here. So it's good for us and it's good for them, because we want to give them a good time." — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



Local residents walk past a Banksy-style graffiti on the wall of a destroyed residential building, but its origin remains unconfirmed by the artist, in Irpin, near Kyiv. — AFP photos



A local resident looks at a Banksy-style graffiti on the wall of a destroyed building, but its origin remains unconfirmed by the artist.

Banksy unveils Ukraine mural in town bombed by Russia

Banksy, the elusive British street artist, has painted a mural on a bombed-out building outside Ukraine's capital, in what Ukrainians have hailed as a symbol of their country's invincibility. On Friday night the world-famous graffiti artist posted on Instagram three images of the artwork—a gymnast performing a handstand amid the ruins of a demolished building in the town of Borodyanka northwest of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The caption read "Borodyanka, Ukraine". Together with towns such as Bucha and Irpin, Borodyanka was severely hit by Russia's bombardments and became a symbol of the devastation wrought by Moscow's offensive since February.

The town was briefly occupied by Russian forces before they withdrew in

April. "It is a symbol that we are unbreakable," 32-year-old Oleksiy Savochka told AFP on Saturday, referring to the graffiti. "And our country is unbreakable." A number of murals in the style of Banksy have appeared in and around Kyiv prompting Ukrainians to think that the anonymous street artist might be working in the war-ravaged country.

Another graffiti in Borodyanka—its origin unconfirmed by the artist—shows a little boy throwing a man wearing a judo uniform to the ground. The scene could be a possible reference to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, who is a martial arts enthusiast. "It is a small boy against an old man and he is defeated, he's already defeated," Bogdan Mashay, a 30-year-old Ukrainian TV journalist, told AFP near the artwork.

"It's unbelievable that Banksy is here in Borodyanka," he added. On the side of a ruined building in Irpin, a third mural—also unconfirmed by Banksy—shows a gymnast performing a ribbon routine despite apparently being hurt and wearing a neck collar. On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared Kherson "ours" after Russia withdrew troops from the strategic southern city. Kherson was the first major urban hub to fall after Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine on February 24. — AFP



A local resident looks at graffiti made by Banksy on the wall of a destroyed building in Borodyanka, near Kyiv.



This handout image shows a prop cart by the scene of the shooting at the Bonanza Creek Ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. — AFP photos

Alec Baldwin files cross-complaint in fatal movie-set shooting

American actor Alec Baldwin has filed a lawsuit against four people involved in the Western film "Rust," saying they were negligent in providing him with a gun that discharged, killing the movie's cinematographer. The death on October 21, 2021 of Halyna Hutchins sent shock waves through Hollywood and gave rise to a series of civil suits. The 64-year-old Baldwin is suing the film's armorer and props assistant, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed; assistant director David Halls; props master Sarah Zachry; and Seth Kenney, who supplied guns and ammunition to the film set, according to a filing Friday in a Los Angeles court.



In this file photo US actor Alec Baldwin attends the 2022 US Open Tennis tournament men's singles semi-final match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

Baldwin's complaint follows a suit filed against him and others on the set last year by script supervisor Mamie Mitchell over their alleged role in the shooting that caused her great emotional distress. In his suit, Baldwin accuses Gutierrez-Reed

of failing to verify that a Colt revolver he was using in rehearsal was safe. The suit also states that Halls failed to check the weapon before he declared it safe and handed it to Baldwin, and that Zachry failed to ensure that weapons used on the New Mexico set were safe.

All those named in the suit have denied any culpability. The gun Baldwin was holding during rehearsal—meant to be loaded only with blanks—instead discharged a live round, killing the 42-year-old Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin last month reached a civil settlement with Hutchins' family, details of which have not been disclosed. A judge has not yet approved the settlement. Baldwin, who was a producer as well as the star of "Rust," has previously said he did not pull the trigger, though an FBI report determined the gun could not have gone off otherwise. Production on the movie will resume in January, filmmakers have said, with Hutchins' husband Matthew Hutchins taking on the role of executive producer.

"I have no interest in engaging in recriminations or attribution of blame," Hutchins said in an earlier statement. "All of us believe Halyna's death was a terrible accident." Investigators in New Mexico have filed no criminal charges, but have not ruled them out.

In August, Baldwin said he did not believe he would be charged. While there has never been any doubt that the gun was in Baldwin's hands when it went off, it remains unclear how it came to be loaded with a live round. Gutierrez-Reed has sued the film's ammunition supplier, accusing him of leaving real bullets among the dummy cartridges. The incident led to calls in Hollywood for guns to be permanently banned from sets. — AFP

Making New York - new play tells tale of ruthless powerbroker

Was he a visionary or a corrupt racist? The troubled legacy of Robert Moses, the master builder who shaped New York, comes under scrutiny this fall in a new play starring Ralph Fiennes. Robert Moses was an urban planner who, despite never holding elected office, launched building projects in the early 20th century which transformed New York and inspired cities across the United States.

While his vision lives on in New York's vast network of parks, roads and bridges, Moses' name became synonymous with the racist undertones of "urban renewal." The city's ambivalence about Moses gets a fresh airing in "Straight Line Crazy," a two-act dramatization of Moses' decades-long tenure atop the New York power jungle.

Fiennes depicts a Moses who cajoles politicians, outmaneuvers opponents, and shrugs off doubters in his insatiable quest to fulfill his ambitious vision for the city. "Our job is to lead, not to follow," Moses tells an underling who worries about pleasing the public. "People don't know what they want until they have it."

Corruption of power?

Written by the British playwright David Hare, "Straight Line Crazy" was originally presented in London. It marks the latest effort to reckon with Moses, who amassed unparalleled authority from holding posts on as many as a dozen municipal bodies simultaneously in a career that spanned four decades.

Moses was celebrated for much of his professional life for his building projects

and the leading role he played in bringing the United Nations to New York and in developing the Lincoln Center. But in 1974, the journalist Robert Caro lifted the veil on the underside of Moses' imperial-like reign in a book that won the Pulitzer Prize. He depicted him as a ruthless and corrupt dictator who held grudges, smeared opponents and hoodwinked allies while running a municipal machine of monumental proportions.

Caro exposed how Moses marshaled

for economic development and rebuilding and a board member of the Shed, said Moses' story offers some clues for policy makers on how to tackle ambitious projects, such as the need to back up a vision with detailed plans. "He did magnificent things. He did terrible things, and the reality is you're never going to get everything right," Doctoroff said during the panel conversation. "But at the end of the day, his disdain for the common person tarnishes the legacy forever."



This handout photo shows British actor Ralph Fiennes (left) and British actress Judith Roddy performing in the new play about US urban planner Robert Moses, "Straight Line Crazy".

massive public funds to favor suburban elites. Poorer, non-white communities were displaced from condemned neighborhoods and suffered from Moses' lack of support for public transit as he promoted mammoth highway projects that championed the car.

Hare has called Caro the authoritative expert on Moses, but views his subject differently. "Caro believes that... what corrupted Moses was power and that he became sort of crazed with power," Hare said at a panel discussion at The Shed theater, where the show runs through December 18. However, Hare believes his life "was about pursuit of an idea that was too rigid." Compared with Caro's monster-like figure, the play humanizes Moses, while still zeroing in on significant character flaws.

Dan Doctoroff, a former deputy mayor

What 'democracy couldn't deliver'

The play, based on real events but with invented dialogue and some fictionalized characters, spotlights two moments in Moses' career, riffing on a rise-and-fall narrative arc. In the first act, he casually flouts governance norms as he outwits Long Island gentry to push through the construction of the Jones Beach State Park in 1926. However, Moses meets his match in the second act, when grassroots opponents mobilize in 1955 to ultimately derail his plan for an expressway in lower Manhattan.

A longtime aide warns of waning patience with Moses' autocratic style and calls out his favoritism of "clean people... well-off people... white people." But Moses says he knows that "people may not like me, but they need me." "Now, of course, it's suddenly fashionable to dislike me, because I'm the dirty bastard who pushed through the things democracy needed but which democracy couldn't deliver." — AFP



In this file photo the statue of Robert Moses, the "master builder" who reshaped New York's highways, bridges and parks in Babylon, New York.



This handout photo shows (from left) British actors Danny Webb, Ralph Fiennes, Judith Roddy and US actor Adam Silver performing in the new play about US urban planner Robert Moses, "Straight Line Crazy" by David Hare, at The Shed in New York. — AFP



This handout photo shows British actor Ralph Fiennes performing in the new play about US urban planner Robert Moses, "Straight Line Crazy".



DOHA: A giant football is displayed inside the Qatar National Library in Doha on November 13, 2022, ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament. — AFP



DOHA: A boy wearing an England shirt plays on the waterfront in Doha ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup football tournament. — AFP

Fans, trophy and teams arrive in Qatar for World Cup countdown

More than one million fans will be in the smallest country to host a World Cup

DOHA, Qatar: One week from kickoff, the World Cup trophy returned to Qatar on Sunday, teams and fans started arriving and safety barriers went up across Doha ahead of one of the most controversial football tournaments ever.

The trophy which will be presented to the winning team on December 18 returned from a world tour in time for next Sunday's opening game when hosts Qatar take on Ecuador. FIFA's pleas to "focus on the football" have struggled however against an international spotlight on Qatar's treatment of migrant workers and women. Qatar has angrily rebuffed most of the attacks and local media on Sunday blasted the "arrogance" of some Western countries.

"It seems to have been all we have read about in recent weeks," said Ringo Gonzalez, an Ecuadoran based in Germany, who was among fans gathering at the World Cup countdown clock on the Doha seafront early Sunday. "It will be good to see the teams finally doing something. I want Ecuador to do well and to see Lionel Messi and the other big names in action." The United States team has already arrived in Doha and Australia were to join them on Sunday. Qatar is predicting more than one million fans will be in the smallest country to host a World Cup, and many have arrived in the capital.

Many star players were still involved for their European clubs on Sunday in the final matches before the season is paused for the World Cup. Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe were all named in the starting lineup for Paris Saint-Germain against Auxerre in Ligue 1. In Doha port, the giant newly built cruise ship, MSC Europa, was to be officially named on Sunday before it welcomes thousands of World Cup fans.

No champagne for ship naming

In a concession to Qatar's Islamic culture that restricts alcohol and bans gambling, a bottle of rose water was to be smashed on the hull instead of traditional champagne for the inauguration and the ship's casino was to be closed while it was in port.

Three cruise ships will house up to 10,000 fans and MSC said the Europa was fully booked for the first two weeks of the 29-day tournament. On land, barriers have gone up on main streets and around metro stations and stadiums as security forces brace for the football invasion. Organisers say that 2.9 million of the 3.1 million tickets have been sold and scores of hopeful fans waited outside the FIFA ticketing centre hoping that scarce tickets become available for top games.

Matthew Coleman, an Australian living in Doha, and

his Dutch friend Gijs Beenker, left empty-handed because there were no "interesting" matches available. At a nearby World Cup souvenir store, the staff said Europeans who buy the official ball or the La'eeb mascot were the main clients.

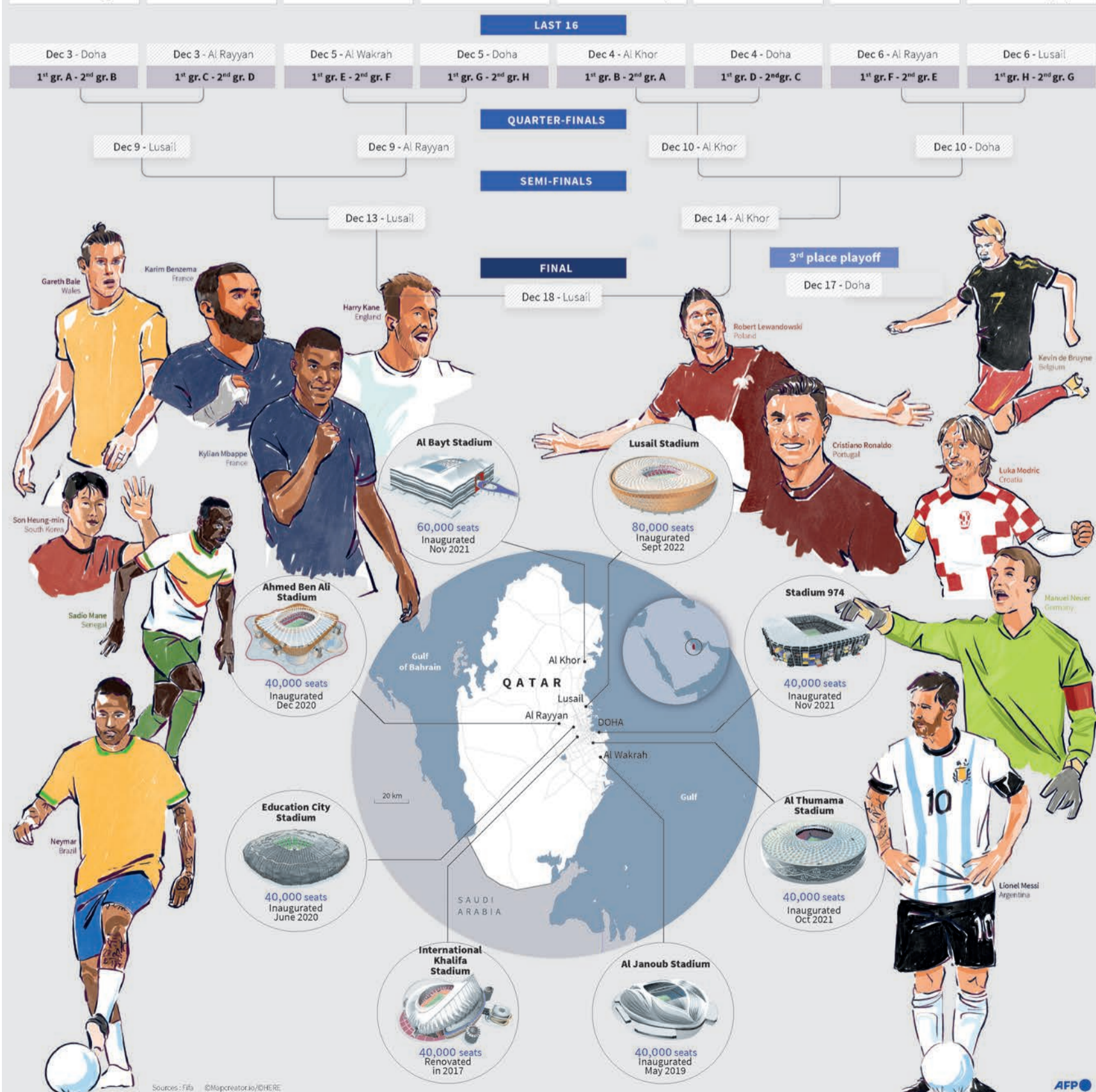
Migrant workers from South Asia have bought thousands of replica Brazil and Argentina shirts and can be seen wearing them in the streets. The labourers have been at the centre of an often acrimonious dispute over deaths, injuries and their working conditions since Qatar was awarded the World Cup in 2010.

European and Qatari media on Sunday kept up their war of words over whether the energy-rich Gulf state should host the event. One British newspaper said that many fans believed that Indians in Qatar had been "paid" to take part in rallies supporting Argentina and Brazil. Thousands of migrant workers flocked to the march on Friday.

In response, Qatar's Al-Sharq newspaper said the anti-Qatar campaign "confirms the arrogance of some Western countries who believe organizing the World Cup must remain monopolized by them". Al Raya said "the enthusiastic, festive atmosphere of large crowds of football fans of different nationalities in Doha revealed the failure of smear campaigns led by some media and Western politicians against the 2022 World Cup". — AFP

World Cup 2022: competition format

A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H	
Qatar	England	Argentina	France	Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal	Ecuador	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia	Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Senegal	United States	Mexico	Denmark	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay	Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia	Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	South Korea
Nov 20 - Al Khor	Nov 21 - Doha	Nov 22 - Lusail	Nov 22 - Al Rayyan	Nov 23 - Doha	Nov 23 - Al Rayyan	Nov 24 - Lusail	Nov 24 - Doha	Nov 21 - Doha	Nov 21 - Al Rayyan	Nov 22 - Doha	Nov 22 - Al Wakrah	Nov 23 - Doha	Nov 23 - Al Khor	Nov 24 - Al Wakrah	Nov 24 - Al Rayyan
Qatar - Ecuador	England - Iran	Argentina - Saudi Arabia	Denmark - Tunisia	Spain - Costa Rica	Belgium - Canada	Brazil - Serbia	Portugal - Ghana	Senegal - Netherlands	United States - Wales	Mexico - Poland	France - Australia	Germany - Japan	Morocco - Croatia	Switzerland - Cameroon	Uruguay - South Korea
Nov 25 - Doha	Nov 25 - Al Khor	Nov 26 - Lusail	Nov 26 - Doha	Nov 27 - Al Khor	Nov 27 - Doha	Nov 28 - Doha	Nov 28 - Lusail	Nov 25 - Doha	Nov 25 - Al Rayyan	Nov 26 - Al Rayyan	Nov 26 - Al Wakrah	Nov 27 - Al Rayyan	Nov 27 - Doha	Nov 28 - Al Wakrah	Nov 28 - Al Rayyan
Qatar - Senegal	England - United States	Argentina - Mexico	France - Denmark	Spain - Germany	Belgium - Morocco	Brazil - Switzerland	Portugal - Uruguay	Netherlands - Ecuador	Wales - Iran	Poland - Saudi Arabia	Tunisia - Australia	Japan - Costa Rica	Croatia - Canada	Cameroon - Serbia	South Korea - Ghana
Nov 29 - Al Khor	Nov 29 - Al Rayyan	Nov 30 - Doha	Nov 30 - Al Wakrah	Dec 1 - Doha	Dec 1 - Al Rayyan	Dec 2 - Lusail	Dec 2 - Al Rayyan	Nov 29 - Al Khor	Nov 29 - Doha	Nov 30 - Lusail	Nov 30 - Al Rayyan	Dec 1 - Al Khor	Dec 1 - Doha	Dec 2 - Doha	Dec 2 - Al Wakrah
Netherlands - Qatar	Wales - England	Poland - Argentina	Australia - Denmark	Japan - Spain	Croatia - Belgium	Cameroon - Brazil	South Korea - Portugal	Ecuador - Senegal	Iran - United States	Saudi Arabia - Mexico	Tunisia - France	Costa Rica - Germany	Canada - Morocco	Serbia - Switzerland	Ghana - Uruguay



Arteta hopes maturing Arsenal not thrown off course by World Cup

WOLVERHAMPTON, United Kingdom: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is hoping a six-week hiatus to the Premier League season does not come at the wrong time for his side after the Gunners moved five points clear at the top on Saturday.

Martin Odegaard scored twice as Arsenal were 2-0 victors at Wolves just hours after Manchester City suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat to Brentford. Arsenal have not won the league since 2003/04 and have failed to even finish in the top four for the past six seasons.

A return to the Champions League next season appears a formality with Arteta's men 14 points clear of fifth-placed Manchester United. And City's unexpected first home defeat since February to Brentford sets up an intriguing title battle when the Premier League returns after the World Cup on Boxing Day.

"We showed another kind of maturity today," said Arteta. "In the first 20-30 minutes we struggled to break them down. We were much better in the second half and we had a bit more courage and took risks but also not allowing them to run."

Eight of Arsenal's starting line-up are now headed to Qatar as Arteta confirmed Granit Xhaka's early substitution was just down to illness for the Swiss midfielder. "I'll touch wood and hope for the best," he added on whether the break could count against Arsenal.

"When everyone is back we'll assess where we are and go from there. "I would train tomorrow but unfortunately they're not here. "I wish those going to the World Cup the best and they will look after themselves. I hope they enjoy it because it doesn't get better than playing for your country." — AFP

Sports

France lay down Rugby World Cup marker with South Africa win

Both sides had leading players shown red cards for dangerous play

MARSEILLE, France: France edged South Africa 30-26 in the Autumn Nations Series in Marseille on Saturday after both sides had leading players shown red cards for dangerous play. The Springboks' 2019 World Rugby Player of the year Pieter-Steph du Toit was sent off inside the first quarter of an hour before last year's award winner and captain Antoine Dupont suffered the same fate after the break for the home side.

Les Bleus, next year's Rugby World Cup hosts, laid down a marker with a win over the Webb Ellis trophy holders less than ten months out from the tournament. France head coach Fabien Galthie kept the same starting lineup from last weekend's win over Australia, the country's record 11th straight victory. After the smoke from the pre-match show lifted, Springboks captain Siya Kolisi came out of the tunnel sprinting in front of the 65,000 full house, reminiscent of when he became the first black player to lead his country in June 2018.

Thomas Ramos kicked a penalty to make it 3-0 to the hosts before du Toit's moment of madness after just 12 minutes as he headbutted Jonathan Danty at a ruck. Galthie was forced to re-shuffle his back-line with Danty off for a head injury assessment as flanker Sekou Macalou came onto the wing and Yoram Moefana moved to centre.

Galthie's outfit took the ascendancy and Ramos added a second penalty to make it 6-0 after 17 minutes before Cyril Baille crashed over just after the quarter mark. Ramos slotted the extras to make

it 13-0 with the Webb Ellis trophy holders stunned.

Winger Cheslin Kolbe scored a penalty to make it 13-3 after 25 minutes to calm the away side's nerves. Kolisi's pre-game passion lifted to another level on the half-hour mark as he spun away from a rolling maul to slide over, then celebrated by pointing to the sky, before Kolbe kicked the additional points to make it 13-10.

With things finely balanced and the Boks calmed after du Toit's red card, Ramos was successful with a third penalty which made it 16-10 at the break.

Uncle Falatea

Kolbe and Ramos traded penalties after the interval as France led 19-13 with 35 minutes remaining. Dupont then followed Du Toit as he took out Kolbe in the air from a Faf de Klerk kick with the Boks camped inside Les Bleus' 22m.

After a second lineout Willie le Roux found Kurt-Lee Arendse with a sublime pass before scrum-half de Klerk slotted the touchline conversion to make it 20-19 with less than half an hour to play. Dupont's opposite number De Klerk, having taken over the kicking duties from Kolbe, off for a head injury assessment, and Ramos exchanged shots at goal to leave the score at 23-22 to set up a tense final quarter.

De Klerk was subbed off before Damian Willemse made it 26-22 with a penalty. After three pick and gos on the South Africa line, replacement prop Sipili Falatea buried over, two phases after his



MARSEILLE, France: France's fly-half Romain Ntamack (R) is tackled by South Africa's fly-half Damian Willemse (L) during the Autumn Nations Series rugby union test match between France and South Africa at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille. —AFP

nephew Yoram Moefana had broken the defensive line. Barnes' checked the try with his video referee before Ramos missed the conversion leaving the score 27-26 with four minutes to go.

France's 12th straight victory was sealed with less than two minutes on the clock as Ramos kicked a penalty from 45m to stake their claim for next year's World Cup. — AFP

Hero's welcome for Kuwait's national squash team

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Squash team received a hero's welcome upon its return home, after participating in the 21st Asian Championship and ended in second place, against all expectations that they could reach the final match, which was against India which won the first place.

The team was received by member of parliament, member of sports committee MP Hani Shams, Acting Director General of Sports Authority Mahmoud Abul, Federation President Waleed Al-Sumaia and other officials.

MP Hani Shams lauded the achievement against teams ranked ahead of them, adding that his pres-



ence is to deliver a message to all about the interest of the sports committee care for players who make achievements, and promised to work hard to remove obstacles Kuwait sport is facing.

PAS Acting Director General conveyed greetings

of Information and Culture Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdelrahman Al-Mutairi, adding that he always asks for the support of games that brings achievements and this apply to squash with the Asian achievement.

Maestro Musiala guides Bayern six points clear

BERLIN, Germany: Bayern Munich's teenage forward Jamal Musiala laid on two assists to help his side extend their lead atop the table to six points in a 2-0 win away at Schalke on Saturday. Coming into the game against last-placed Schalke who have won only twice this season, Bayern boasted a starting XI featuring XI players selected for the Qatar World Cup - six for Germany, four for France and one for Cameroon.

The home side managed to keep Bayern at bay for much of the opening stanza, before a sublime Musiala back-heel put former Arsenal forward Serge Gnabry in space to score his side's first after 38 minutes. Musiala set up his side's second after 52 minutes, with Bayern launching a length-of-the-field counter attack after a Schalke free kick. Musiala, who represented England as a teenager before shifting allegiance to Germany, assessed his options before sliding the ball to Cameroon striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who scored his 10th goal from his last nine games for Bayern.

Musiala had the ball in the net less than 10 minutes later, but the goal was ruled out for offside. Bayern Munich are now unbeaten in their past 22 games against Schalke, dating back to 2010 when Musiala was just seven. A 2-1 win away at Werder Bremen gave RB Leipzig their ninth victory in their past 10 appearances on Saturday. Leipzig took the lead after just 13 minutes through Portugal striker Andre Silva, before Bremen centre-back Christian Gross equalised in the second half.

Austrian midfielder Xaver Schlager scored with just under 20 minutes remaining to help Leipzig continue their impressive recent form under former Borussia Dortmund manager Marco Rose.

After the match, Schlager credited his side's "mental strength", while manager Rose said Leipzig "defended with everything we had". "We are happy and delighted with the win." Bayer Leverkusen's resurgence under manager Xabi Alonso continued, with a 2-0 win at home against Stuttgart. A first-half strike from French striker Moussa Diaby and a second-half goal from German defender Jonathan Tah continued Leverkusen's recent momentum, with the home side unbeaten in three after winning just one of their first six under Alonso. —AFP

Ali Jassim Al-Kharafi wins Kuwait Equestrian Federation League

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Equestrian Club rider Ali Jassim Al-Kharafi won the second round of the second edition of Kuwait Equestrian Federation League.

Al-Kharafi was able to jump over the hurdles without faults at a height of 140 cm. The main event was very competitive between 5 riders Ali Al-Kharafi, Antonio Morozo (Italy), Abdelrahman Al-Fuzaie, Fawaz Al-Subaie and Ahmad Al-Madhakha, and there was a tie break round.

Ali Al-Kharafi, the Asian Champion, jumped over the hurdles in 37.18 seconds, 1.3 seconds less than Antonio. Abdelrahman Al-Fuzaie was third.

The 130 cm height was won by the Belarusian rider beating Antonio and Abdallah Al-Roudhan Hussein Al-Kharafi won first place in the 120 cm height.

The first day competitions saw a rare and does not happen often in the horse jumping events when



Ali Al-Kharafi and Abdelrahman Al-Fuzaie shared top place in the fifth run for the 135 cm, as both

were able to get over the hurdles with faults with the same time of 65.10.

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

Khalidiya	24848075
Kalfan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammad Ekhlaque holder of Passport No. T2412941 do hereby change my name to Md Akhlaque (as Given name) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Md Akhlaque and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#2440) — 14-11-2022

Automated enquiry about the CiviID card is 1889988

TENDER NOTICE

Advertisement for sale of car

Embassy of India in Kuwait announces sale of its GMC Acadia (Make:-2015) Car (Mileage 205698 Kms. Good condition) on "as is where is" basis. Buyer to pay local taxes/custom duties/insurance and associated transfer charges.

Interested parties may submit their price offer in sealed envelopes (in double envelope cover) to Embassy of India, Kuwait, by 1600 hrs, December 04, 2022 at the Address:

HEAD OF CHANCERY,
Embassy of India,
Diya Diplomatic Area,
Kuwait.

The outer cover of the envelope should be subscribed with the matter "TENDER Quotation for the Car sale process" and contact details of the bidder should also be mentioned in the envelope.

Bids will be opened on 5th December, 2022 at 1400 hrs (MONDAY) in the Embassy of India. All the bidders are invited to attend the bid opening process. Successful bidder must make the full payment by 8th December, 2022.

For vehicle inspection, please contact Embassy on working days (Sunday to Thursday) from 1200 hrs until 1600 hrs by contacting on 22530600/12/13/14 or emailing at hoc.kuwait@mea.gov.in and ajimnkuwait@mea.gov.in for fixing prior appointment.

This offer is not open to employees of the Embassy of India and members of their families. The Embassy of India in Kuwait reserves the right to cancel the bid, in case it is not found in the interest of the Government of India.

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSALHOTLINE 128

England win T20 World Cup

Adil Rashid, Sam Curran won us the game: Stokes



MELBOURNE, Australia: England players celebrate winning the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 Final between Pakistan and England at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in Melbourne on November 13, 2022. — AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia: Ben Stokes and Sam Curran starred as England edged Pakistan by five wickets to win the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday and become the sport's first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50 and 20-over titles.

Jos Buttler's side held Pakistan to 137-8 in front of a partisan 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match and tournament Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping with 2-22. In reply, England slumped to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace attack, with boundaries hard to come by.

But Stokes (52 not out) and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month. "In finals, especially when chasing, you probably forget all the hard work before that. To restrict them to 130, the bowlers have to take a lot of credit. Adil Rashid and Sam Curran won us the

game," said Stokes.

"Pretty good evening. Representing your country in World Cups is amazing, it has been a good one." Curran said Stokes should have been player of the match. "We all look up to him. People question him, but he's incredible. He's the man," he said.

"The way I bowl, I go into the wicket with my slower balls and keep the batsmen guessing. World champions, how good," he added. The victory added to the 50-over title England won in 2019, building on the legacy of former captain Eoin Morgan, who retired this year after transforming the team into a white-ball juggernaut.

It was England's second T20 crown after tasting success in 2010, joining the West Indies as the only two-time winners since the tournament's inception in 2007. The game was billed as a showdown between Pakistan's attack and England's top order, and Shaheen Afridi bowled danger man Alex Hales in the first over of the run chase.

But that only fired up Buttler who smashed two

boundaries off Naseem Shah. Phil Salt, playing in place of the injured Dawid Malan, didn't last, making just 10 before pulling Haris Rauf to Iftikhar Ahmed. The ball was swinging and seaming and the menacing Rauf claimed the key wicket of Buttler just as he was getting in, edging to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan on 26 off 17 balls.

The runs dried up as they reached 77-3 at the halfway point of the innings, compared to Pakistan's 68-2. Harry Brook came undone on 20 against the spin of Shadab Khan, holing out to Afridi and came down to needing 41 runs off the final five overs.

Rashid strikes

Stokes relieved the pressure with a four and a six off Ahmed and there was no stopping them with the England all-rounder hitting the winning runs. With forecast rain staying away, England produced disciplined and economical bowling to stymie 2009 champions Pakistan, with Shan Masood's 38 the top score.

Stokes was given the new ball after England won the toss and chose to field with Pakistan lucky to survive the over intact as opener Rizwan was almost run out going for a risky single. Rizwan and Babar Azam shared a century partnership in their semi-final against New Zealand, but another big stand wasn't to be, with Rizwan dragging a delivery from Curran on to his stumps on 15.

The introduction of Rashid soon after the six-over powerplay reaped an immediate reward with Mohammad Haris (8) attacking him on his first ball only to sky a simple catch to Stokes. Masood began swinging the bat in the second half of the innings, hitting a four and six off Liam Livingstone.

But once again Rashid got the breakthrough, pulling off a diving catch from his own bowling to claim the vital wicket of Azam, whose 32 came off 28 balls. Ahmed only lasted six balls before Masood and Shadab Khan (20) fell in the space of two runs as Curran and Chris Jordan kept the lid on any hope Pakistan had of a late flurry. — AFP

Durant fuels Nets win without Irving

LOS ANGELES: Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets clamped down defensively in a 110-95 NBA victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday, their fourth win in the five games since Kyrie Irving was suspended.

As the Nets' resurgence continued despite turmoil, the Boston Celtics notched a sixth straight victory and the Dallas Mavericks downed the high-flying Portland Trail Blazers thanks to a 42-point triple-double from Luka Doncic.

Star guard Irving was suspended for at least five games by the Nets after using social media to publicize a film widely condemned as anti-Semitic. Although he has now sat out five games, Nets coach Jacque Vaughn said before Saturday's contest that Irving would not return for Sunday's clash with the Lakers.

"We're obviously missing (Irving) and we've got to look where those points are going to come from," Durant said after the Nets opened their southern California sojourn with a hard-fought victory. "I think guys are doing that as a group."

Durant excelled on both ends of the floor, scoring 27 points with six rebounds, three assists, two blocked shots and two steals. Reserve Seth Curry scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as the Nets finally put the back-and-forth battle away.

Durant, 34, is the first player to start a season with 13 straight games scoring at least 25 points since Michael Jordan had 16 25-point games to open the 1988-89 campaign. He's made sure the Nets have weathered the absence of Irving, as well as the continuing struggles of Ben Simmons, who came off the bench and scored just one basket.

Durant said defense was key to the win. "We hung our hat on just staying in front of our man and making them shoot tough shots over us," he said after the Nets held Clippers star Paul George to just five-of-12 shooting and 17 points.

Center Ivica Zubac scored 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Marcus Morris added

13 as the Clippers kept the pressure on until the Nets put together a late 18-2 scoring run.

"Even though we didn't make shots (early) I felt like we were generating good shots, too, so eventually they were going to start to fall," Durant said. Defense has been a focus since Vaughn took over, after Steve Nash was sacked this month-part of a tumultuous stretch for the club that included the furore surrounding Irving.

While the likely date of seven-time All-Star Irving's return remains unknown, his situation appeared to be heading toward a resolution after both NBA commissioner Adam Silver and Nets owner Joe Tsai said this week they had had productive talks with the player.

In Dallas, Doncic broke out of the doldrums that beset him in back-to-back defeats this week to post his third triple-double of the season, adding 13 rebounds and 10 assists in the Mavs' 117-112 win over the Trail Blazers. The 23-year-old Slovenian star's 49th career triple-double was his fourth to feature at least 40 points.

His display slowed down the surging Blazers, who had won three straight to lie second in the Western Conference. Damian Lillard led Portland with 29 points and 12 assists, but they felt the absence of injured center Jusuf Nurkic.

Tatum powers Celtics

In Detroit, Jayson Tatum scored 43 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Celtics overcame the injury absences of second-leading scorer Jaylen Brown, Al Horford and Malcolm Brogdon in a 117-108 victory over the Pistons.

A tight first half ended with the Pistons up by two points, but Tatum came alive in the second half, scoring 28 points after the break. Joel Embiid had a big night in Philadelphia, scoring 42 points with 10 rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 121-109 victory over the Hawks, avenging a defeat in Atlanta on Thursday.

Elsewhere, the Miami Heat spoiled the season debut of LaMelo Ball with a resounding 132-115 victory over the Charlotte Hornets. Former Rookie of the Year Ball had missed Charlotte's first 13 games with a sprained left ankle.

He scored 15 points in 28 minutes on court, but he and the Hornets were no match for a Miami team led by 31 points from Max Strus. — AFP



Teams that participated in the IIHF Women's Development Cup.

Kuwait bags second spot in ice hockey Women's Development Cup

KUWAIT: Kuwait came second in the IIHF Women's Development Cup which concluded on Saturday, marking their first major achievement on the international stage, trailing behind champions, Colombia. The huge milestone for the hosts in the competition's first-ever edition came after a 4-1 victory over the UAE at the Winter Games Club stadium on the back of a win over third-placed Luxembourg.

Colombia won the title after achieving its fifth victory in a row, which came at the expense of Luxembourg in a deserved 4-0 scoreline. Kuwaiti player, Joud Al-Ajmi, said she was filled with joy at the achievement, saying it would spur the team on to make further progress in international participations. Her role alongside her fellow players was praised by head coach Mishal Al-Ajmi, who said that performances, which "exceeded all expectations", against the UAE and Luxembourg were key to their success.

The event witnessed a huge turnout, according

to organising committee and Winter Games Club head Fahed Al-Ajmi, who told reporters that the women's team benefited greatly from playing in this strong sports gathering, held for the first time in the region. The club chief said he felt "great pride" in the result, pointing out that women at the club are given equal attention to their male counterparts. Kuwait National Assembly female lawmaker Alia Al-Khaled, who attended the event, said she was "very proud." — KUNA



Kuwait women's team holding the cup.