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## Kuwaitis in Turkey 'safe'; Syrian woman arrested

Outlawed PKK accused of carrying out Istanbul attack



ISTANBUL: This handout photo shows police officers detaining a Syrian woman named Alham Albashir in an Istanbul flat. — AFP

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Consulate General in Istanbul has assured that the Kuwaiti nationals in the city are safe and were not affected by the blast. The consulate said that it contacted Turkish authorities as soon as the blast happened to reassure about Kuwaitis. The Turkish authorities affirmed that there was not any Kuwaiti national amongst the casualties. The consulate appealed to its nationals in Istanbul to be vigilant and cautious, and stay away from gatherings as well as follow instructions of the Turkish authorities. The Kuwaitis are advised by the consulate to contact in case of emergency at: +905306902097.

Meanwhile, Turkey on Monday accused a Syrian woman of planting a bomb that killed six people in Istanbul, blaming the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) of carrying out the attack. Two girls, aged nine and 15, were among those killed when the bomb exploded shortly after 4:00 pm on Sunday in Istiklal Avenue, home to smart boutiques and European consulates. More than 80 other people were wounded.

"The person who planted the bomb has been arrested," Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said in a statement broadcast by the official Anadolu news agency early Monday. "According to our findings, the PKK terrorist organization is responsible," Soylu said. The PKK, blacklisted as a terrorist

group by Ankara and its Western allies, has waged a deadly insurgency for Kurdish self-rule in south-eastern Turkey since the 1980s.

It denied any role in the latest attack. "Our people and the democratic public know closely that we are not related to this incident, that we will not directly target civilians and that we do not accept actions targeting civilians," the group said in a statement published by the Firat news agency, close to the PKK.

Police, quoted by private NTV television, said the chief suspect is a Syrian woman working for Kurdish militants. Forty-six people were detained in total, police said. Police footage shared with Turkish media showed a young woman in a purple sweat-shirt being apprehended in an Istanbul flat. Police, cited by NTV, named her as Alham Albashir and said she was arrested at 02:50 am in an Istanbul suburb. Local media said she was a trained PKK intelligence operative.

There has been no claim of responsibility. "We believe that the order for the attack was given from Kobane," Soylu said, referring to a city in Syria near the Turkish border. PKK-affiliated Kurdish militants control most of northeastern Syria and in 2015, Kurdish fighters drove Islamic State jihadists out of the city. Turkey's NTV channel also shared

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### MoH identifies a rare blood type

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) on Monday announced the discovery of a rare blood type, in the Er group, used for saving lives of some newly born infants. Dr Reem Al-Radhwan, the director of the department of blood transfusion that contributed to the discovery, said in remarks to KUNA that the discovery would be helpful to specify and treat some unique cases where blood types are not compatible; for example among pregnant women and fetuses.

Medicine conventionally recognizes four blood types. These are the main types, she said, as to the others, some may develop antibodies and cause recurring miscarriages. The unique type had been specified by examining blood samples of a patient who was given blood from the rare blood base, she said, explaining that the patient's samples had been examined from the pregnant patient since 2018. The patient had antibodies to rare blood types however she was given blood from a next of kin. Kuwait's national archive of blood donors lists names of more than 500,000 donors, including 370 donors of rare blood types. — KUNA



Dr Reem Al-Radhwan

### Cabinet praises COP27 summit; KU director quits

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Cabinet praised the efforts of the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Sabah and the world leaders during the COP27, lauding the summit's result that may help face climate change and protect the earth and nature.

This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Barak Ali Al-Sheetan said following the meeting. The Cabinet was briefed by Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister Dr Bader Al-Mullah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the results of His Highness the

### Biden and Xi cool Cold War rhetoric

**NUSA DUA:** Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping tried to take some heat out of their simmering superpower rivalry Monday, during a three-hour summit that found common ground on Ukraine but left little doubt that stark differences remain. Biden emerged from the meeting proclaiming there need not be a new Cold War, as both leaders spoke of the desire to prevent high tensions from spilling over into conflict.

Xi told Biden that the two countries "share more, not less, common interests", according to a

Chinese account of the meeting, sounding more conciliatory than the last three pandemic-filled years without face-to-face presidential meetings would suggest. "The world expects that China and the United States will properly handle the relationship," Xi told him.

Trying to scotch the notion that China is bent on usurping the United States and remaking the world in its own authoritarian image, Xi reportedly said Beijing does not seek to challenge the United States or "change the existing international order". On the pressing issue of Russia's war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's veiled threats to use nuclear weapons, the pair agreed that nuclear war should not be fought and cannot be won, according to the White House. — AFP (See Page 5)

Amir's representative's participation in the COP27 summit.

It was also briefed on Kuwait's speech during the summit, which was delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince, in which he affirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Gulf, regional and international resolutions and initiatives concerned with the environment and the standards of cooperation with the UN in implementing its environmental projects.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet expressed full support to the Chairman of the Central Agency for

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### UAE won't take sides as 'global powers' face off

**ABU DHABI:** The United Arab Emirates has no interest in "choosing sides" between global powers despite its strategic partnership with the United States, a senior Emirati diplomat said on Monday. The comments by Anwar Gargash, a senior advisor to the UAE's president, come as Washington is at odds with Russia over the invasion of Ukraine and with Saudi Arabia over

OPEC+ cuts in oil production.

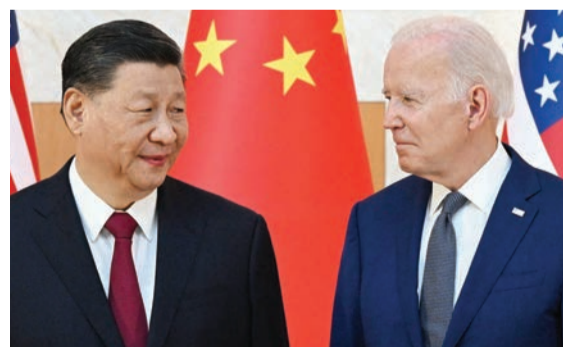
"The UAE has no interest in choosing sides between great powers," Gargash told experts and analysts at the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate conference, without naming any countries. "We will not under any circumstances sacrifice our sovereignty." The UAE is a key player in the 13-nation OPEC oil cartel which, with its 10 allies headed by Russia, angered Washington by cutting production by two million barrels a day from November, adding renewed upward pressure on crude prices.

The decision sparked a swift rebuke from the administration of President Joe Biden, which had hoped for lower prices ahead of midterm elections in the US and accused Riyadh of knowingly boosting Russian revenues during its war with Ukraine. The UAE, which has improved economic

and political ties with the Kremlin despite attempts by the US and Europe to suffocate Russia's economy, insisted the output cut was not a political jab at the US.

Gargash said his country, a rising regional powerhouse, welcomes "constructive and collaborative engagement" with world powers other than the US to promote security and stability in the region. The UAE, is not "dependent on just one or two countries for both our economic prosperity and our security", said Gargash, who formerly served as the minister of state for foreign affairs. "Trade relations increasingly look to the East while our primary security and investment relations (are) in the West," he added, explaining that the "situation may evolve over time".

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NUSA DUA: US President Joe Biden (right) and China's President Xi Jinping meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Nusa Dua on November 14, 2022. — AFP



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# PAM unveils modern system for recruitment of domestic workers



Director General of PAM Mubarak Al-Jafour



Director of the Information Systems Center Rabab Al-Osaimi



Attendees of the workshop organized by PAM

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) organized, on Monday, a workshop on activating the system for the recruitment of domestic workers, inspection services, and receiving complaints. During his speech, Mubarak Al-Jafour, Director General of PAM, said that activating the system of managing the recruitment of domestic workers, inspection services and complaints is the beginning of a breakthrough for applications in this sector.

He added that the Authority began implementing the inspection of the private sector to preserve the rights of all, explaining that the service aims to follow up and audit the dispute system between the domestic worker and the employer and between the employer and the recruitment office and the domestic worker, in addition to inspecting the offices and measuring their compliance with the law.

"The file of domestic workers is subject to the

Law No 68 of 2015 on Employment of Domestic Workers, and it is necessary to implement this law and constantly monitor the sector due to its importance, as it is linked to the society and citizens. We work in this sector to achieve the goal of keeping pace with developments in this sector," he added.

He stressed that the Public Authority of Manpower also has a priority to protect the rights of domestic workers in line with the international classification as Kuwait has worked continuously to adopt many legislations, laws, and measures that reflect the extent of its respect for international human rights.

Jafour noted "PAM's new system for domestic workers consolidates the role of Kuwait in protecting human rights. Kuwait has always been in the lead in these matters. We were honored by the visit of an American delegation to witness our system and also a delegation from the United Nations to visit us."

He pointed out that one of the most prominent services whose launch has become an urgent necessity is the need to allow receiving online complaints about domestic workers, affirming that the Authority to provide services to support citizens and domestic workers, hoping today's workshop for the new system to be a new beginning for this sector.

## National employment

Rabab Al-Osaimi, Director of the Information Systems Center at PAM, stated "Before the pandemic, we reached 60 electronic services through the 'Ashal' application, and in 2021 the new automated system was launched with a total of 150 electronic services, and now, after the COVID-19 pandemic, government agencies no longer have the choice but to digital transformation."

"We have also launched several systems to support national employment. The Authority was one of

the parties ready at the time of the pandemic for a complete digital transformation. Digital transformation has become an urgent necessity for organizing the labor sector and organizing work, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, and the strategy of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to automate all procedures and facilitate the user experience," she added.

During the workshop, Engineer Batoul Al-Enazi explained the mechanism of the electronic system for the recruitment of domestic workers for the year 2022. She said that the most important feature of the new system is that it completely stops paper documents and activates the digital forms portal.

She continued "Also the system automated audit of the Authority's transactions minimize human intervention in approving transactions and reduce the time for completing transactions. In addition, it links all work with government institutions to stop the exchange of paper documents," she added.

## AOU celebrates 20th anniversary

By Khaled Al-Abdulhadi

**KUWAIT:** The Arab Open University celebrated its 20th anniversary at its headquarters in Kuwait on Sunday, November 13, with the inclusion of its other campuses in different Arab countries on a web call. The AOU was founded by Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. The anniversary celebration was sponsored by Minister of Higher Education Hamad Al-Adwani as a representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In honor of the occasion, Al-Adwani, said "I am pleased to convey to you the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, and the greetings of HH Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait.

"We recall the great role played by HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in establishing this university and his keenness to develop it, as the purpose of its establishment and its branches in various Arab countries was to help the underprivileged whose limited income do not enable them to pay the fees of private universities," he added.

"The university offers them knowledge with exceptional fees or exempts them from it according to what the university and its leadership sees. What we hope is that the Arab Open University, with its various branches, continues to pursue what the late prince's spreading science and knowledge throughout the Arab world and eradicating illiteracy. Al-Adwani stated: "What we are proud of is that the Arab Open University now has branches in nine Arab countries, and the university's statistics show that it provides quality education to 53,000 current students, including 10,000 students in the branch of the Arab League in the State of Kuwait.

### Kuwait's role hailed

"Kuwait will always provide support and assistance to the private sector to contribute to the development of the educational process as well as the establishment of sound academic institutions, with great care to ensure the quality and diversity of education and to improve its outputs, and for programs to obtain academic accreditation, and even to follow up on developments in academic programs and their scientific development.

Speaking on the occasion, Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal said, "With great love and appreciation, I would like to thank HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait as well as HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as well as Minister Al-Adwani for their support of our establishment."

"We cannot celebrate without remembering HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah who opened all doors for this university to be launched and to develop, and then to HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who he met with his



Hamad Al-Adwani



Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal



Hamad Al-Adwani and Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal at the exhibition "Talal, A History Read by Generations."

heart and his thought the late Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz in the love of science, education and human development, as they will all remain in our memories and commemorated in history with pride for what they offered," he said in remembrance of Kuwait's role and their leaders in supporting the university.

As for Kuwait's tolerance of hosting foreign and a diverse set of students he said: "Kuwait played influential roles in the joint Arab action with its weight and wisdom, and it is still an oasis of science and knowledge. The headquarters of the Arab Open University hosted all the facilities from its humble inception until it rose up embracing in its environment more than 260,000 aspiring students and graduates from around 143 nationalities." "This leadership is not surprising, but rather a natural extension of the cultural and enlightening role of Kuwait in the Arab world," he added.

### The great vision

Prince Abdulaziz also remembered his late father and founder of the university Amir Talal bin Abdulaziz saying "The idea came from the vision of its late founder which makes education a central role for development, and as per this vision, we aspire always to develop and enrich the skills of our students in all Arab countries so they can be an active,

developed and sustainable parts in their societies."

AOU President Mohammed Al-Zakari said in his remarks, "The university's work started in October 2002, the launch was intended with a philosophy of human development, and a unique message 'Every person has the right to contribute to the development of his/her country, but this contribution requires renewed knowledge and skills, and these need educational institutions to establish them."

"Thanks to the quality of its institutional and academic procedures, the University has obtained international accreditation on six consecutive times, the last of which was this year, due to the strength of its curricula and its continuous updating, as well as for its application of a solid system that evaluates education outcomes," he clarified.

"Our students won first places in local and regional competitions including programming, digital media production, business administration and languages. Our graduates have gained the confidence of employers for possessing important skills needed by the market, on top of which are the English language, self-learning, and the ability to use modern technologies efficiently," he added.

As for the future of the university he said: "The university will continue to serve our learners, and after twenty years of its establishment, we are pleased to launch its new identity, which aims to prepare future makers, through our fifth strategic plan, which will expand geographically, enhance our academic map with its renewable programs, and rapidly prepare our students for future skills by focusing on supporting scientific research, innovation and leadership to achieve the sustainable development goals."

The ceremony was followed by the inauguration of the exhibition "Talal, A History Read by Generations," which included seven sections that showcased the developmental biography of Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, his efforts in the field of education, and his close association with Kuwait's leadership and people, as well as the University's journey between the past, the present and the future. The exhibition will last until November 19.

## Spring camp reservations

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality started accepting applications for camp sites reservation in 34 sites to have spring camps for the current season which starts Tuesday and continues until March 15th, 2023. The sites are in Jahra and Ahmadi governorates, as the northern area has 18 sites and the southern one has 16.

Kuwait Municipality official spokesman Mohammad Al-Mutairi said the Municipality completed all preparations in regards to the camping season and set the rules to license the camps that included not allowing spring camps in other than designated areas, and public services sites should be in close proximity from the camp, that in addition to the mechanism of reserving the camp site through <https://camp.baladia.gov.kw>

He said conditions to be followed to license camps for individuals include that the applicant should at least be 21 years old, and only one license can be issued to the person and the maximum area should be 1,000 meters. Al-Mutairi said the conditions include KD 50 fee which is non-refundable and KD 100 as a deposit which will be refunded at the end of the season after producing a camp cleanliness from the concerned department. He said camps can be held from 15 November, 2022 until March 2023. He said camps should be 100 meters apart.

## Dasman Institute holds annual World Diabetes Day

**KUWAIT:** Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), held their annual informative event to commemorate World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2022, at Al-Hamra Tower and Shopping Center. The event allowed visitors to consult with diabetes specialists and dietitians, as well as gather medical information from booths that explained various facts of diabetes and promoted healthy lifestyle modification.

Many of the booths at the event offered various components, such as educating visitors on proper dietary habits, physical activities amongst others. In addition, some of the booths provided blood glucose and blood pressure testing, as well as vital signs assessment.

The event, which was in collaboration with Kuwait Finance House and Al-Hamra Real Estate, helped people living with diabetes and the public. A special thanks to Kuwait Finance House for their continuous support and for sponsoring this event for many years, and special thanks to Al-Hamra Real Estate for hosting this event for the second consecutive year. "Holding such events and activities stems from DDI's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment in 2006, the Institute organizes and takes part in many events and campaigns to spotlight on diabetes and its related conditions. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that, 'Prevention is better than cure,'" Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director-General of DDI said.

The primary goal of the event was to promote awareness about diabetes, work towards achieving long-term positive health outcomes for diabetes management and empowering those affected by diabetes to proactively improve their quality of life.



Audience

Local

# PM hosts Deputy Chief of the National Guard



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister hosts deputy chief of the National Guard.



Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah with the National Guard officials.

KUWAIT: His Highness 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.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah has expressed his appreciation to the political leadership by assigning him as Vice President of the National Guard. "Joining the National Guard

is a priceless honor that is exceptional in line of service for the country and its people," Sheikh Faisal Al-Sabah said.

He stressed that he is ready to continuously review performance and is ready to change and develop in all fields. "I am happy to join the NG as I hope that I am successful and my colleagues to serve this country with honor," he added. "I also call upon you to exert more efforts and do

more training for the sake of this country as it is important to cooperate and coordinate between different sectors of the NG," he added.

"The NG remains a prime example of discipline, empowering law and spreading safety as the responsibility of the NG necessitates that we continue to perform our best," he added. "We will always review our performance and are ready to change, update and develop in all mili-

tary, technical, security and managerial fields so that the NG performs its assigned tasks perfectly that will always be ready to make sure the security of the nation is preserved," he added.

"Today, as we continue this honorable career we promise Allah and the political leadership that we will be up to the standards you set upon us as loyal soldiers to our dear nation," he added.

# Kuwait and Saudi ink MoU for boosting tourism cooperation

RIYADH: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information and the Saudi Ministry of Tourism signed on Monday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for boosting tourism cooperation. The MoU, inked by the Kuwaiti Minister of Information, Culture Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and the Saudi Tourism Minister Ahmad Al-Khatib, stipulated that the two sides would bolster cooperation in the tourism sector, namely regarding relevant legislations concerning hotels, leisure facilities, statistics, exhibitions and other sections.

The two sides will cooperate regarding permits for tourism installations, developing tourist sites and at various other levels. It also indicated that they would exchange information, expertise, publications, films and organize joint research projects. — KUNA



The Kuwaiti Information Minister and the Saudi Tourism Minister sign a MoU for boosting tourism cooperation.

## British Embassy holds Remembrance Day

By Khaled Al-Abdulhadi

KUWAIT: The British Embassy, Kuwait marked the annual Remembrance Day event on Monday commemorating the soldiers who have lost their lives in wars. Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honor armed forces members who have died in the line of duty.

The event included mourning, prayers, and reciting verses from the holy Quran, along with moments of silence to pay respects and honor to servicemen and those who have died during wars. The event was attended by top military and diplomatic officials of many countries including Western, Middle Eastern, African as well as Asian countries.

British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis welcomed guests in a speech saying: "Thank you for joining us this afternoon at our Remembrance Service. Thousands of Remembrance services have been taking place this weekend across the United Kingdom and in British Embassies and Consulates all over the world. I am honored to host this service here in Kuwait where we have a long history of friendship, and of solidarity in the face of conflict."

The ambassador also shared a quote from a veteran US navy seal, Chris Kyle, who was tragically killed when trying to help his fellow veteran who said: "People tell me I saved hundreds and hundreds of people. But I have to tell you: it's not the people you saved that you remember. It's the ones you couldn't save. Those are the ones you talk about. Those are the faces and situations that stay with you forever." The significance of the event is to remember those who did not have a chance to live to tell their story, and who did not have a chance to grow old.

All in attendance wore a red poppy flower or the Papaver Somniferum which is a symbol of sleep, peace and death and has become the symbolic representation of the remembrance of the deceased.

"The poppies that many of us are wearing today honor the contribution of all those who have striven for peace and security, and prompt us to remember those who are still fighting for a better future in today's conflicts in Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Syria and elsewhere," Ambassador Lewis said during her speech about the significance of the flower to those who have died. Servicemen also recited poems indicating the casualties of war to signify again that they will not be forgotten.

In an interview on the sidelines of the event, Ambassador Lewis said, "The Remembrance Day is always held on the closest Sunday to the 11th of November of every year. It is an important opportunity to stop and remember those who are no longer with us, the people who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace and for a better world for their

countries. It remembers those who died not only in uniform but also as civilians and victims of terror attacks. So, it is important that we never forget the people who have done so much to ensure that we and our children continue to live in peace," she said.

"It is an opportunity for ambassadors representing countries who were involved in both World Wars together on behalf of service people who were cut down in their prime and were killed in those wars. We also reflect in a two-minute silence to think about people in more recent conflicts that are still ongoing today," she added.

"We have an imam for his majesty's armed forces, who is an active gentleman and travels to attend many services. We asked him to attend the service today in Kuwait but unfortunately, we were only able to use a message because he is busy performing services outside of Kuwait," she clarified when asked about using a recorded voice message from the holy Quran during the service.

The service was an honorable event that collected many cultures and fused them in a single moment where they can all share the feeling of longing for



KUWAIT: British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis delivers her speech.

those who were lost for the sake of humanity, as it is an incredible example of a world coming together against the darkness of evil.



KUWAIT: Dignitaries attend the Remembrance Day event held by the British Embassy, Kuwait on Monday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Photo from the event.

In my view

## House in the hearts of others



By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

Local@kuwaittimes.com

When his illness reached the point of death I asked him, "It is been three months you have been in the hospital, why didn't anyone come to visit you?" This is a story many people - and I learnt unforgettable lessons from it. Two months after being admitted to hospital, I noticed his loneliness - which was the secret behind his constant sadness.

Day after day, he moves away from life and become closer to the hereafter. Day after day, he says goodbye to his fading dreams and becomes closer to his eternal abode. I watched him for a month while I was still wondering why he was abandoned. His history indicates that he has children, brothers and sisters, and there is no doubt that he has friends and colleagues, yet, no one came to visit him.

When I asked him about his loneliness in a beautiful spring day, he answered (while looking through the window into the sky): "I have five sons, four daughters, four brothers and four sisters. I know hundreds of people - friends, colleagues and neighbors. There are those who liked me, and those who were close to me. There were those who sought my friendship, but it was me who did not like anyone and I did not approach anyone".

He looked at me as he confessed. "I don't know when I took the dangerous decision that brought me to this level. I lived for myself only and I did not feel for others - and to be honest, I did not ask others to feel for me. I lived for my own sake. My wife (whom I left) was treated like a baby sitter. I left my children with their mother. Since the death of my father 20 years ago, I did not see my brothers and sisters. Some of them came to visit me until they became bored and tired of my attitude. I never visited anyone, and did not answer their calls. You can't imagine how I was treating my colleagues, my neighbors and other people around me.

As for my mother who passed away a year ago, I did not visit her at all. She used to come to my house and wait for a long time - hoping to see me. The looks of amazement were getting wider in my eyes. He smiled and said "do not be surprised as there are many people like me out there. We only care for ourselves only. We measure every human being with the interest standard only. We only focus on those we can benefit from."

Few days later, I visited him just before he went into coma. I saw tears in his eyes that seeped down to his cheeks. I wiped his tears with my handkerchief and then grabbed his hands tenderly. He smiled and said, "I miss my children and brothers so much, but the end is fast approaching". Anyone who has time should build a house in the hearts of others before it is too late.

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## News in brief

## Kuwait book fair from Wednesday

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait 45th edition of the International Book fair will kick start on Wednesday and will involve participants from 29 Arab and foreign countries. Saad Al-Enezi, the fair director, said at a news conference on Monday that 404 publishing houses and 117 agents would participate in the annual cultural event, adding it would be sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The event will be held after a two-year hiatus, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. The fair management has chosen Italy as a guest of honor, a gesture of cultural openness toward the European Union countries, he declared. — KUNA

## KFF cautions on unstable weather

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Force on Monday urged citizens and residents of the country to be cautious in anticipation of turbulent weather conditions. Scattered rain is forecast throughout the day, the Force said in a statement, noting that people in distress can call for help on phone number 112. — KUNA

## USD stabilizes at KD 0.307

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar stabilized on Monday trading at KD 0.307 and the euro dropped by 0.35 percent to reach KD 0.317, compared with Sunday's prices, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin. The pound sterling dropped by 0.55 percent to KD 0.362, the Swiss franc moved down by 0.46 percent to settle at KD 0.325, but the Japanese yen remained firm, trading at KD 0.002. The CBK publishes daily average exchange rates that do not necessarily reflect actual prices of the currencies' trade for the day. — KUNA

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of the picturesque Green Island. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KDIPA attracted FDI worth  
KD 106.1 million in 2021-22

## Investments made by 67 entities from 25 countries

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) announced that it attracted KD 106.1 million (\$322 million) in new direct investments during the fiscal year 2021-22, bringing its total cumulative investments to about KD 1.309 billion (about \$3.9 billion) from January 2015 until the end of March 2022.

In a press statement on Monday, the authority said that most of these investments focus on the services sector, topped by information systems services, oil and gas, construction, health and environment activities, aviation and insurance. These cumulative investments were made by 67 investment entities belonging to 25 different

countries, explained KDIPA, pointing out that the spending of licensed investment entities, that started operating their business in the Kuwaiti economy, increased by 30.2 percent and cumulatively amounted to KD 690.5 million (\$2.1 billion) during the years 2015 and 2020. KDIPA stressed on providing electronic services to continue improving the investor service model, as the authority met 230 existing and potential investors, received 27 initial requests, and dealt with 20 complaints. The authority pointed to strengthening coordination with the concerned governmental authorities, and continued to improve monitoring direct investment data in

Kuwait, in cooperation with the Central Bank of Kuwait. It noted to its role in launching traditional and digital promotional campaigns to highlight the latest economic developments in the country, introduced investment opportunities, target investors, as well as consolidate foreign relations in coordination with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The period of this report was distinguished by strengthening the authority's regional role, after being nominated to be MENA regional representative and winning, in the Steering Committee of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for the period 2021-2023. — KUNA

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**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait Chung Byung-ha, President of the Korean Community Association in Kuwait JeongSeong-hee and the Kuwait branch manager of the Korean Peaceful Unification Advisory Council (PUAC) JeongHyunsik along with a number of KOC volunteers, including the Chief Public Relations Officer Fahad Ebrahim and the Public Relations Officer Mai Ben Redha during the tree plantation event.

Korean Embassy,  
community hold  
'Go Green Kuwait'

**KUWAIT:** The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait and the Korean Community in Kuwait co-organized, in cooperation with the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a tree planting event titled "Go Green Kuwait" at KOC's Al-Abdaliya Nature Preserve on November 12, 2022.

It was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait Chung Byung-ha, President of the Korean Community Association in Kuwait JeongSeong-hee and the Kuwait branch manager of the Korean Peaceful Unification Advisory Council (PUAC) JeongHyunsik along with a number of KOC volunteers, including the Chief Public Relations Officer Fahad Ebrahim and the Public Relations Officer Mai Ben Redha.

Ambassador Chung Byung-ha, said that the environmental issues are not a matter that only determines the quality of life of local residents, but also threatens the survival and welfare of mankind across national borders, thus requiring strengthened international cooperation and a joint response. "I believe this event will not be a one-time event this year, but a recurring activity every year, reflecting the efforts and contributions of the Korean communities in making Kuwait a more sustainable society," the Ambassador added.

For his part, President of the Korean Community Association, JeongSeong-hee, said he was immensely proud of the active participation of the Korean communities in this environmental campaign aimed at

enhancing the sense of belonging to the local community and playing an active role as a member in it.

The Kuwait Branch of PUAC, one of the co-host of this volunteer activity made use of this opportunity to revive the aspirations of Koreans in Kuwait for peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula and raise awareness of their importance. The event also saw an active participation of members of Green Hands (an environmental group in Kuwait), and members of Roots and Shoots (High School Environmental Conservation Club of the American School of Kuwait). Leader of the Club Seo Hyun Kang, that the club members are taking part in such an event for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. She underscored that this event provides a valuable hands-on experience for the club members to put into practice things they learned in the classes.

The "Go Green Kuwait" campaign aims at restoring the ecological resilience by planting tree species that can survive even in the water-scarred hot desert, and cope with the serious crisis caused by climate change. Planting trees is widely recognized as an effective countermeasure against climate change. According to the Korea Forest Service, a tree absorbs 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide and 35.9g of fine dust, and emitting 1.8 tons of oxygen per year. In addition, tree planting is renowned for its countless benefits in terms of economic and psychological aspects as well as environmental improvements.

The KOC, which patronizes this event, started planting 20,000 trees on an area of 1.2 million square meters in the first phase from 2011, and then expanded the tree planting target area to 1.8 million square meters in the second phase and 800 square meters in the third phase, leading environmental campaigns under the cooperation with various organizations in Kuwait.



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NUSA DUA, Indonesia: US President Joe Biden (R) and China's President Xi Jinping (L) meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. —AFP

# Biden, Xi end landmark summit in Bali

## 'The world expects China and US will properly handle the relationship'

**NUSA DUA, Indonesia:** Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping ended a landmark summit in Bali, Indonesia on Monday after three hours of talks aimed at avoiding conflict between the rival superpowers. Xi and Biden shook hands in front of the US and Chinese flags before starting the long-awaited meeting on the resort island ahead of a Group of 20 summit, following months of tension over Taiwan and other issues.

Biden, sitting across from Xi at facing tables, said that Beijing and Washington "share responsibility" to show the world that they can "manage our differences, prevent competition from becoming conflict". Xi, China's most powerful leader in decades who is fresh from securing a norm-breaking third term, told Biden that the world has "come to a crossroads".

"The world expects that China and the United States will properly handle the relationship," Xi told him. Despite the upbeat public statements, both nations are increasingly suspicious of each other, with the United States fearing that China has stepped up a timeline for seizing Taiwan.

US officials said ahead of the meeting that Biden hoped to set up "guardrails" in the relationship with China and to assess how to avoid "red lines" that

could push the world's two largest economies into conflict. The most sensitive issue is Taiwan, the self-governing democracy claimed by China.

The United States has been stepping up support for Taiwan, while China has ramped up its threats to seize control of the island. After House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei in August, China reacted by staging unprecedented military drills.

On the eve of his talks with Xi, Biden met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol on the sidelines of a Southeast Asian summit in Cambodia, with the three leaders jointly calling for "peace and stability" on the Taiwan Strait.

Biden is also expected to push China to rein in ally North Korea after a record-breaking spate of missile tests has raised fears that Pyongyang will soon carry out its seventh nuclear test. - First in-person exchange -

Xi is paying only his second overseas visit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and will meet a number of key leaders. He will hold the first formal sitdown with an Australian leader since 2017, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced, following a concerted pressure campaign by Beijing against the close US ally.

Xi's last in-person meeting with a US president was in 2019 with Donald Trump, who along with Biden identified China as a top international concern and the only potential challenger to US primacy on the world stage.

And though the meeting is the first time Xi and Biden have met as presidents, the pair have an unusually long history together. By Biden's estimation, he spent 67 hours as vice president in person with Xi including on a 2011 trip to China aimed at better understanding China's then-leader-in-waiting, and a 2017 meeting in the final days of Barack Obama's administration.

Since entering the White House, Biden has spoken virtually five times with Xi but told him Monday there was "no substitute" for face-to-face discussions.

### Absent Putin

Though he is engaging Xi, Biden has refused since the invasion of Ukraine to deal directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is conspicuously absent from the Bali summit. The Kremlin cited scheduling issues and has instead sent longtime foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, who arrived Sunday evening and underwent two health checks at a Bali

hospital, according to an Indonesian health ministry official.

Lavrov, 72, denied reports that he was receiving treatment at a Bali hospital, telling Tass news agency that he was in his hotel preparing for the summit. Lavrov's presence has thrown into question a customary G20 group photo and joint statement, with Russia sure to reject any explicit calls to end its invasion of Ukraine.

Western leaders hope the G20 summit will step up pressure on Russia to renew a UN-backed deal expiring Saturday to allow grain shipments from Ukraine, a major food exporter to the developing world. China, despite rhetorical support for Russia, has not supplied weapons for the war in Ukraine, with Moscow obliged to rely on Iran and North Korea, according to US officials.

"I think there is undeniably some discomfort in Beijing about what we've seen in terms of reckless rhetoric and activity on the part of Russia," a US official said hours before the Xi-Biden talks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky — invited as a compromise with host Indonesia — will address the summit by videoconference, a day after a triumphant visit to Kherson, a key city taken back from Russian forces. — AFP

## France, UK sign deal to stop migrants crossing Channel

**PARIS:** Britain agreed to pay France another 72.2 million euros (\$74.5 million) to prevent migrant boat crossings under a new deal signed on Monday that underlines improving ties between the neighbours. Around 40,000 people—most of them Albanians, Iranians and Afghans—have crossed the Channel to England from France this year.

The figure is well over last year's 28,561, which was a thousand-fold increase from 2018 when migrants and asylum seekers first began sailing inflatables across one of the world's busiest shipping channels. "There are no quick fixes, but this new arrangement will mean we can significantly increase the number of French gendarmes patrolling the beaches in northern France," Britain's Home Secretary Suella Braverman said in a statement after signing the accord with French counterpart Gerald Darmanin.

The extra money will fund a 40-percent rise in the number of security forces patrolling France's northern beaches, meaning an additional 350 people, the French interior ministry said. For the first time, teams of observers will be deployed on both sides of the Channel to "strengthen common understanding". "The arrangement means, for the first time, specialist UK officers will also be embedded with their French counterparts," the British interior ministry said.

### Tensions

Successive British governments have paid France hundreds of millions of euros over the past decade to improve border security on the Channel coast, particularly around the port of Calais. Recent French purchases with UK money include thermal-imaging binoculars, mountain bikes, motorbikes, drones and vehicles which are used during beach patrols.

But suspicions have persisted in Britain, fanned by the right-wing media and members of the ruling Conservative party, that Paris is not doing enough. The agreement reflects warmer ties between the France and the UK since British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak took the helm, after years of acrimony under his predecessors Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.

One of the worst public rows between Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron came in



PARIS: French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin (R) and Britain's Home Secretary Suella Braverman (L) sign a joint declaration signature at the Hotel Beauvau Interior Ministry in Paris. France and the UK signed a new agreement to work together to stop migrants crossing the Channel. —AFP

November last year when 27 migrants drowned in the Channel. Sunak and Macron held a cordial first meeting last week on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Egypt and will meet again this week at the G20 in Indonesia.

The issue of how to manage the flow of asylum seekers and economic migrants from Africa and the Middle East has strained diplomatic ties all over Europe for much of the last decade. France and Italy, which has elected a new far-right government, clashed last week after Rome refused to let a rescue ship carrying migrants dock at its ports.

Macron and his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella urged a return to "full cooperation" on Monday after last week's standoff which ended when France allowed the boat to disembark its passengers.

On the Channel coast, doubts remain about whether incremental changes in the number of French officers patrolling the rugged dunes and wide beaches can reverse the rising tide of crossings. Observers say the migrants' boats are getting bigger, the tactics of people smugglers more sophisticated, and departures are being recorded along a widening stretch of coastline. On Saturday, some 972 people were detected making the crossing in 22 boats, according to UK figures. The French coast-guard is adamant that it cannot intercept boats once they are in the water because attempting to do so could cause them to capsize. —AFP

## Zelensky visits Kherson after Russian retreat

**KHERSON, Ukraine:** President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday visited the newly liberated city of Kherson in southern Ukraine after Russian forces retreated from the strategic hub near the Black Sea.

The Ukrainian presidency distributed images of him singing the national anthem, holding his hand over his chest as the country's blue and yellow flag was hoisted next to the city's main administrative building. Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman denied, however, that the Ukrainian leader's visit had any impact on the status of the Kherson region, which Moscow formally annexed into Russia at a ceremony last month.

"It's important to be here," Zelensky told reporters in the city as his office released images of him meeting Kherson residents and military officials. "We should speak here... support the people so that they feel that we are not just talking, not just making promises but really returning and really raising our flag," he added.

Late Sunday, Zelensky said Ukrainian forces found evidence of hundreds of new "war crimes" carried out by Russian occupiers in Kherson. His subsequent visit came just days after Ukrainian

troops entered the city—the Kherson region's administrative centre—after Russia pulled back its forces on Friday.

### Kremlin dismissive

The takeover by Ukrainian troops is the latest in a string of setbacks for the Kremlin, which invaded Ukraine on February 24 hoping for a lightning takeover and to topple the government in days. But Russian troops failed to capture the capital Kyiv and have since been pushed back from large portions of territory in the south and east.

Ukrainians in the liberated city expressed relief at the end of months of occupation. "I am extremely happy we're finally free," Andriy, 33, a philosophy student, told AFP. "We have no electricity in the city, no water, no central heating, no mobile signal, no internet connection—but we have no Russians," he said.

The city of Kherson was the first major urban hub to fall to Russian forces and the only regional capital Moscow's troops gained control over. Its 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.

The region was one of four that the Kremlin announced in September were annexed and part of Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to use all available means to defend them from Ukrainian forces. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday he would not comment on Zelensky's visit to Kherson but added: "this territory is part of the Russian Federation." —AFP



KHERSON, Ukraine: This handout photograph shows local residents waiting to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during his visit to the newly liberated city of Kherson. —AFP

## International

# Jailed Egypt hunger striker says 'doing well' in letter

## 'Why did they hold this letter back from us for two days?'

CAIRO: Jailed British-Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah has written he is "doing well" and is taking liquids after fears rose for his health amid a months-long hunger strike, his family said Monday. Abdel Fattah, who consumed "only 100 calories a day" for seven months, escalated his strike, first to all food, then water as the COP27 climate summit opened on November 6 in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh.

His sister Sanaa Seif on Monday welcomed a letter he addressed to his family as "proof of life, at last". The activist's lawyer Khaled Ali, a former presidential candidate, was denied access when he attempted to visit Abdel Fattah at the Wadi al-Natroun prison on Thursday and again on Sunday, despite saying he had been issued with the necessary permits.

He and Abdel Fattah's mother Laila Soueif were handed the letter on Monday when they returned to the prison a third time, before the lawyer was again denied the right to visit. In Abdel Fattah's letter, "dated November 12, he writes he is doing well, under medical supervision, and has begun drinking water," Ali wrote on Facebook.

The activist's sister meanwhile confirmed in a statement that "it is his handwriting", but asked "why did they hold this letter back from us for two days? Is it just cruelty to punish the family for speaking up?" Echoing demands she made during COP27, Seif said her brother "needs to be on a plane to London and only then will we allow ourselves to feel true relief". "Alaa is still on hunger

strike, the UK embassy has still failed to achieve consular access, he's still arbitrarily detained with no end in sight."

### 'Watched' at COP27

Abdel Fattah, a key figure in the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak, is serving a five-year prison sentence for "spreading false news" by sharing a Facebook post about police brutality.

He has been leading headlines since the UN climate talks began last week in Egypt, which sought to burnish its image by hosting COP27 but has come under fire over its human rights record. Attending the summit to campaign for her brother's release, Seif was last week heckled by pro-government attendees, who called her brother a "criminal", not a "political prisoner".

A German diplomatic source said a complaint was lodged with Egypt as their delegation—which hosted Seif and other human rights defenders—"felt we were being watched". Since the beginning of the UN climate summit, activists have complained about "being questioned" and feared they would "be followed", as rights groups warned against draconian surveillance measures.

Liane Schalatek, associate director of the Heinrich Boll Stiftung foundation in Washington, said on German television that she felt "more uncomfortable than at any other COP before". A climate finance expert who has attended COP conferences since 2008, she said this time cameras in



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Egyptian Sanaa Seif (C), the sister of imprisoned British-Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah, greets supporters as she takes part in a protest staged by climate activists inside the Sharm El-Sheikh International Convention Centre, during the COP27 climate conference in Egypt's Red Sea resort city. —AFP

meeting rooms were directed at the faces of speakers. "This is both unnecessary and unusual for such internal coordination meetings," she said. "The possibility that everything is being recorded cannot be ruled out."

International pressure has mounted since world leaders began arriving in Sharm el-Sheikh last week. Several raised the case in bilateral meetings with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, most recently US President Joe Biden on Friday. — AFP

## Macron urges strong response to Iran crackdown

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron called for international sanctions on Iranian officials in response to the regime's crackdown on the protest movement he again described as a "revolution", in an interview broadcast on Monday.

Macron angered Iranian officials on Friday by hosting four prominent women who have strongly supported the two months of protests, which have become the biggest challenge for the Islamic republic since the 1979 ousting of the shah.

"I am in favour of a strong diplomatic reaction and sanctions on the figures of the regime who have a responsibility in the repression of this revolution," Macron told France Inter radio, in an interview recorded after he met the dissidents on Friday.

According to Norway-based organisation Iran Human Rights, at least 326 people have been killed by the security forces in a crackdown on the nationwide protests. Macron described the crackdown as "unprecedented".

"We don't rule out any option," he said, noting that Iran's government was already the target of numerous sanctions. European Union foreign ministers are due to discuss new sanctions on Monday in Brussels. Macron repeatedly used the word "revolution" to describe what was happening in Iran.



French President Emmanuel Macron

"It is women who launched this revolution," he said, adding, "The grandchildren of the (Islamic) revolution are making a revolution." "The most impressive thing in this movement, in this revolution, is it involves the young women and men who have never known anything other than this regime," Macron said.

"They say, 'Stop. I don't want to wear the veil. I don't want this subjugation.'" Iran's foreign ministry called Macron's comments after the meeting with dissidents "regrettable and shameful".

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna meanwhile revealed over the weekend that seven French nationals are being held in Iran. Activists had been bitterly critical of Macron's decision to meet Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September, as he sought to revive the 2015 deal on limiting Iran's nuclear programme. — AFP

## Iran launches drone strikes on Kurdish groups

ARBIL, Iraq: Iran launched new cross-border missile and drone strikes Monday against Iraq-based Kurdish opposition groups it accuses of stoking unrest at home, killing at least one person according to local authorities.

Iran has been rocked by almost two months of protests sparked by the death of Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini, 22, after she was arrested by the feared morality police for allegedly breaching the strict dress code for women. Tehran, accusing Kurdish-Iranian opposition groups based in northern Iraq of stoking the "riots", previously launched attacks in late September that killed more than a dozen people in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region.

In Monday's barrage, "five Iranian missiles targeted a building used by the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq", the mayor of Koysanjaq in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tariq al-Haidari, told AFP. The region's health ministry said "one person is dead and eight were wounded".

Plumes of black smoke could be seen billowing into the sky after the strikes, in videos shared on social media, as more missiles rained down on targets elsewhere in the mountainous Kurdistan region. In Iran, a commander of the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps, General Osanlou, confirmed that "we struck targets located along the border and 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the border" with missiles and drones.

He charged that those targeted "were terrorists that have been active in the riots these last few months", speaking on state television about the nationwide protests. Osanlou warned of further strikes unless Kurdistan regional authorities expel the Iranian Kurdish groups.

"We had already requested that the local government intervene but it did not do anything," he said. A spokesman for the foreign ministry in Iran justified the cross-border military action as necessary to "preserve the security" of its territory.

Another "four drone strikes" targeted bases of the Iranian Communist Party and the Iranian Kurdish nationalist group Komala in the Zrgoiz region, said Atta Seqzi, one of the leaders of Komala. The groups had been "warned of the imminence of the strikes" and evacuated the sites, he said, adding that they had suffered "no death or injury".

One missile failed to explode but the other projectiles damaged buildings, he said. The cross-border strikes in September saw Iraq's federal government call in the Iranian ambassador to protest the attacks and the UN mission in Iraq warn that such "rocket diplomacy is a reckless act with devastating consequences". Iraqi Kurdistan hosts several Iranian Kurdish opposition groups which have in the past waged an armed insurrection against Tehran. In recent years their activities have declined, but the wave of protests in Iran has again stoked tensions. — AFP

## Kuwaitis in Turkey 'safe'; Syrian...

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surveillance footage of a young woman dressed in trousers and wearing a loose black scarf who ran away into the crowd on Sunday afternoon.

Justice minister Bekir Bozdogan told A Haber television that a woman had been sitting on a bench for more than 40 minutes, "then she got up", leaving a bag. "One or two minutes later, an explosion occurred," he said. On Monday, all the benches had been removed from Istiklal Avenue, where residents laid red carnations at the scene of the blast, some wiping away tears and others speaking of their fear of further attacks in the run-up to elections next June. "We need more security!" said Idris Cetinkaya, who works at a nearby hotel and who came to pay his respects.

### 'Live with fear'

"The police just searched my bag when I got here, but that's the first time in a year. Millions of people come here, anything could happen at any second!" Istiklal Avenue was previously targeted during a campaign of nationwide bombings in 2015-16 that were blamed mostly on the Islamic State group and outlawed Kurdish militants, killing nearly 500 people and wounding more than 2,000. On Sunday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan denounced the "vile attack" that had the "smell of terror" shortly leaving for the G20 summit in the

Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Kemal Ozturk, a shopkeeper, is among those who fear another explosion ahead of presidential and legislative elections in seven months' time. "In election period it can happen," the 42-year-old told AFP. "We live with fear". Regularly targeted by Turkish military operations, the PKK has also been at the heart of a tussle between Sweden and Turkey, which has blocked Stockholm's bid to join NATO since May, accusing it of leniency towards the group.

### US condolences rejected

International condemnation flooded in from across the world, including from the United States, but on Monday Turkey said it rejected US condolences over the attack. Erdogan's government has often accused Washington of supplying weapons to Kurdish fighters in northern Syria who Ankara labels as terror group linked to the PKK. "We do not accept the US embassy's message of condolences. We reject it," Soylu said. "We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our NATO ally Turkey in countering terrorism," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre. The US embassy tweeted it was "deeply saddened by the explosion".

President Vladimir Putin on Monday added his own condolences in a message to Erdogan. "We reaffirm our readiness for the closest interaction with our Turkish partners in the fight against all forms and manifestations of terrorism," he said in the telegram. Istiklal Avenue reopened Monday to pedestrian traffic. "My son was there. He called me and said an explosion happened," said Mecit Bal, who runs a small shop a few meters from the scene. — Agencies

US intelligence officials have compiled a classified report detailing "extensive efforts" by the UAE to manipulate the American political system.

The UAE's ambassador to Washington, Yousef Al-Otaiba, said he is "proud of the UAE's influence and good standing in the US", according to the newspaper. Gargash insisted that Abu Dhabi's "primary strategic security relationship remains unequivocally with the United States", but called for clearer commitments from American partners. "It is vital that we find a way to ensure that we can rely on this relationship for decades to come, through clear... commitments," he said. — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) is pictured with First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (left) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Barak Ali Al-Sheetan during the Cabinet's weekly meeting at Seif Palace. — KUNA

## Cabinet praises COP27 summit...

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Stateless Residents' Affairs Saleh Al-Fadlalah and appreciation for the efforts put by the agency to provide basic needs and assistance for bedoons in Kuwait.

In another development, Minister of Education, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Ahmad Al-Adwani has accepted the resignation of Kuwait University Director Youssef Al-Roumi. Also, the Cabinet touched on His Highness' affirmation on Kuwait's endeavor to carry out promising projects through the Green Middle East initiative to increase green areas through afforestation, increase green cover, establish natural reserves, and pay attention to eco-tourism to contribute to achieving carbon neutrality during the middle of the present century.

In turn, First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the results of his participation in the 39th meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers, which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during which a number of common security issues were discussed, and ways to enhance and support joint cooperation in the security field.

The Cabinet also reviewed the report of the Audit Bureau on the results of the examination and audit work on the implementation of the budgets of the entities covered by its financial control and their final accounts for the fiscal year 2021/2022. Furthermore, they touched on the latest political developments globally and regionally. The Cabinet congratulated the Sultanate of Oman and Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq on the Sultanate's 52nd national day, wishing Oman and its people further development and prosperity, lauding the historical ties between Kuwait and Oman.

On the occasion of the imminent launch of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar on the 20th of this month, Kuwait expresses its support to Qatar in hosting this great global sports gathering. On the other hand, Kuwait ministers denounced the "terrorist" bombing that occurred in the Turkish city Istanbul earlier today and resulted in several casualties, expressing Kuwait's solidarity with Turkey, affirming firm position against terrorism in all its forms, expressing sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the Turkish government and people, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured.

They also voiced the country's sympathy with Egypt over the victims of the road accident that took place in Dakahlia Governorate and left multiple casualties, extending heartfelt and sincere condolences to the leadership, government and people of Egypt and the victims' families, and wished a swift recovery for the injured. — KUNA

## UAE won't take sides as 'global...

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The US has long been seen as a key protector of the rich Gulf monarchies in the conflict-racked Middle East. The UAE currently hosts some 5,000 US military personnel at Al Dhafra Air Base and US warships at the Jebel Ali port in Dubai. On Saturday, the Washington Post said that

## International

# Afghan supreme leader orders full enforcement of Islamic law

## Islamic scholars say crimes leading to hudud punishment require a very high degree of proof

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's supreme leader has ordered judges to fully enforce aspects of Islamic law that include public executions, stonings and floggings, and the amputation of limbs for thieves, the Taliban's chief spokesman said.

Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted late Sunday that the "obligatory" command by Hibatullah Akhundzada came after the secretive leader met with a group of judges. Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August last year, rules by decree from Kandahar, the movement's birthplace and spiritual heartland.



### Floggings to people accused of offences

The Taliban promised a softer version of the harsh rule that characterised their first stint in power, from 1996-2001, but have gradually clamped down on rights and freedoms. "Carefully examine the files of thieves, kidnappers and seditionists," Mujahid quoted Akhundzada as saying.

"Those files in which all the sharia (Islamic law) conditions of hudud and qisas have been fulfilled, you are obliged to implement. "This is the ruling of sharia, and my command, which is obligatory."

Mujahid was not available Monday to expand on

his tweet. Hudud refers to offences which, under Islamic law, certain types of punishment are mandated, while qisas translates as "retaliation in kind"—effectively an eye for an eye.

Hudud crimes include adultery—and falsely accusing someone of it—drinking alcohol, theft, kidnapping and highway robbery, apostasy and rebellion. Qisas covers murder and deliberate injury, among other things, but also allows for the families of victims to accept compensation in lieu of punishment.

Islamic scholars say crimes leading to hudud punishment require a very high degree of proof, including in the case of adultery—confession, or being witnessed by four adult male Muslims.

### Summary floggings

Social media has been awash for over a year—and even recently—with videos and pictures of Taliban fighters meting out summary floggings to people accused of various offences. The Taliban have also several times displayed in public the bodies of kidnappers they said were killed in shootouts.

There have also been reports of adulterers being flogged in rural areas after Friday prayers, but independent verification is difficult to obtain. Rahima Popalzai, a legal and political analyst, said the edict could be an attempt by the Taliban to harden a reputation they may feel has softened since they returned to power. "If they really start to implement hudud and qisas, they will be aiming to create the fear society has gradually lost," she told AFP. She added the Taliban also wanted to burnish their Islamic credentials.

"As a theocratic setup, the Taliban want to strengthen their religious identity among Muslim countries." Women in particular have seen hard-won



**KABUL:** This photograph taken on November 9, 2022, shows a poster (R) reading in Pashto, "Dear sisters! Hijab and veil are your dignity and are in your benefit in this world and in the hereafter", at the Habibullah Zazai Park on the outskirts of Kabul. — AFP

rights evaporate in the past 15 months, and they are increasingly being squeezed out of public life.

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.

In the past week, the Taliban also banned women from entering parks, funfairs, gyms and public baths. During their first rule, the Taliban regularly carried out punishments in public—including floggings and executions at the national stadium. — AFP

## Japan PM to meet China's Xi in Bangkok

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday at an APEC gathering in Bangkok, Tokyo's top government spokesman said Monday. "Prime Minister Kishida is scheduled to hold a Japan-China summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the 17th, on the occasion of the APEC summit," Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

The leaders spoke on the phone in October 2021 after Kishida's election, but this will be their first in-person meeting. Xi last held face-to-face talks with a Japanese prime minister in December 2019, when he met Shinzo Abe in Beijing.

China and Japan marked 50 years of diplomatic relations in September, but there was little celebration of the anniversary, given the neighbours' frosty ties over territorial disputes and other issues. The world's second and third-largest economies are key trading partners, and before the Covid-19 pandemic, there had been plans for Xi to make a state visit to Japan.

Relations have significantly soured since as Beijing bolsters its military, projects power regionally and beyond and takes a harder line on territorial rivalries.

Chinese missiles fired during massive military drills around Taiwan in August are believed to have fallen within Japan's exclusive economic zone, and Tokyo has protested what it calls growing aerial and maritime viola-



**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) speaks during a trilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. — AFP

tions in recent months. Japan also regularly complains about Chinese activity around the disputed Tokyo-controlled Senkaku islands, which Beijing claims and calls the Diaoyus.

The war in Ukraine has only deepened the divide, with Japan backing Western allies opposed to Russia's invasion while Beijing avoids criticising Moscow.

The conflict has refocused attention on whether China might try to forcibly reunite Taiwan with the mainland, prompting Kishida to warn that the invasion of Ukraine "could be East Asia tomorrow". — AFP

## Azerbaijan arrests 5 over spying for Iran

**BAKU, Azerbaijan:** Azerbaijan said on Monday it had arrested five of its nationals for spying for Iran after a rise in tensions between the neighbours, which regard each other with mutual suspicion. The arrests came after Baku and Tehran accused each other last week of hostile rhetoric. Baku's security services said the arrests were made as part of "measures aimed at countering intelligence-disruptive activities carried out by Iranian secret services against Azerbaijan".

It said the five people had been gathering information about the military—including the procurement of Israeli and Turkish drones—and about the country's energy infrastructure. Earlier this month, the Baku authorities arrested 17 men they said belonged to an "illegal armed group set up by Iran on Azerbaijani territory". On Friday, Azerbaijan summoned the Iranian ambassador to complain about "threatening rhetoric" coming from Tehran. The day before, the Iranian foreign ministry had handed Azerbaijan's envoy a note of protest over "anti-Iran" comments by Baku officials.

Iran, home to millions of ethnic Azerbaijanis, has long accused its smaller northern neighbour of fuelling separatist sentiment on its territory. It has also been angered by Baku's ambitions to set up a transport link along the Armenian-Iranian border which would connect mainland Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhichevan and then to Turkey. Baku wants to limit Armenian jurisdiction over the so-called Zangezur land corridor, a project that would end its dependence on Iran for access to the Nakhichevan exclave. The exclave is separated from Azerbaijan by the Armenian region of Zangezur.

The issue has emerged as the primary sticking point between Azerbaijan and Armenia, who fought two wars in 2020 and in the 1990s over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region, to the east of Zangezur.

"Iran will not permit the blockage of its connection route with Armenia," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in October. He said that "to secure that objective", Iran had staged large-scale military drills in October on its border with Azerbaijan.

Relations between Baku and Tehran have been traditionally sour, as Turkic-speaking Azerbaijan is a close ally of Iran's historical rival Turkey. — AFP

## Lula headed to UN climate talks with vow to save Amazon

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil:** Brazilian president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is expected this week at the UN climate summit in Egypt to pledge to reverse the environmental policies of his right-wing predecessor and protect the Amazon rainforest.

Lula's trip Monday to the COP27 talks in Sharm el-Sheikh will be his first international visit since beating Brazil's far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the October 30 runoff election. The 77-year-old, who promised on the campaign trail to work towards zero deforestation, will address the conference on Wednesday, his press team said.

In a nod to Lula's victory speech, in which he pledged to end Brazil's "pariah" status, his team said he had wanted to hold "more talks with world leaders in a single day than Bolsonaro had in four years." But according to Brazilian newspaper O Globo, the incoming president has not been able to line up most of the dozen or so high-level meetings he had requested.

Lula might, however, meet with US climate czar John Kerry and announce that Brazil is willing to host the COP30 summit in 2025, the newspaper said. Latin America's most populous country grew more isolated under Bolsonaro, analysts say, in part due to his permissive policies towards deforestation and exploitation of the Amazon, the preservation of which is seen as critical to fighting global warming.

If Lula—who served as president from 2003 to 2010 — manages to curb deforestation and illegal mining, he would make a major contribution to the global fight against climate change, said Francisco Eliseu Aquino, a climate expert at Rio Grande do Sul University.

"Lula knows the COP talks well. He was always proactive in international discussions and kept a high international profile" during his first two terms, said Aquino.

### Deeper cooperation

To meet the environmental challenge, the former steelworker who begins his third term on January 1, hopes to get help from the international community. Lula's former and likely future environment minister, Marina Silva, has already been holding meetings at the UN summit, and has said that Brazil will lead "by example" on combatting climate change.

She said Lula plans to fight the destruction of the Amazon and pursue a reforestation target of 12 million

## Australians rescued after flash floods

**SYDNEY:** Rescuers plucked more than 100 people from their roofs Monday after a flash flood swamped a small Australian town and sent residents scurrying for safety, officials said. A weekend downpour over much of the already-sodden eastern state of New South Wales sent waters rising overnight, isolating some towns and communities.

Australia's east coast has been repeatedly swept by heavy rainfall in the past two years, driven by back-to-back La Nina cycles. Many people in the town of Eugowra, with a population of about 800 people lying 350 kilometres (220 miles) west of Sydney, scrambled to their roofs to flee the latest flood.

Mud-brown floodwaters have transformed the town into a murky lake dotted with the tops of buildings and trees, television images showed. "We have had 140 flood rescues in Eugowra alone. More than 100 of these were rescues from a roof," said the state's emergency services minister, Stephanie Cooke.

Stranded residents had been taken to safety by boat and helicopter, she told a news conference. "This is a very serious situation, not just in Eugowra but in many places," Cooke said. New Zealand had sent 12 people on Monday to help battle the state's floods, she

hectares, with or without international aid. But she welcomed announcements from Norway and Germany that they would resume financial support to the Amazon Fund. Both countries withdrew aid in 2019 shortly after Bolsonaro came to power.

"With Lula's weight and influence, and due to worries all over the world for the Amazon, it is possible that some bilateral agreements might be reached," said Daniela Costa, a spokesperson for Greenpeace Brazil.

Silva said the US government was "prepared to deepen cooperation" with Brazil after she met with Kerry last week. She also said in an interview with Brazilian broadcaster GloboNews that she had invited the United States to contribute to the Amazon Fund.



**BRASILIA:** Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva delivers a speech during a meeting with politicians from the transition teams at the Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil in Brasilia. — AFP

### 'Much more daring'

Deforestation was at a high level at the start of Lula's first term in 2003, before falling sharply under Silva as minister. But she resigned in 2008, saying was not getting the money she needed to take her efforts even further. Aquino said the policies of Lula's next government need to be "much more daring" than during his first two terms in power. At COP27, Lula could announce the creation of a high-level body to coordinate the work of different ministries active in climate work. Since Bolsonaro—a staunch ally of agribusiness—took office in January 2019, average annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon increased by 75 percent compared to the previous decade. The fight against global warming is not just about protecting precious areas like the Amazon, he said. "It also involves the economy, health and agriculture." "We welcome the arrival of Lula with much hope," said Dinaman Tuxa, coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. — AFP

said. New South Wales' emergency services were also in contact with US and Singaporean authorities to secure further support, she said. NSW has issued 16 immediate evacuation warnings since floods hit the central, western and southern parts of the state.

### Devastation

"I would ask people to heed that warning: we can see how quickly the waters can rise, how quickly flash flooding happens, and the devastation it causes," said Carlene York, the NSW emergency services commissioner.

Emergency workers had carried out 173 flood rescues since early Monday, she said. In a sign of the intensity of the thunderstorms, more than 150,000 lightning strikes had reached the ground in 24 hours across New South Wales, the bureau of meteorology said.

The town of Forbes, which lies a short distance west of Eugowra, had been lashed with 118 mm of rain in 24 hours—its highest daily rainfall in 28 years, the bureau said. The east coast flooding disaster in March—caused by heavy storms in Queensland and New South Wales—claimed more than 20 lives.

Tens of thousands of Sydney residents were ordered to evacuate in July when floods again swamped the city's fringe. Scientists believe climate change could make periods of flooding more extreme because warmer air holds more moisture. — AFP

## Thousands evacuated as floods precede Malaysia's election

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia:** Thousands of people across Malaysia were evacuated into temporary shelters over the weekend, officials said as the seasonal monsoon's heavy rain prompted turnout and safety concerns for the upcoming general election.

"The prime minister has put the lives of voters at risk by holding elections during the monsoon season and, with climate change, I really fear heavier rainfall across Malaysia," said Mahfuz Omar, an opposition MP from the northern Kedah state.

Malaysia's meteorological department has forecast thunderstorms and incessant rain right up until 21 million voters will be able to cast ballots Saturday, with more flooding expected.

The National Disaster Management Agency said in a statement over the weekend that six states in peninsular Malaysia had experienced flash flooding. "A total of 2,388 people have sought shelter in 25 relief centres," it said.

"I fear voters will not be able to cast their votes if their homes are flooded and roads become impassable," Mahfuz told AFP. Mahfuz and others have accused Prime Minister Ismail Sabri of power grabbing by calling the polls almost a year ahead of schedule and while opposition forces are in disarray.

The ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) leaders are confident the early polls will result in a stronger mandate, but critics have said an election could distract the government from dealing with the effects of heavy monsoon rains that typically occur during this time of year, bringing deadly floods to the country's east coast.

Last year, the Southeast Asian nation was battered by its worst floods in history. More than 50 people died and thousands were displaced in December 2021. — AFP

# Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

## Sri Lanka government takes over \$1.7bn in debt owed to China

Colombo seeks to sell off state units and restructure foreign debt



COLOMBO: Anti-government demonstrators and university students speak with UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy (right) before protesting to demand the release of their leaders outside the United Nations (UN) office in Colombo. — AFP

COLOMBO: Crisis-hit Sri Lanka said Monday it would take responsibility for \$1.7 billion owed to China by state enterprises as it seeks to sell them off and restructure its foreign debt to secure an IMF bailout. The government of President Ranil Wickremesinghe is in talks with the Washington-based lender as it seeks funding to enable the island to recover from its worst-ever financial crisis.

His predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa was forced to flee the country and resign after demonstrators overran his house following months of protests over the unprecedented economic hardships faced by the 22 million population. Sri Lanka defaulted on its foreign debt in April and the IMF has said its bor-

rowings must be "sustainable" to unlock any new external funding.

That will require its creditors to take a haircut on their loans, but China is its biggest lender and Beijing has given no indication it is willing to do so. Wickremesinghe said \$1.7 billion in loans taken from China's Export-Import Bank by three key loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOE) — the electricity utility, Port Authority, and Airport and Aviation Services—would be considered government debt.

Taking the loans off their books will strengthen their balance sheets, which could make them more attractive to buyers or outside investors. The IMF has said the country should also restructure its loss-mak-

ing state enterprises. Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, signalled the selling-off of five state-owned companies, including the national carrier Srilankan Airlines—which has debts of more than \$1 billion—to reduce the strain on the national budget.

Proceeds from the "restructure" of the companies will be used to boost the country's depleted foreign reserves, he said, without giving estimates. "A glimmer of hope on emerging from the economic abyss is currently visible," Wickremesinghe told parliament as he presented his first full budget in the legislature. "After the era of waiting in queues for days and protesting in various occupied places, our sufferings have been eased to some extent and

we have reached an era where our peace of mind is much settled."

He said bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund were on track and hoped for a deal with lenders. "We are confident that these discussions will lead to positive outcomes," he added.

The government revised its external debt figure down from \$51 billion to \$46 billion. Just over \$14 billion of that is bilateral debt owed to foreign governments, of which China holds 52 percent. Wickremesinghe, a six-times prime minister, has sharply raised taxes and increased fuel, water and electricity tariffs and rationed petrol and diesel since coming to power in July. — AFP

### US targets Russian arms supply network, oligarch Kerimov

WASHINGTON: The US Treasury announced sanctions on Monday on a Russian defense procurement network and blacklisted private aircraft and companies in France and Switzerland tied to oligarch Suleiman Kerimov. The companies the Treasury is targeting with sanctions fall within the international network of Russian microelectronics company AO PKK Milandr, which it said was vital to the supply of microelectronics to the Russian defense industry.

The Treasury named affiliates and agents of Milandr in Switzerland, Armenia, and Taiwan to the sanctions list, which bans US individuals and entities from doing business with them, aiming to lock them out of global financial and commercial markets.

The sanctions also freeze any assets those targeted have under US jurisdiction. "The United States will continue to expose and disrupt the Kremlin's military supply chains and deny Russia the equipment and technology it needs to wage its illegal war against Ukraine," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement. In addition, the Treasury took aim at the sprawling network of Russian mining tycoon Kerimov, who is already on the US sanctions blacklist.

The sanctions will target Kerimov's wife, children, and a nephew, four French real estate firms controlled by one of his daughters, and a Swiss national who is president of those four companies.

Another Swiss national, Alexander-Walter Studhalter, and Russian businessman Murat Magomedovich Aliev was, were sanctioned for their involvement with more than a dozen companies in Kerimov's financial network, according to the Treasury. In addition, the Treasury placed a block on eight small jet aircraft it said were luxury planes used by Kerimov's family, leaving them potentially vulnerable to seizure. In May, the United States got authorities in Fiji to seize Kerimov's 348-foot (106 meter) luxury yacht Amadea, which is now impounded in San Diego, California. — AFP

### UN chief hopeful Russia to extend grain deal

NUSA DUA: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced hope Monday that Russia would extend an expiring deal that gives safe passage to Ukrainian grain shipments, saying the arrangement was crucial for food security. The UN chief, addressing reporters in Bali ahead of a Group of 20 summit said that talks over the last week had delivered "a lot of progress" on the deal that is set to end on Saturday.

"I am hopeful that the Black Sea grain initiative will be renewed," Guterres said. Ukraine is one of the world's top grain producers, and the Russian invasion

had blocked 20 million tons of grain in its ports until the United Nations and Turkey brokered the deal in July. "We need urgent action to prevent famine and hunger in a growing number of places around the world," Guterres said. "The Black Sea grain initiative, and efforts to ensure Russian food and fertilizers can flow to global markets, are essential to global food security." Russia has said it had yet to decide whether to extend the grain deal beyond November 19, the original date in the agreement.

The G7 bloc of industrial democracies has urged a renewal, with the war still raging in Ukraine nine months after Russia's invasion. Moscow has complained that a second agreement brokered by the UN and Turkey on its fertilizers being exempt from sanctions had not been respected.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will head Moscow's delegation at the Bali summit, replacing President Vladimir Putin. On a separate issue to be addressed by the G20, Guterres took aim at global technology firms that he said have allowed their plat-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

forms to be used for human rights and privacy abuses. He called for "global guardrails" to defend an open and free internet for all.

"Powerful tech companies are running roughshod over human rights and personal privacy and providing platforms for deadly disinformation, in pursuit of profits," he said. — AFP

### Ending Ukraine war best thing to mend economy: Yellen

NUSA DUA: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen heaped pressure on Russia on Monday ahead of the G20 summit in Indonesia, saying the best way to end world economic turmoil was to stop the Ukraine war. "Ending Russia's war is a moral imperative and the single best thing we can do for the global economy," Yellen told reporters as she met French counterpart Bruno Le Maire in Nusa Dua, on the resort island of Bali. High fuel and food prices are among the top issues set to be discussed at the summit and few G20 countries have escaped the economic pain.

Yellen will hope to build diplomatic pressure for an end to the war by blaming Russia. Host Indonesia has called for talks and a peaceful resolution to the conflict but, like fellow G20 members China, South Africa and India, has largely avoided criticizing Russia directly. The summit is also expected to discuss the need to extend a Turkish and UN-brokered agreement allowing vital Ukrainian grain and fer-

tiliser exports to transit safely through the Black Sea. Ukraine is one of the world's largest producers of both products. Russian President Vladimir Putin had appeared to walk away from the agreement but faced a sharp backlash from developing countries.

The current agreement expires on November 19. Le Maire underscored the need to counteract the effects of Russia's invasion, namely on soaring fuel prices in Europe. "I really think that the first issue that we have on the table is how to bring down energy prices and how to get rid of inflation," he said.

G20 health and finance ministers had 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



NUSA DUA, Indonesia: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (left), Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani (center) and Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers (right) meet 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

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 pan-

demic. Donors from G20 and non-G20 members, as well as philanthropic organisations, 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." — AFP



Business

# China unveils sweeping measures to rescue ailing property sector

## Regulators seek to offset years of harsh curbs and a real estate crackdown

BEIJING: Chinese authorities have unveiled sweeping measures to rescue the country's struggling property sector, as regulators seek to offset years of harsh pandemic curbs and a real estate crackdown that have stalled the world's number-two economy. The banking regulator and central bank on Friday issued a 16-point set of internal directives to promote the "stable and healthy development" of the industry, which were reported by Chinese state media on Monday.

The measures include credit support for debt-laden housing developers, financial support to ensure the completion and handover of projects to homeowners, and assistance for deferred-payment loans for homebuyers. That came on the same day the National Health Commission issued 20 rules for "optimizing" China's zero-COVID policy, where certain restrictions were relaxed to limit its social and economic impact.

"We view this as the most crucial pivot since Beijing significantly tightened financing of the property sector," Ting Lu, chief China economist at Nomura, said in a note.

"We believe these measures demonstrate that Beijing is willing to reverse most of its financial tightening measures." Hong Kong stocks surged more than three percent Monday after the measures were unveiled, extending Friday's more than seven percent rally before paring gains to 1.7 percent at the close. The Hong Kong-listed shares of China's biggest developer by sales, Country Garden, closed up 45 percent while the shares of major competitor Greenland gained more than 35 percent.

### 'Not a bailout'

Beijing imposed widespread lending curbs on property developers in 2020, which exacerbated their liquidity issues and caused several of the largest to default on bond payments.

The knock-on effects on the massive real estate sector were severe, with cash-strapped developer Evergrande—China's largest—and others failing to complete projects, sparking mortgage boycotts and protests from homebuyers. The measures emphasised "guaranteeing the handover of buildings", and ordered development banks to provide "special loans" for the purpose, according to a copy circulating online. The document ordered financial institutions to treat state-owned and private real estate enterprises equally, as well as "actively cooperating with distressed real estate enterprises in risk management". The measures also included "extending the transition period arrangements... of real estate loans" for distressed developers, and support for "high-quality real estate enterprises to issue bond financing". "The plan includes financial stability measures that aim to prevent massive defaults and hence provide a 'soft landing'," ANZ analysts wrote in a note.



But analysts cautioned that these changes—alongside the limited loosening of zero-Covid measures—would not cause an immediate recovery for the ailing sector.

"While not many are expecting a financial crisis caused by the current property downturn, the mainstream view is that the property sector would stay weaker for longer. Therefore, the worst is far from over for developers," Macquarie economist Larry Hu said in a note.

"The package is not a bailout of property developers," wrote Andrew Batson, an analyst at Gavekal Dragonomics. "With the new policies, the government is trying harder to make its current approach to COVID containment and the property market work, rather than shifting to a different approach."

New home prices have been falling for more than a year, while demand is struggling to pick up owing to ongoing strict pandemic controls that have dampened consumer confidence. — AFP

## Climate disaster aid scheme 'Global Shield' launched at COP27

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt: A scheme to give speedy financial support to communities battered by climate disasters was launched Monday by a group of rich and developing nations at the UN COP27 summit in Egypt. The "Global Shield against Climate Risks" comes as many of the most vulnerable nations are also demanding wider compensation for the "loss and damage" they have already suffered from a heating planet. The initiative, backed by the G7 and launched with initial funding of more than \$200 million, aims to provide "pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters".

The Global Shield project "is long overdue", said Ken Ofori-Atta, Ghana's finance minister and chair of the V20 group of nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. "It has never been a question of who pays for loss and damage, because we are paying for it," he said in recorded remarks at the summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.

"Our economies pay for it in lost growth prospects, our enterprises pay for it in business disruption, and our communities pay for it in lives and livelihoods lost." He said he hoped the project would help the most vulnerable communities but also aid wider understanding of the challenges emerging economies face as they are being hammered by climate-induced floods, heatwaves or droughts. A first group of nations that will benefit from the scheme includes Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.

### 'Need protection now'

Nations at the COP27 agreed this year for the first time to include the thorny topic of loss and

damage on the formal agenda, after years of reluctance from richer polluters wary of creating open-ended liability. Germany said the Global Shield scheme, largely in the form of insurance that pays out immediately after or even before a climate disaster, would be part of a broader effort to respond to loss and damage.

Svenja Schulze, Germany's minister of economic cooperation and development, stressed that the scheme was not "a tactic" to sidestep calls for a specific loss and damage funding mechanism. "The Global Shield isn't the one and only solution for loss and damage, certainly not," she said, adding that more funding will be needed to cover more countries.

"Those most affected by climate impacts need practical action now." The Global Shield is designed to provide a range of financial, social and credit protection and insurance for loss of crops, livestock, property and other goods. It also promises to support the swift delivery of funds for humanitarian agencies responding to disasters.

### 'Life and death'

A formal loss and damage funding stream would likely go further, also covering longer-onset climate impacts such as sea level rise and threats to cultural heritage. Besides \$170 million from Germany, funding includes \$20 million from France, \$10 million from Ireland, \$7 million from Canada and \$4.7 million from Denmark. France later said its total commitment would be \$60 million over three years. The V20 bloc, made up of 58 developing nations, released research this year that estimated countries had lost some \$525 billion to climate impacts since 2000.

Ninety-eight percent of the nearly 1.5 billion people in V20 countries do not have financial protection, it said. "We're talking about people living under the poverty line, they're not going to be buying insurance," said Rachel Cleetus, lead economist at the Union of Concerned Scientists' climate programme.—AFP



SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt: Climate activists gather with signs for a demonstration calling upon the G20 conference to adhere to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of the same name, during the COP27 climate conference, on November 14, 2022. — AFP

## Bezos says will donate most of fortune to charity

WASHINGTON: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the first time said he will give away most of his \$124 billion fortune to charity, but warned that doing so effectively will be difficult. The pledge matched similar commitments by some of the world's richest people, including

Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffett and others. In a CNN interview released on Monday, Bezos said he and his partner Lauren Sanchez were "building the capacity to be able to give away this money."

Asked whether he intended to donate most of his wealth within his lifetime, the 58-year-old Bezos said: "Yeah, I do." Bezos has been under pressure to make the pledge after his ex-wife, author MacKenzie Scott, in 2019 committed to donate half her vast wealth after their divorce.

Bezos told CNN he intended to maximize returns in his philanthropy, a concern that has also been put forward by other tech titans, including Facebook

## UN climate talks enter home stretch split over money

SHARM EL SHEIKH: COP27 entered its final week Monday with countries that grew rich burning fossil fuels and developing nations reeling from climate impacts at loggerheads over how to speed and fund reductions in carbon pollution.

Somewhere in the middle, China — accounting for 30 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, by far the largest share — is feeling pressure from both sides, not only to enhance its carbon cutting goals but to step up as a donor nation, negotiators and analysts say. At last year's UN climate summit in Glasgow, nearly 200 countries vowed to "keep alive" the Paris Agreement's aspirational goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Nearly 1.2C of warming so far has seen a cascade of increasingly severe climate disasters, such as the flooding that left a third of Pakistan under water this summer, claiming at least 1,700 lives and inflicting \$30 to \$40 billion in damage. The Glasgow Pact urged nations to ramp up their emissions reduction commitments ahead of this year's critical summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. But with the exception of Australia and Mexico, only a handful of smaller economies heeded the call, leaving the world on track to hot up by about 2.5C — enough, scientists say, to trigger dangerous tipping points in Earth's climate system. At the COP27's midpoint, little has changed.

"Parties are basically staring each other down, thinking they have done their part and waiting for the other side to move," said the head of WWF France, Pierre Canet.

### 'Make our lives easier'

As ministers arrive to cut through political knots above the pay grade of front-line negotiators, focus will turn to a crucial "decisions" document that will reveal the consensus reached — or not. "All the big political crunch issues are unresolved," said Alden Meyer, a senior analyst at climate think tank E3G. To accelerate decarbonisation, many developing nations — including small island states whose very existence is threatened by rising seas — favour a deepened commitment to the 1.5C target, with specific mention of the fossil fuels that drive emissions. US special envoy for climate John Kerry on Friday called out countries "whose 2030 goals are not yet aligned with the Paris temperature goal," a thinly veiled allusion to China.

A reality-check report released at COP27 last week showed CO2 emissions — which must decline nearly 50 percent by 2030 to keep the 1.5C target in play — from coal, gas and oil are on track to hit record levels in 2022. But China and India have objected to such efforts, with Beijing pointing out that the binding target agreed in Paris was "well below" 2C, not 1.5C. Negotiators in Sharm el-Sheikh will look to a bilateral meeting Monday in Bali between China's Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, along with the communique from a G20 meeting both will subsequently attend, for signals that could break the deadlock in Egypt. "Confirming the 1.5C goal in Bali would make our lives easier," a senior negotiator at the climate talks said.

### 'Polluters must pay'

When it comes to money, the spotlight in Egypt is on so-called loss and damage, UN-speak for unavoidable losses — of life, property and cultural heritage — due to climate impacts that have already happened. Rich nations fearful of creating an open-ended liability regime agreed this year for the first time to include this thorny topic on the formal agenda. Developing nations are calling for the creation of a separate facility, but the US and the European Union — while not precluding such an outcome — have said they favour using existing financial channels. "This is the highest profile, most political issue at the COP" said Meyer.

Another track of the talks, meanwhile, has opened on how much money the Global South will get — after current pledges of \$100 billion a year expire in 2024 — to help green their economies and prepare for future warming. As it becomes clear that financial needs will be measured in trillions of dollars rather than billions, other options — some of them in parallel to the UN process — have emerged. These range from expanding access to IMF and World Bank funds, to broadening the base of donor nations to include China, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other nations. "China and India are major polluters, and the polluter must pay," Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, said last week during the COP27 summit, speaking for the AOSIS coalition of small island states. "I don't think there are free passes for any country." — AFP



BRASILIA, Brazil: Supporters of the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro take part in a demonstration to ask for federal intervention in front of the Army headquarters in Brasilia, on November 13, 2022. — AFP

## Brazil, Indonesia, DR Congo sign deforestation pact

BRASILIA: The world's biggest rainforest nations Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday formally launched a climate partnership to work together on conservation.

All three nations have vast tropical rainforests threatened by logging and agriculture. "Representatives from Indonesia, Brazil and DRC... announced a tropical forest cooperation and climate action in the Egyptian COP27 (climate summit) side event on November 7, and agreed to sign a Joint Statement today," Indonesia's coordinating minister of maritime and investment affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan said in a statement. "We do need cooperation with others to achieve common goals. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much," he said on the eve of the G20 summit. The agreement calls for all three to be compensated by the international community for reducing deforestation, focusing on joint issues such as access to climate finance and the price of a ton of carbon in the carbon-credit market.

The Indonesian statement said the countries "have a common interest in collaborating to increase the value of their tropical forests, and to ensure that these tropical forests continue to benefit the climate and people." Brazilian president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is expected to pledge a reversal of the environmental policies of his right-wing predecessor Jair Bolsonaro to protect the Amazon rainforest.

His trip to the COP27 talks in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh—which he will address on Wednesday—will be his first international visit since beating Bolsonaro in an election run-off last month.

The 77-year-old promised on the campaign trail to work towards zero deforestation. Brazil will be represented at the G20 summit on Tuesday and Wednesday by Foreign Minister Carlos Franca. The DRC, which is home to 60 percent of the vast Congo Basin rainforest, has faced criticism for launching an auction in July for oil and gas blocks, some of which are in sensitive areas. The impoverished central African nation maintains that developing its fossil resources is an economic imperative. But the country's Environment Minister Eve Bazaïda Mazudi said the three nations can offer solutions to climate change together. "The world is currently getting warmer and warmer, so humanity needs rainforests to bind CO2," she said, according to the Indonesian statement. — AFP

founder Mark Zuckerberg. "The hard part is figuring out how to do it in a levered way," he said in the joint interview with Sanchez. "It's not easy. Building Amazon was not easy...and I'm finding - and I think Lauren is finding the same thing - that charity, philanthropy is very similar."

"There are a bunch of ways that I think you could do ineffective things," he added. Bezos and Sanchez on Saturday announced they were giving Dolly Parton 100 million dollars to give to charities of her choosing. Bezos said that Parton "gives with heart" and praised the country legend on her promotion of children's literacy. — AFP

## Business

# Germany deploys bin trucks to map mobile blackspots

## Better mobile network could draw more investors and tourists

**BERLIN:** On a street in Wusterhausen, around an hour's drive north of Berlin, a man paces intently, holding his mobile phone in front of him. "I'm looking for network, because here this area is not good," says Arek Karasinski, in town on a business trip from Poland.

Issues with phone signal are a source of constant frustration for the residents of Wusterhausen, which sits in one of Germany's many blackspots, out of reach of any mobile network.

"We're here in Germany, an industrial nation, and we have all of these dead zones," says Matthias Noa, head of waste management firm AWU. Noa was so exasperated that when the local government asked if they could use his garbage trucks to do something about it, he quickly agreed.

Since the summer, the trucks have been fitted with a device that measures the signal quality on their routes across the district of Ostprignitz-Ruppin. Because their work takes them everywhere across the area, they are the perfect vehicles for the job.

"We go out on the ground, into every nook," says Werner Nuese, the vice-president of the local council, who was not satisfied with the efforts made by public bodies or private groups to plot the signal problems. Jonny Basner, a driver participating in the program, knows the trouble well. "It would be great if I had enough signal to reach the depot from the villages (on the route)," he says. Trackers have been handed out to hikers and cyclists to fill in the gaps left by the rubbish collectors.

On a map, Nuese points out the spots marked in

red where the signal is at its worst.

"Even if this is a rural area in the northeast of Germany, we shouldn't be forgotten. That's our demand," he says.

### 'On the terrace'

A short walk shows the issues people are facing. "Outside on the terrace I can get signal, but in the house there is nothing, no one can reach me on the phone," says Dieter Mueller in the village of Bantikow. About 10 kilometers (six miles) away in Wusterhausen itself, Marko Neundorf says he has cancelled his phone contract "because there simply is no signal here".

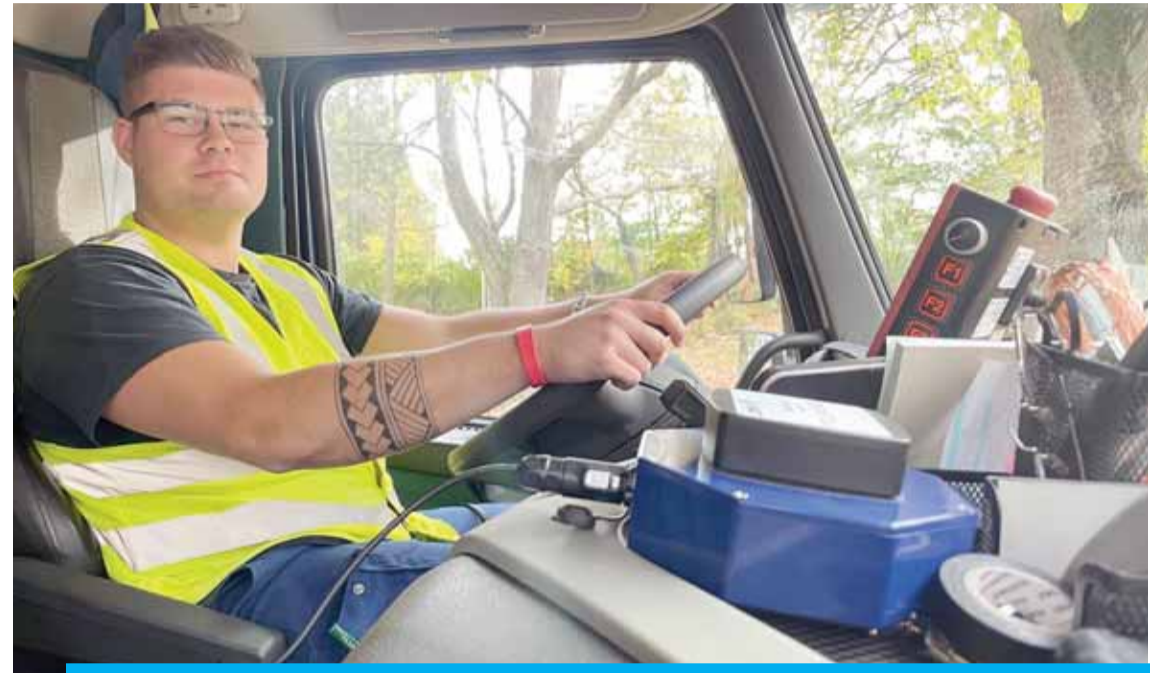
The region would become more attractive to investors and tourists if the mobile network were better, local officials believe. "Every cottage industry has gone digital, every single electrician uses a tablet to order spare parts. It's not just big companies that are more digital," says Noa.

Council official Nuese says medical spas in the area have been getting poor reviews "because the signal is very bad". "It's a measurable economic disadvantage," he says.

The obsolescence of a lot of Germany's infrastructure and administration shot to the top of the political agenda with the exit of Chancellor Angela Merkel from office a year ago.

According to official data, standard LTE coverage, equivalent to 4G, is at 100 percent.

But in a survey by the price comparison site Verivox, published earlier this year, most people said they regularly experienced a lack of signal



**BANTIKOW, Germany:** Jonny Basner, 21, drives the local garbage truck around the district of Wusterhausen, north of the German capital Berlin, with the mobile network measuring device 'Echtzeit' on November 3, 2022, to help establish a detailed map of all the white spots in the mobile telephone network in the area. —AFP

when using their phones. In 2018, then economy minister Peter Altmaier said he was "very annoyed to have to call back three, four times because it cut off" when making calls from his car on official busi-

ness. By producing more detailed signal maps, the council hopes to encourage a response from mobile network operators and to lobby government for more support. —AFP

## CBK bonds and related Tawarruq

**KUWAIT:** The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 240 million for six months with rate of return at 4.250 percent.

## Hungary govt reshuffled over energy policy

**BUDAPEST:** Hungary announced a cabinet reshuffle Monday and unveiled a new energy ministry after a high-profile minister reportedly quit over the government's green energy policy.

The resignation of Laszlo Palkovics, who headed a Technology and Industry ministry, is one of only a handful since Prime Minister Viktor Orban returned to power in 2010.

Palkovics reportedly quit over the government's green energy policy, which has favoured nuclear energy over wind and solar. Instead of appointing a replacement for Palkovics, the government will set up a separate energy ministry next month to focus on the current crisis, while some responsibilities now under Palkovics will go to other ministers, Orban's chief of staff Gergely Gulyas told reporters.

The decision was taken as "energy prices, driven higher because of the war (in Ukraine) and sanctions policy, and energy security have become the most important issues" in Hungary and in Europe, said Gulyas. Hungary is heavily dependent upon Russian energy and Budapest has sought to obtain exemptions from EU sanctions to secure its supplies.

Orban ally Csaba Lantos, a 60-year-old economist and former deputy head of top Hungarian bank OTP, will lead the new ministry, Gulyas added. According to Hungarian media speculation, Palkovics, 57, quit over strict government regulation on the development of renewable energy sources.

There was a "huge gap" between Palkovics and other government members over the country's energy strategy, according to leading Hungarian news site Telex.hu. "Palkovics has long been committed to green energy (and especially wind and solar power plants), while several people in the government are firmly against their construction" in favour of nuclear energy, it said.

Hungary approved in August the construction of two new nuclear reactors by Russia's Rosatom, which is also financing the project to the tune of 10 billion euros. The two new reactors will complement four currently operating at the Paks site south of Budapest and which currently produce around 40 percent of Hungary's electricity. Palkovics has not spoken to media since his resignation. —AFP

## Germany nationalizes Gazprom subsidiary

**BERLIN:** Germany announced on Monday it was nationalizing a former subsidiary of Russian energy giant Gazprom, saying it was necessary because of the company's systemic importance for power supplies in the country. The company, Securing Energy for Europe GmbH (SEFE), was previously known as Gazprom Germania.

It is a network operator and indirectly controls Germany's largest gas storage facility in the north-western town of Rehden. In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Moscow's decision to reduce energy supplies to Europe, Berlin placed the SEFE under its effective control in April. But ownership of the company had remained unclear.

As a result, business partners and banks have suspended business relations with SEFE or are reluctant to enter into new ones, the economy ministry said. "This jeopardizes the continuation of SEFE's business operations and thus the gas supply," it added.

Germany was therefore formerly nationalizing the company and turning it into a state asset. Under complex accounting manoeuvres, the company's losses are offset against its capital reserves.

As a result, Gazprom loses its shareholding in the company, the economy ministry said. In turn, Germany will plough 225 million euros (\$232 million) into the company, thereby taking over as "sole new shareholder". "This completes the change of ownership," the ministry said.

Germany also plans to offer the company a loan of 13.8 billion euros in a debt-equity swap arrangement by the end of the year, although the measure is still under discussion. Once heavily reliant on Russian energy, Berlin has been racing to wean itself off imports of gas and oil from the country. Meanwhile, the government in Warsaw said on



Monday it was seizing Gazprom's share in EuRoPol Gaz, the company that owns the section of the Yamal-Europe natural gas pipeline that runs through Poland. The move was designed to "ensure the security of (Poland's) critical infrastructure", the development ministry said.

The Russian gas giant had a 48-percent stake in EuRoPol Gaz and the Polish state the remaining 52 percent. Gazprom completely halted gas supplies via the pipeline in April.

The pipeline can carry up to 33 billion cubic metres of gas from fields in Russia's Yamal peninsula and western Siberia through Belarus and Poland to Germany. In May, Russia announced retaliatory sanctions on more than 30 energy companies, including EuRoPol Gaz, in reaction to sanctions imposed by Western nations on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. Meanwhile, The government in

Warsaw said on Monday it was seizing Gazprom's share in EuRoPol Gaz, the company that owns the Polish section of the Yamal-Europe natural gas pipeline. The move was designed to "ensure the security of (Poland's) critical infrastructure", the development ministry said. The Russian gas giant had a 48-percent stake in the company and the Polish state the remaining 52 percent. Gazprom completely halted gas supplies via the pipeline in April. The pipeline can carry up to 33 billion cubic meters of gas from fields in Russia's Yamal peninsula and western Siberia through Belarus and Poland to Germany.

In May, Russia announced retaliatory sanctions on more than 30 energy companies, including EuRoPol Gaz, in reaction to sanctions imposed by Western nations on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. —AFP

## Fort McKay: Canada's boreal forest gave way to oil sands

**FORT MCKAY, Canada:** The acrid stench of gasoline permeates the air. And the soot coats everything in sight: the trees, the bushes, even the snow in winter. And all day long, explosions send the birds soaring to safety. At Fort McKay near Fort McMurray in western Canada, in the heart of the country's boreal forest, the pines and the people were long ago cleared out to make way for huge open-pit mines dedicated to excavation of oil sands.

It's one of the biggest industrial projects in the world: as seen from above, the zone is in stark contrast to the vast expanse of green surrounding it. Huge black holes are gouged in the brown earth—they are giant pools of water. Then there is the network of roads on which hundreds of trucks drive every day, and the immense factories, with smoke spewing from wide chimneys.

On the ground, the noise is deafening. And it's quite a scene for the uninitiated: in the middle of the huge basins dug to capture the polluted waters stand huge metal scarecrows clad in helmets and security vests. The ghoulish creatures are designed to scare away millions of migratory birds that arrive every year in this northern part of Alberta province. Adding to the mayhem: airhorns that are used several times a minute.

The mines have made the people left in Fort McKay—many of them Indigenous Canadians—very rich. But the installations have also profoundly altered and damaged the land on which their ancestors relied for centuries. "Everything has changed, everything's destroyed to me now," says 74-year-old Margie Lacorde who lives in the center of town in a house chock full of knick knacks and framed



**BAIE-COMEAU, Canada:** An aerial view shows the First Nations reserve and Innu community of Pessamit, in Quebec on August 26, 2022. —AFP

photographs. The talkative Lacorde, who belongs to the Metis people, is sad to see the parched, yellowing leaves due to drought, and wishes she could still swim in the rivers and gather berries in the forest like she did in her youth.

The hunting grounds are long gone—the land was sold for industrial use. "The pollution is killing our nature," Lacorde tells AFP, though she herself worked in the oil industry for years to provide for her family. She remembers her childhood with a significant bit of nostalgia. Back then, families gathered snow and melted it to use as drinking and cooking water. Such a thing would be impossible today—once the snow hits the ground, it's immediately filthy, covered in the dust that filters down from the factories.

"We're First Nations and this is our territory that

is all being desecrated by the oil industry for the sake of the dollar, money, prosperity," says Jean L'Hommecourt, an environmental activist who took up the fight her parents once championed. Even if agreements were reached with Indigenous communities to create jobs and protect some natural resources, the ecological impact of mining the oil sands have been so great that the 59-year-old woman says her people are now at risk.

"I lost my prosperity when the industry came in and took over all our lands and our waters and our access to our wildlife... everything that we depend on to sustain our culture has been compromised by industry," she says bitterly. The area is a far cry from the picture postcard ideal of the Canadian West. There are no crystalline blue waterways or fish-filled rivers here. —AFP

## Lifestyle | Features

## Bong! Big Ben's back in Britain

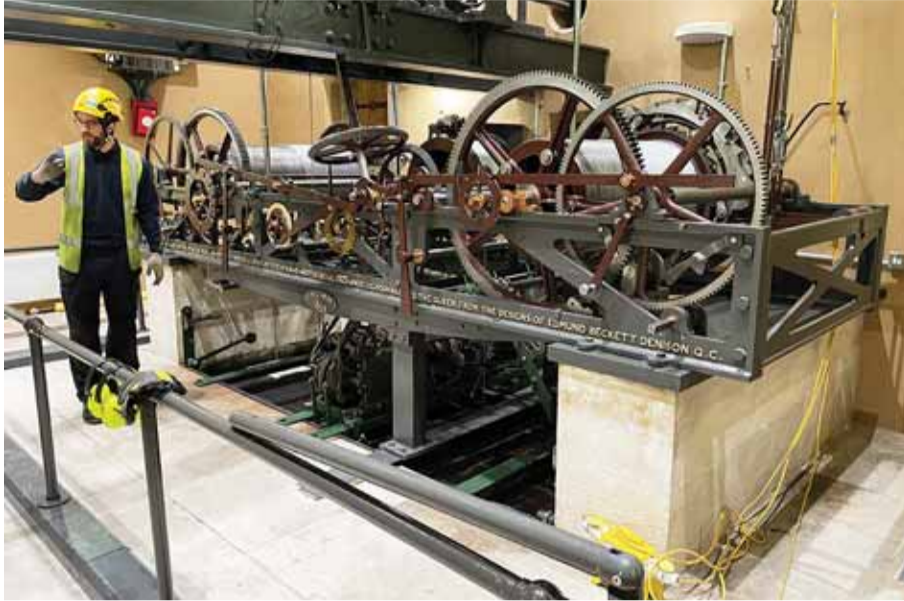
Getting up close to Big Ben requires earplugs, and ear defenders over them to be safe. When the 13.7-tonne bell sounds, the vibration hits you in the chest. After a five-year restoration project, the world-famous ringer is back with a bong. The Great Clock towering above Britain's Houses of Parliament is resuming daily operations following the painstaking renovation of more than 1,000 moving parts. When the clock's five cast-iron bells including Big Ben fell silent in 2017, a mournful crowd of parliamentarians and staff gathered below. Some shed tears. But after a week of testing, normal service will resume every 15 minutes from 11:00 am (1100 GMT) on Sunday.

The time marks the moment on November 11, 1918 when the guns fell silent in World War I. In Britain, Remembrance Sunday immediately follows Armistice Day every November 11. They are two of the few occasions that Big Ben and his partners have rung since 2017, along with New Year's Eve, when Britain left the European Union in 2021, and the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in September. Atop the 96-metre (315-foot) Elizabeth Tower is the belfry housing the bells-protected by exterior netting to keep out bats and pigeons.

Beyond lie some of London's most spectacular vistas. But parliament's three in-house timekeepers don't have time to enjoy the view. Ian Westworth, 60, and his colleagues have been busy overseeing the tests to ensure everything is in order after the £80-million (\$90-million) restoration.

## London calling

"It's the sound of London back again," Westworth told AFP on a dawn tour of the tower. "The bell's sounded through wars,



Alex Jeffrey, one of the three full-time timekeepers in Britain's Houses of Parliament, explains the renovation of the building's clock mechanism ahead of the return of the bell called Big Ben in London.— AFP photos

and you try and imagine what this bell's actually seen — 160 years of development." The Elizabeth Tower, previously called the Clock Tower, was renamed in 2012 to honor the late queen's Diamond Jubilee. When first built in the 1840s, it dominated the Westminster skyline. Today, newer and taller buildings lie nearby. "You used to be able to hear this (Big Ben) on a quiet night up to 15 miles (24 kilometers) away," Westworth said, as a chill wind whistled through the belfry.

"Now you're lucky on a day like today if you can hear it the other side of Parliament Square." The five-year restoration involved cleaning and repainting each of the five bells' hammers and arms. The bells themselves stayed in place. Big Ben sounds the hour, and is so

large that flooring in the tower beneath would have to be dismantled if it ever had to be removed. The four smaller bells around it sound the quarter-hour. The biggest job was taking apart the 11.5-tonne clock mechanism dating from 1859 so that every cog and pinion could be cleaned, repaired and re-oiled by a specialist company in Cumbria, northwest England. Other changes were cosmetic.

Twenty-eight round LED lights now illuminate the four clock faces, a balance of green and white offering the closest match to how they would have looked in gas-lit Victorian times.

Above the bells sits a taller LED light, which glows white when parliament is sitting. State-of-the-art sprinklers have been installed throughout the tower, although



In this file photo One of the four faces of the Great Clock of the Elizabeth Tower, commonly referred to as Big Ben, is pictured at the Houses of Parliament at midday in central London.

the belfry is beyond reach of the system.

## Timeless technology

In past years before the renovation, parliament's timekeepers would benchmark the Great Clock's time against the telephone speaking clock. Now, it is calibrated by GPS via Britain's National Physical Laboratory. But the method to adjust the clock's timing mechanism remains old-fashioned: pre-decimal pennies are added or removed from weights attached to two giant coiled springs, to make or lose a second. As the top of the hour approaches, it is time to don the ear defenders again for the continuing series of tests.

Big Ben bongs seven times, setting off a bass vibrato in the gantry around it.

While deafening, the unmistakable peal of the cracked bell is also a reassuring note of constancy after a year of political upheaval in Britain, and as the rest of the parliamentary estate frays. Political bickering over the costs is holding up a bigger renovation of the ageing complex.

But Westworth and his 35-year-old colleague Alex Jeffrey remain focused on the job in hand: tending to parliament's 2,000 clocks, many of them irreplaceable antiques. "Every day you're keeping time in a very hands-on way, using technology, arts and crafts," Jeffrey said. "It's very tactile, as is maintaining the Great Clock," he added. "It's the best job in the world."— AFP



A man chases a dog away from a ritual site that marks the end of the rainy season and pushes for a good rice yield at the birth place of Aline Sioe Diatta in Kabrousse.



The house where Senegalese heroine, Aline Sioe Diatta was allegedly born is pictured in Kabrousse.— AFP photos

## On the traces of Senegal's enigmatic anti-colonial heroine

She is hailed today as a figurehead of Senegal's fight for independence from France-but trying to seize the elusive substance of her life is almost like trying to capture a ghost. Aline Sioe Diatta is lauded in the West African nation as the embodiment of the anti-colonial struggle, which culminated with independence in 1960, 16 years after her death. Among the honors bestowed on her are the name of the ferry between the capital Dakar and her native region of Casamance, as well as sports stadiums, schools and a university residence for women in Dakar.

Schoolchildren in Casamance, a southern region ensconced between The

2020, French author Karine Silla wrote a fictional work on Diatta, with the front cover displaying a photograph of a pipe-smoking young woman proudly posing for the camera. But in her village and in universities, no one can say for sure whether the picture is really of her. And her true part in the anti-colonial struggle seems to have been filtered and altered through the prism of history. Kabrousse's village leader, Matar Sambaisseu Diatta, said Diatta was a spiritualist, and the popular version of her story plays down her ethnic and animist roots.

"She never opposed colonial interference," he said. "At the time, lots of people

transformed into legacy."

## 1970s push

Diatta's place in Senegal's collective memory dates back to the early decades of the fledgling republic. In the 1970s, she featured in radio broadcasts by Augustin Diamacoune Senghor, a Catholic priest and campaigner for Casamance's independence. She was then taken up and brought to a wider public by left-wing groups looking for heroes who symbolized the fight against colonization.

"For people who were young and became politically aware in the 1970s, Aline Sioe Diatta was a reference point," said journalist Fatoumata Sow, a founder member of the feminist movement Yewwu-Yewwi. "We set up a prize in her name to reward people who fought for the emancipation of women," she said. "She personified the values of resistance, equality between the sexes and the social advancement of women."

Diatta's ethnicity was also useful for cementing national unity, said Alioune Tine, a civil society leader. She was a member of the Diola ethnic group in Casamance—a former Portuguese colony that has a distinctive culture from the rest of Senegal and hosts one of the world's longest-running separatist revolts.

## 'Role model'

In the nearby resort of Cap Skirring, French vacationer Kani Ba, whose family originated from Senegal, said she had come to see "where (Diatta) came from, to feel her energy." "In France, women are put forward as role models, but it is rare to see women of African heritage. It's crucial to have heroines of African background, because it helps us to progress," said Ba, who is aged in her 40s.

"Life is simpler when you accept your own identity." Back in the village of Kabrousse, dark clouds penetrated by rays of sunshine have brewed, and a gentle breeze rustles through the trees. Dogs bark and children squabble. In a few hours, local animists will gather to pray for the rain that will make the rice grow—a "fetish", or magic ritual, that they say was taught by Diatta herself.— AFP



In this file photo taken on September 24, 2022 A woman stands in front of the ferry between Dakar and Ziguinchor in Ziguinchor.

Gambia to the north and Guinea-Bissau, are immersed in her story. They learn that Diatta, dubbed the "Queen of Kabrousse" after the village where she was born in 1920, was suspected by the French of fomenting an anti-colonial revolt. At the age of 24, the French deported her to Timbuktu, more than 2,300 kilometers (1,429 miles) away, in what is now the deserts of Mali. She died there in 1944 of scurvy.

Yet no physical trace of Diatta remains in Senegal—not her house, her body, not even an object. "The colonists took everything. But we have kept her memory and the faith she passed on to us," said Mathurin Senghor Diatta, one of her nephews.

## History 'rewritten'

Even Diatta's image is uncertain. In

came to see her for (spiritual) consultation, and the colonizers believed she was a danger to them. Her story was later rewritten." This view is supported Jean Diedhiou, a researcher in anthropology at the University of Ziguinchor, the capital of Casamance. Diatta, he said, is the victim of "commemorative inversion... a rewriting of history for political ends". "Diatta was a priestess, of which there were others in Casamance," where there is a deep tradition of village religions, he said.

She never called for an uprising, but did encourage civil disobedience against the requisition of rice, which at the time was required by the ruling French, he said. "Where she is today stems from the fact that she was arrested and exiled, and the status that the colonizers gave her. It's what I call the post-colonization paradox—things that the colonizers did are

## New Giacometti museum set for Paris in 2026

A new museum and school dedicated to artist Alberto Giacometti will open in Paris in 2026, bringing together the world's largest collection of his work, his foundation announced on Monday. The new museum will take over a 6,000-square-metre (64,600-square-foot) space at the former Invalides train station and its underground annexes. It will have a permanent collection and feature a rotation from the 10,000 works created by Giacometti (1901-1966), who was born in Switzerland but moved to Paris in the 1920s.

He is best known for his spindly bronze figures but also created a huge number of paintings, drawings and deco-

orative objects, "most of which are currently not accessible to the public", Catherine Grenier, director of the Giacometti Foundation, told AFP. The foundation was formed in 2003 by the artist's widow, Annette Giacometti.

The new museum will also show "exhibitions of modern and contemporary art connected with the spirit of Giacometti", Grenier said, as well as providing a learning centre "aimed at everyone—children and adults, the experienced or novices". Paris is already home to the Giacometti Institute that houses his tiny former studio, which will be moved to the new museum.

The institute will remain but be used for different activities. The Invalides station and the vast spaces beneath the neighboring esplanade were built for the 1900 Paris Exposition and are currently undergoing a major renovation by the city authorities.— AFP



## Vuitton heir's apartment burgled in Paris

The Paris home of an heir of the Louis Vuitton luxury empire was burgled at the weekend, sources close to the case said Monday, with thieves taking high-end watches, jewelry and bags. Benoit-Louis Vuitton, a sixth generation descendant of the fashion house's founder, lives in the swanky seventh district of the capital near the Invalides military museum. The exact value of the pieces taken was still being evaluated, but they are worth at least several hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars), the sources said.

An investigation is underway, the Paris prosecutors' office said, with the capital's anti-gang unit handling the case. The Actu17 website, which first broke the news, put the value of the bounty at several million euros. The burglary happened

overnight Sunday to Monday, when the apartment was empty, it said, adding that some of the bags taken were "hugely valuable prototypes".

Louis Vuitton, who founded his name-sake luxury house in 1854 by making trunks, died aged 70 in 1892. In 1987, the company merged with champagne maker Moët et Chandon and cognac brand Hennessy to create LVMH, which is now the world's biggest luxury company, grouping 75 brands and employing 175,000 people.

Louis Vuitton bags, with the famous "LV" monogram, are among the world's most prestigious fashion items and often copied by counterfeiters. Last week, fake Louis Vuitton bags were among nearly one million euros' worth of knock-offs police found in a raid on a clandestine outlet near Paris.

In September, a group of armed robbers stole 300 Louis Vuitton bags from a sub-contractor working for the company, with their retail value estimated at several hundreds of thousands of euros.— AFP



Matis indigenous Tumi Malhopa teaches Tikuna indigenous people to light a fire without a lighter in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia. — AFP photos



A Tikuna indigenous woman poses for the camera during the filming of a documentary short film in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.



Matis indigenous Dame Betxun poses for a picture.



A Matis indigenous man and a Tikuna indigenous man pose for a picture.



A Tikuna indigenous woman stands on her house in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.

# Indigenous film bringing cross-border Amazon tribes together

In Colombia's Amazon jungle, indigenous people of different nations, ethnicities and languages have come together to find a single voice in cinema to tell their own stories, rather than let outsiders do it. One recent week, in the community of San Martin de Amacayacu in southern Colombia the local Tikuna tribe was joined for the first time by the Matis people of Brazil for a crash course on film.

how to focus a video camera.

Around 10 Matis, known as "cat men" for the feline tattoos on their faces, had arrived from their home region in the Yavari valley—an area larger than Austria and rife with drug trafficking and illegal mineral extraction, logging and fishing. British journalist Dom Phillips and indigenist Bruno Pereira were murdered there in June. The Yavari valley has the largest number of volun-

"We have to show other people and the whites that we have our own identity," said Kata Matis.

The films "can help keep memories for the future ... so we don't forget our traditions," added Yina Moran, 17. Placed in mixed groups, the Tikunas proposed three short films on seeds, medicinal plants and masato, with the help of Matis, the CTI and the French association ForestEver. "The cameras blended into the landscape and families were more willing to share and communicate," said ForestEver coordinator Claire Davigo.

#### 'Exotic reports'

San Martin de Amacayacu, surrounded by a lush natural park, is made up of wooden houses, some with colorful painted walls, that are home to several generations of the same family. Apprentices and their mentors spent the day conducting interviews and filming daily life. "The communication was wonderful because although we hardly speak Portuguese, we understood each other through our cultures," said Moran. In the afternoon, locals made their way down to the river to wash clothes or bathe. At night, generators were fired up to provide four hours of electricity.

After that, the noise stopped to make way for jungle sounds. A decade after they were first contact-



Tikuna indigenous young people chat by a house in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.



Tikuna and Matis indigenous women weave in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.

"We didn't know how to operate a camera so what they are doing is showing their experience, offering knowledge and perseverance," Lizeth Reina, a 24-year-old Tikuna, told AFP.

The Matis, a tribe only contacted in 1976, acquired two video cameras in 2015 and were taught how to film by the Brazilian Center for Indigenist Labor (CTI) and the National Indian Foundation. Last month, they made a seven-day journey along fast-moving rivers and almost impenetrable jungle paths to share their knowledge with this Colombian community of some 700 people. As the boot camp got under way, a Matis with a distinctive facial tattoo, gave instructions on

tarly isolated communities in the world. "It's not easy getting here, we suffered a bit, but it's very emotional," filmmaker Pixi Kata Matis, 29, said of the journey to San Martin.

#### 'Future memories'

Tikunas laughed as their guests grimaced while sipping masato, a fermented yucca-based drink passed around in a cup made from the hard rind calabash tree fruit. Films were projected inside the maloca, a cultural, political, social and spiritual center. Hundreds of dazzled spectators watched as images of hunts with blowguns, bows and arrows flashed before their eyes, as well as the tattoo festival that marks the coming of age of young Matis.

ed, the Matis were already the "stars of exotic reports" by US, Japanese, French and British journalists, according to the CTI. Foreigners were captivated by their body art and accessories: ears pierced with huge ornaments, fine rods passing through noses and lips, face tattoos and bodies draped in jewelry. But Kata Matis complained that "many people wanted to go to the village ... filming without our authorization, without our understanding, and then they took the material" without sharing it. To prevent a repeat, the Matis began

writing their own history in 2017.

#### Living 'with two worlds'

Since arriving in San Martin, Dame Betxun Matis, 27, has not put down his camera. He took part in producing the "Matis tattoo festival" documentary that won the jury prize at the Kurumin indigenous cinema festival in 2021. The film demonstrates the tradition of marking the face, a practice abandoned by young people who faced discrimination in cities. Kata Matis convinced the community to resume the tradition and filmed as some 90 young people underwent the ritual.

On the Matis' last night in San Martin, hundreds of locals crammed the maloca to watch the Tikunas' short films. After much laughter, applause and shared masato, Kata Matis reflected on the place of indigenous people in modern nation states. "We don't live between two worlds, we live with two worlds," he said. — AFP



View of blowguns, bows, arrows and handicrafts from the Matis indigenous people.



Matis indigenous people show to the Tikuna indigenous people their blowguns, bows, arrows and handicrafts in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.



View of the Amacayacu river at the Colombian Amazonia in San Martin de Amacayacu, Colombia.



Tikuna and Matis indigenous people film an elderly Tikuna singing in San Martin de Amacayacu.



Tikuna indigenous filmmakers film documentary short films with the support of Matis indigenous filmmakers.

## Sports

# Russell sweeps to first GP win with Hamilton second in Brazil

## Mercedes ends their barren run

SAO PAULO: George Russell powered to his maiden Grand Prix victory ahead of team-mate Lewis Hamilton on Sunday as Mercedes ended their barren run with a triumphant one-two at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix. The 24-year-old English driver resisted the pressure from compatriot Hamilton to finish 1.529 seconds clear of the seven-time champion.

"This is just the beginning," said an elated Russell after winning in his 81st Grand Prix. Hamilton, winner of a record 103 Grands Prix, added to Mercedes joy after a frustrating season. "Congratulations to the team and thank you - this is an amazing result," he said. Carlos Sainz finished third for Ferrari ahead of team-mate Charles Leclerc with two-time champion Fernando Alonso coming home fifth for Alpine.

Two-time champion Max Verstappen was sixth for Red Bull after pitting following a seventh lap collision with Hamilton, for which he was penalized, and charging through the field. Sergio Perez was seventh in the second Red Bull ahead of Alpine's Esteban Ocon, Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo and Lance Stroll of Aston Martin. "What an amazing feeling," added an emotional Russell after climbing from his car. "A huge thank you to the team to make this happen. It's been an emotional rollercoaster." "Lewis put me under so much pressure."

It was Mercedes first win of the season and came in a sizzling and frantic race that began on a hot afternoon, with a track temperature of 51 degrees Celsius. The race began in spectacular style. Russell, who had taken the pole for the main race by winning Saturday's sprint, making a near-perfect start, fol-



SAO PAULO: Mercedes' British driver George Russell (right) and Lewis Hamilton (left) celebrate with fans after the Formula One Brazil Grand Prix at the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace racetrack, also known as Interlagos, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on November 13, 2022. — AFP

lowed by Hamilton. Behind them, on lap one, Daniel Ricciardo and Kevin Magnussen collided when the Australian's McLaren clipped the Dane's Haas and spun him before hitting him again.

A Safety Car came out. The luckless Magnussen, Friday's hero after securing his maiden pole ahead of the sprint, radioed in. "Sorry, guys," he said. "I'm out. I got a massive push." The race resumed on lap seven with another explosion of drama as Russell accelerat-

ed clear ahead of two collisions - Verstappen and Hamilton making contact at Turn One, where the Dutchman suffered a damaged front wing, and Leclerc avoiding the wall at Turn Six after clashing with Norris. Verstappen and Leclerc both pitted. Red Bull replaced Verstappen's front wing in only 10 seconds before the champion re-joined 17th only to learn that he had a five-second penalty for causing the collision.

### 'Closed the door'

"Where did they expect me to go?" a defiant Verstappen told his team, echoing his battle with Hamilton in 2021. "He just closed the door on me, but it doesn't matter." Norris was also handed a five-second penalty. Hamilton, having fallen to eighth after his off-circuit recovery, battled back to fourth by lap 16 as the contest settled down. Sainz was the first of the leaders to stop, switching tires, as Hamilton inherited third. The Spaniard's right rear billowed with smoke as Ferrari fought to retrieve a tear-off from a brake duct.

By lap 25, Verstappen was 12th before pitting again, serving his five-second penalty as Perez and Russell also came in. This blur of pit lane action left Hamilton leading ahead of Russell and Vettel, who pitted on lap 27. Hamilton stayed out until lap 30, and re-joined fourth, rising to third when the Spaniard pitted again on lap 37. Roared on by his 'home' fans, Hamilton caught and passed Perez for second on lap 45 before pitting on lap 49. Russell followed him in and retained his lead, but Sainz took second.

Hamilton immediately cut two seconds out of Sainz's advantage before Norris lost power and idled to a halt and a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed. Sainz took his chance and pitted for soft tires, leaving the two Mercedes ahead of Perez before a full Safety Car was signaled, reducing Russell's 11-second cushion. "So, are we racing?" Russell asked as his teammate rose to second setting up a potential victory duel between the 'silver arrows'. "Yes, you are racing. Just be respectful," came the pit-wall reply. — AFP

## Horner battling to preserve Red Bull's unity, reputation

SAO PAULO: Red Bull boss Christian Horner was battling to rescue his team's unity and reputation on Sunday night after an acrimonious end to the Brazilian Grand Prix saw their drivers Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez in conflict. A testy Verstappen, who has already secured his second successive world title, refused to reveal his reasons for disobeying team orders while Perez, who was stunned by his teammate's surly behavior, said he (Verstappen) had "showed who he really is." Perez, whose exceptional defensive driving in the final laps of the 2021 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix helped Verstappen beat seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes to take his first drivers' title, said he was confused by the dispute.

"I don't understand what his reaction was. If he has two championships, it is thanks to me," he said. Horner called the pair together for a meeting to patch up their relationship after Verstappen refused to obey a team order to allow Perez to pass him for sixth place on the closing laps. Red Bull wanted to support the Mexican's bid to finish ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in the drivers' title race - but they are now level on 290 points with one race to go and the Monegasque ahead on race wins.

Verstappen's blunt refusal, broadcast on team radio, shocked Red Bull as the team struggled to their worst result since the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix. "I told you already last time," he said, responding to his race engineer. "You guys don't ask that again to me, OK? Are we clear about that? I gave my reasons and I stand by it." The row between the champion team's drivers left many paddock observers intrigued as Horner and Red Bull refused to explain Verstappen's grievance.

## Finau powers to four-shot win at Houston Open

LOS ANGELES: Tony Finau battled big-lead nerves on a sometimes bumpy march to a fifth US PGA Tour title on Sunday at the Houston Open. Finau, up by four to start the day, pushed his lead to eight strokes with four front-nine birdies and even three bogeys coming in didn't really put him in jeopardy. The American ranked 15th in the world carded a one-under par 69 - narrowly missing a 37-foot birdie try at the last - for a 16-under par total of 264 and a four-shot victory over Tyson Alexander. Alexander drained a 33-foot birdie at the 18th to seize solo second on 268, one shot in front of England's Ben Taylor who had one bogey and one birdie in his even par-70 for 11-under 269.

"It feels great," Finau beamed. "Honestly, on the first hole I didn't know if I had it in me today. It was one of those days where I just fought and fought. I made a lot of nice putts on the front nine to kind of calm me into things. I've never been in that position before, being with that big of a lead with nine holes to play." Finau notched his third title of 2022, having claimed two in the space of two weeks at the 3M Open and Rocket Mortgage Classic in June and July.

He dominated all week at Memorial Park Golf Course, matching his career best with a second-round 62 then steering a steady course through dramatically changed weather conditions to maintain a four-shot lead heading into the final round. If Finau was feeling front-runner's nerves it didn't show as he rolled in a 16-foot birdie putt at the second, and a seven-footer at the fifth. He drained a 40-foot birdie effort at the eighth and followed up with a 19-foot birdie at the ninth.

The tension began to build, however, with a bogey at the 10th, where he was in the fairway but eventually couldn't get a nine-foot par putt to drop. He was unable to get up and down from a greenside bunker at 14, and three-putted for bogey at 15 as his lead dwindled to five shots. "A lot of new nerves, I would say,"



AUSTIN: Adrian Newey, the Chief Technical Officer of Red Bull Racing and Red Bull Racing Team Principal Christian Horner talk at parc ferme during the F1 Grand Prix of USA at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP

"As a team, we discuss these things internally," said Horner. "The drivers discussed it, they were very clear. We will go to Abu Dhabi to get 'Checo' the second place and Max will support that. We won't talk about what happens internally but the drivers shook hands on it. We work as a team. We race as a team and our priority is to help Checo get second in the championship. We will do the best we can to achieve that and if Max can help in any way he will do."

### 'Moved on'

Verstappen said he and Perez had drawn a line under the dispute and moved on - just as he and Red Bull recently 'moved on' after a row with Sky Sports F1 over an alleged bias against the team led them to snub the broadcaster in Mexico. On Sunday night, a journalist from the respected Amsterdam-based De Telegraaf, the Netherlands' biggest-selling daily reported that Verstappen's refusal was payback to Perez for costing him a chance to win the Monaco Grand Prix earlier this year. The Mexican driver allegedly crashed deliberately in qualifying to cause a red flag stoppage that

ended the session when he was third ahead of the Dutchman, it reported.

Perez then went on to win the race on Sunday and, according to the report, later confirmed to team officials that he had crashed on purpose. Reporter Erik van Haren also posted on Twitter supporting comments made by pundit Tom Coronel on VialPlay, which broadcasts F1 in the Netherlands, alleging Perez had admitted he crashed deliberately in Monaco to Horner and team consultant Helmut Marko. "Max Verstappen has not forgotten that," he was quoted saying.

This latest public outburst followed last month's revelation by the sport's governing body the International Motoring Federation (FIA) that Red Bull had breached the sport's \$145 million (dollars) cost cap last year. The team were fined \$7 million and given a 10 per cent restriction on wind tunnel development in a punishment that Horner described as 'draconian'. Verstappen's day in Sao Paulo was also marred by a collision with Hamilton on lap seven which resulted in him pitting with a broken front wing and being handed a five-second penalty for causing an accident. — AFP

## Korda wins Pelican Championship to regain No. 1 ranking

MIAMI: Nelly Korda fired seven birdies in a six-under par 64 on Sunday to seize victory in the LPGA Pelican Women's Championship and return to the top of the world rankings. The American's storming last round saw her defend the title she won last year and lift her first trophy of what has been a tough 2022. Korda missed much of the first half of the season because of a blood clot in her arm that required surgery. She had taken the last five weeks off after missing back-to-back cuts at the NW Arkansas Championship and the Ascendant LPGA in Texas.

"Honestly, amazing," said Korda, who will rise from fourth in the world to supplant Thai teenager Athaya Thitikul atop the rankings. "There has been more down than ups this year, and I think that that's what makes this so much sweeter to me." It will be Korda's third stint atop the rankings, her two previous runs there totalling 29 weeks. Belleair in her home state of Florida proved just the place to turn things around.

"I had good memories on this golf course," Korda said. "I was home. I had the comfort level of my parents being in the crowd, too, which plays a part." Korda added that she was "just grateful" to be competing after her health concerns earlier in the year. Korda, who started the day two shots off the lead of Allisen Corpuz in the tournament shortened to 54 holes after a storm prevented play on Thursday, surged early with three birdies on the front nine at the first, seventh and eighth.

Her four back-nine birdies included a brace at the 16th and 17th that gave her a two-shot lead over Lexi Thompson heading into the 72nd hole. Korda's lone mis-step was a bogey at 18. But Thompson missed the green at the last and her pitch to force a playoff didn't drop. "Rolled in key putts today," Korda said. "I birdied 16 and 17, and that gave me a two-shot lead going into 18. It's tough when you have to wait so long. — AFP



MELBOURNE: England's Jos Buttler celebrates with the trophy during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 Final between Pakistan and England at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on November 13, 2022. — AFP

## World champions England going from 'strength to strength'

MELBOURNE: Jos Buttler is reticent to call England one of the best white-ball teams ever, but the captain is confident there is more to come to cement their status as all-time greats. England's five-wicket win over Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday made them the first team in history to hold both one-day and T20 World Cups at the same time, following their 50-over triumph in 2019.

Their efforts were all the more impressive given they were without five first-choice players due to injury - Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Dawid Malan, Reece Topley and Mark Wood. "It's not for us to judge, but we certainly enjoy that," Buttler said when asked if England could be now considered one of the greatest teams in limited-overs cricket. "To have won in 2019 and now win this T20 World Cup as well, it just shows the vision at the start that people had where we could get to as an England white-ball team. "There's no reason why we shouldn't go on from strength to strength."

Buttler, who was part of both the 2019 and 2022 winning teams, as was Sunday's hero Ben Stokes, was only appointed skipper in July after Eoin Morgan announced his retirement from international cricket. Morgan oversaw England's white-ball revival following their embarrassing first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup, a resurgence capped when he steered them to the 2019 title. He believes they can now be regarded as one of the great limited-overs sides.

"It is such an incredible feeling - pure joy, relief, happiness," Morgan told Sky Sports. "This team deserves it. Jos Buttler said, 'We don't want to be known as a team just for our style of play'. We were known like that in 50 overs then won the 50-over World Cup in 2019. "In T20 they've now won something tangible to be regarded as one of the great sides. They were excellent." England came into the World Cup on the back of a 4-3 T20 series win in Pakistan, which Buttler admitted was a key bonding experience for him as new captain with the team, setting them up for the World Cup.

### 'Full of confidence'

"I think relationships take time. As you get to know people better and better, you build trust. I'd say the Pakistan tour for the group, not just myself and the coach, but for everyone involved, it just seemed like a really good tour," he said. "A lot of bonds built. I thought we got back to playing some really good cricket there. We turned up in Australia full of confidence. "Sometimes it takes a little bit of time to get to know people well and get to feel comfortable, and there's so much talent in the group that as soon as we feel comfortable, we're a dangerous team."

While Stokes's unbeaten 52 stole the thunder against Pakistan, it was England's bowlers who put them in a position to win with Sam Curran taking 3-12 and Adil Rashid 2-22 to restrict Pakistan to 137-8. Curran took 13 wickets overall to be named not just man-of-the-match, but player-of-the-tournament, with Buttler praising the influence of Australian bowling coach David Saker since he came on board. — AFP



HOUSTON: Tony Finau of the United States poses with the trophy after putting in to win on the 18th hole during the final round of the Cadence Bank Houston Open at Memorial Park Golf Course on November 13, 2022 in Houston, Texas. — AFP



# Handshakes, shoes and coffee cups: Qatar etiquette essentials

## Cultural conventions football fans should know

**DOHA:** Home to gleaming skyscrapers and upmarket shopping malls, World Cup host Qatar is also a conservative Muslim country deeply attached to its customs and traditions. Here are some of the cultural conventions football fans should know when visiting the gas-rich Gulf emirate, which, like other Arab nations, prides itself on its hospitality.

### Greetings and handshakes

In public places, it is customary to stand up when greeting others, particularly the elderly, as a sign of respect. When men are greeting Qatari women, it is best to wait for them to take the lead before reaching for a handshake. Some prefer to avoid physical contact with members of the opposite sex, often for religious reasons.

By the same token, Qatari men might not always offer a handshake when meeting women. Instead of a handshake, Qataris often place their right hand over their heart as a warm gesture of greeting. Public displays of affection, including kissing, should largely be avoided. Holding hands, however, is generally accepted. While use of English is ubiquitous in a country that is 90 percent expat, a knowledge of basic Arabic greetings and expressions of gratitude is greatly appreciated by Qataris.

### Shoes off

If you are lucky enough to be invited into a Qatari home, remember to take off your shoes before entering the house. When sitting with your legs crossed in any setting—it is considered rude if the soles of the feet are facing the host. It is common for Qataris to eat by hand from large communal plates placed on the floor—a dining etiquette that dates back to Bedouin desert culture. And it is important to accept offerings by Qatari hosts, as turning them down could be taken as an offence.

### Coffee culture

Qatar shares the Gulf passion for Arabic coffee, which is prepared by roasting coffee beans then boil-



**DOHA:** A fan from Indonesia plays football along the waterfront in Doha on November 14, 2022, ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament. — AFP

ing them with cardamom and saffron. The yellow, tea-like brew is poured out of traditional, long-spouted "dallah" pots into miniature cups and often served with dates. The dallah, a cultural symbol across much of the Gulf region, is even erected as a monument in

public spaces. When served to guests, it is customary for hosts to try the coffee first, to test for taste. Guests must always drink with their right hand. The coffee keeps coming until you wave your cup to signal you have had your fill.—AFP

## Ayew brothers lead Ghana into WCup

**ACCRA:** Ghana coach Otto Addo announced his final World Cup squad on Monday with brothers Andre and Jordan Ayew leading the west African nation into action in Qatar. Andre Ayew, 32, was part of the Ghana team that came close to becoming the first African side to reach a World Cup semi-final in 2010. Asamoah Gyan missed a penalty in the last minute of extra-time after Luis Suarez's infamous handball to prevent a certain Ghana goal. Ghana then lost in the ensuing penalty shoot-out. Ayew, who also represented Ghana in the 2014 World Cup, now plays his club football in Qatar for Al-Sadd.

Goalkeepers: Abdul Nurudeen (Eupen/BEL), Ibrahim Danlad (Asante Kotoko), Lawrence Ali Zigi (St Gallen/SUI). Defenders: Denis Odoi (Bruges/BEL), Tariq Lamptey (Brighton/ENG), Alidu Seidu (Clermont/FRA), Daniel Amartey (Leicester/ENG), Joseph Aidoo (Celta Vigo/ESP), Alexander Djiku (Strasbourg/FRA), Mohammed Salisu (Southampton/ENG), Abdul Rahman Baba (Reading/ENG), Gideon Mensah (Auxerre/FRA)

Midfielders: Andre Ayew (Al-Sadd/QAT), Thomas Partey (Arsenal/ENG), Elisha Owusu (Gent/BEL), Salis Abdul Samed (Lens/FRA), Mohammed Kudus (Ajax/NED), Daniel Kofi Kyereh (Freiburg/GER). - Forwards: Daniel Afriyie Barnieh (Hearts of Oak/GHA), Kamal Sowah (Club Brugge/BEL), Issahaku Abdul Fatawu (Sporting/POR), Osman Bukari (Red Star Belgrade/SRB), Inaki Williams (Athletic Bilbao/ESP), Antoine Semenyo (Bristol City/ENG), Jordan Ayew (Crystal Palace/ENG), Kamaldeen Sulemana (Rennes/FRA).—AFP



## Iran name Azmoun in World Cup squad

**DOHA:** Iran named Sardar Azmoun, their star player who has expressed support on several occasions for the demonstrations in Iran, in their final 25-man World Cup squad on Monday. Azmoun, who plays for German club Bayer Leverkusen, tore a calf muscle in early October and faces a fight to be fit for Iran's first match of the tournament against England in Qatar on November 21. The 27-year-old forward has posted several messages of support on social media for the anti-government protests in Iran that were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

Rights groups say more than 300 people have died in the unrest. Azmoun's Instagram account, which has five million followers, was at one point blocked for several days before coming back online. Activists have called on fans attending Iran's matches at the World

Cup to chant Amini's name. Iran also face Wales on November 25 and the United States on November 29 in the group phase of the World Cup.

Goalkeepers: Amir Abedzadeh (Ponferradina/ESP), Alireza Beiranvand (Persepolis), Hossein Hosseini (Esteghlal), Payam Niazmand (Sepahan). - Defenders: Sadeq Moharrami (Dinamo Zagreb/CRO), Ehsan Hajsafi (AEK Athens/GRE), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Al Ahli/QAT), Milad Mohammadi (AEK Athens/GRE), Morteza Pournajafi (Persepolis), Hossein Kanaani (Al Ahli/QAT), Majid Hosseini (Kayserispor/TUR), Ramin Rezaian (Sepahan), Abolfazl Jalali (Esteghlal)

Midfielders: Saeid Ezatolahi (Vejle BK/DEN), Saman Ghoddos (Brentford/ENG), Ahmad Nourollahi (Shabab Al-Ahli/UAE), Roozbeh Chehmi (Esteghlal), Ali Karimi (Kayserispor/TUR). Forwards: Alireza Jahanbakhsh (Feyenoord/NED), Mehdi Taremi (Porto/POR), Karim Ansarifard (Omonia Nicosia/CYP), Vahid Amiri (Persepolis), Mehdi Torabi (Persepolis), Ali Gholizadeh (Charleroi/BEL), Sardar Azmoun (Bayer Leverkusen/GER). - Coach: Carlos Queiroz (POR).—AFP

## In WCup tempest, an oasis of calm for fans with autism

**DOHA:** The calm and quiet is a stark contrast to the roar of a World Cup football stadium. But it is quite deliberate. For the first time at the tournament, special "sensory rooms" have been created at three stadiums in Qatar where children, teens and young adults with autism or similar disabilities can retreat when the big-match atmosphere becomes too much. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has said Qatar 2022 will be "the most accessible World Cup ever". There will also be commentaries for the blind and unprecedented measures to get disabled fans into stadiums.

There has been a "massive" response to the sensory rooms, according to Alison Saraf, who is part of the project as the founder of a shop to help autistic children in Doha. Organizers say nearly all of the special stadium and room tickets have been sold. For many people with autism, noise is an agonizing experience. The rooms are intended to help those who could become "overwhelmed", said Saraf. "It would be a calm place for them to kind of relax and regulate," she said.



**DOHA:** Parrots are displayed at a stall for sale in a market area in Doha, ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament. — AFP

### 'Experience the game'

The cacophony from fans is an integral part of football, but these World Cup oases of calm can be found in the Al-Bayt stadium, the venue of the opening match, the Lusail stadium where the final will be played on December 18, and the Education City stadium that will host eight games. There will be six other rooms near fan zones around Doha. The rooms can accommodate at least 10 people and have big tinted windows where the fans can watch events in seclusion.

At Al-Bayt, there is soft lighting from fibre optical and LED lamps, colored mattresses and sensory rugs that offer a range of distracting, tactile fun for children and youths for whom a football match may have long been out of bounds. There are also noise-cancelling headphones, padded blankets to roll around on, and anti-stress toys. "Sometimes it gets a bit too overwhelming within the stadium bowl," said Hala Ousta, FIFA's diversity and accessibility manager.

Specialists want the spectators to spend as much time as possible in their stadium seats. "It's not meant to be necessarily separation and a 'them and us' situation," said Saraf. "It really is to let them experience the game. And then for them to slowly become used to it." The English club Watford opened a sensory room in 2016 and others have since followed suit. Discussions started in Qatar in 2016 and sensory rooms were opened for the FIFA Club World Cup in 2019 and the Arab Cup last year. "This is the first time it's happened in a World Cup tournament," said Mark Dyer, who is in charge of accessibility for Qatar's organizing committee.—AFP



**KUWAIT:** England's Liverpool Football Club player Mohammad Salah arrived in Kuwait yesterday (Monday) to join the Egyptian National team, that is holding a training camp in Kuwait. Egypt will play a match against Belgium on Friday at Jaber Stadium. The Egyptian team arrived in Kuwait Sunday in preparation for the match.



Sports

# Garnacho's late strike sees Man United edge Fulham

## Ings double helps Villa down Brighton

LONDON: Argentina teenager Alejandro Garnacho came off the bench to score in stoppage time as Manchester United won 2-1 away to Fulham on Sunday. It seemed the Cottagers had done enough to earn a point in the final Premier League match before the World Cup break. But Garnacho's expert one-two with Christian Eriksen, in the last of three minutes of added-on time, finished with the 18-year-old racing into the box before producing a cool finish across Bernd Leno.

"He has a lot of talent and his work-rate together with the talent makes a big difference with us from the bench," United captain Bruno Fernandes told the BBC when asked about Garnacho. "We are really happy for him and know he can give us goals, assists and prove the joy of football." Eriksen had put the visitors in front in the 14th minute at Craven Cottage with his first goal for United as he finished off a counter-attack.

Former United striker Daniel James equalized for Fulham just after the hour, having only come on as a

substitute for Harry Wilson minutes earlier. "About time!" said Eriksen of his goal. "I owed a few so I'm happy to be on the scoresheet in the last game before the World Cup." United remained fifth but this win meant they moved to within three points of fourth-placed Tottenham as Fulham stayed ninth.

Erik ten Hag's side arrived in London without several senior players, including Cristiano Ronaldo, Antony, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane. Fulham were missing injured star striker Aleksandar Mitrovic but still made a bright start at Craven Cottage, with United goalkeeper David De Gea's early save denying Carlos Vinicius. But it was United who broke the deadlock when Anthony Martial played in Fernandes, whose ball across the box left the unmarked Eriksen with a simple tap-in.

### 'Keep fighting'

Fulham enjoyed plenty of possession and pressure but their failure to turn any of it into a goal was almost punished when Martial headed just over the



LONDON: Manchester United's Argentinean midfielder Alejandro Garnacho (2nd left) scores his team's second goal past Fulham's German goalkeeper Bernd Leno during the English Premier League football match on November 13, 2022. —AFP

bar from Luke Shaw's cross. Eriksen also had a chance to make it 2-0 before half-time but fired wide. Early in the second half, Fulham goalkeeper Leno denied Anthony Elanga in a one-on-one, before Antonee Robinson and Tim Ream combined to prevent Marcus Rashford scoring from the follow-up. Having passed up those opportunities, United were pegged back in the 61st minute. Willian's quick run down the left was well supported by the overlapping Tom Cairney, with his pass finding James as the substitute slotted home from the centre of the box. An emboldened Fulham pushed for the winner, with Joao Palhinha's improvised overhead kick forcing De Gea into a punched save.

Meanwhile, Danny Ings scored twice as Aston Villa ended their wait for an away win in the Premier League this season with a 2-1 victory at

Brighton on Sunday. Alexis Mac Allister fired Brighton ahead inside the first minute but Villa hit back, Ings equalizing with a first-half penalty before his deflected strike early in the second period did for the Seagulls, who were denied a late penalty by VAR. Victory meant Villa, who have now won both their league matches since Unai Emery replaced the sacked Steven Gerrard as manager, moved up to 12th in the table ahead of the World Cup break.

"As a team we were excellent today," Ings told Sky Sports. "Our grit and determination got us over the line. Turning to Emery's influence, he added: "He's only been with us a short time but we've come a long way already. We'll have a break now and try to implement as much as he wants to install with us." —AFP

## English Premier League Table

English Premier League table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	14	12	1	1	33	11	37
Man City	14	10	2	2	40	14	32
Newcastle	15	8	6	1	29	11	30
Tottenham	15	9	2	4	31	21	29
Man Utd	14	8	2	4	20	20	26
Liverpool	14	6	4	4	28	17	22
Brighton	14	6	3	5	23	19	21
Chelsea	14	6	3	5	17	17	21
Fulham	15	5	4	6	24	26	19
Brentford	15	4	7	4	23	25	19
Crystal Palace	14	5	4	5	15	18	19
Aston Villa	15	5	3	7	16	22	18
Leicester	15	5	2	8	25	25	17
Bournemouth	15	4	4	7	18	32	16
Leeds	14	4	3	7	22	26	15
West Ham	15	4	2	9	12	17	14
Everton	15	3	5	7	11	17	14
Nottm Forest	15	3	4	8	11	30	13
Southampton	15	3	3	9	13	27	12
Wolves	15	2	4	9	8	24	10

## Milan stay on Napoli's tail as Juve grab 3rd

MILAN: AC Milan's Serie A title defense is still on track after Sunday's last-gasp 2-1 win over Fiorentina ensured they ended 2022 eight points behind leaders Napoli, while Moise Kean's brace against Lazio shot revived Juventus into third place. Stefano Pioli's Milan looked to be falling further behind unbeaten Napoli heading into the World Cup break after Antonin Barak levelled Rafael Leao's early opener midway through the first half. But with the clock ticking down and chances going begging, Fiorentina defender Milenkovic bundled the ball into his own goal just after goalkeeper Pietro Terracciano clashed with Ante Rebic while trying to punch out a cross.

The away side—who also had at least one solid penalty shout for a Fikayo Tomori challenge on Jonathan Ikone—were livid at the goal while a packed San Siro roared in delight at a win which keeps Milan just about in sight of rampant Napoli. "It was a hard match for us, the important thing was to win before the break," said Fikayo Tomori to DAZN.

Milan are second, two points ahead of Lazio who lost 3-0 in Turin, after a fraught contest in which Fiorentina more than played their part. Cristiano Biraghi struck the post and Ikone had a good effort cleared off the line just before Milan snatched the points and left Fiorentina in 10th. "You have to look at yourself, and with what we created we needed to score the second and maybe even third goal," said

Barak to DAZN. "We didn't do that and if you miss one, two, three, then four chances a bit of bad luck can come along."

### Kean downs Lazio

Italy forward Kean gave Juventus their sixth straight league win with strikes in each half at the Allianz Stadium which took him to five goals in as many matches in all competitions. With Dusan Vlahovic unavailable for Juve as he tries to recover from a groin injury to play for Serbia at the World Cup, Kean has become a reliable performer for coach Massimiliano Allegri.

He showed his worth on Sunday night in a win which allowed Juventus to leapfrog Lazio into third, although they are 10 points back from Napoli. "We're a long way behind, but six matches ago nobody believed we could be third and that is a step forward," Allegri told DAZN. "Now we need to recharge our batteries and be ready to start all over again in the new year."

Kean opened the scoring two minutes before the break, bursting onto Adrien Rabiot's through ball and lobbing Ivan Provedel, and sealed the win eight minutes after the restart by tapping into an empty net after Provedel pushed out Filip Kostic's low drive. Arkadiusz Milik made it a perfect night for Juve with a minute left when he guided home Federico Chiesa's pull-back. Six clean sheets have accompanied Juve's winning run, and they have the league's best defence with just seven goals conceded in 15 matches. —AFP

Paulo Dybala made an almost immediate impact in his first Roma appearance in over a month, helping his underwhelming team snatch a late 1-1 draw with Torino after coming off the bench with 20 minutes remaining. —AFP

## Mbappe on target for five-goal PSG

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe scored and came through unscathed along with fellow Paris Saint-Germain stars Lionel Messi and Neymar in their final match before the World Cup, a 5-0 Ligue 1 rout of Auxerre on Sunday. The news was less good for Morocco's World Cup hopes as Marseille striker Amine Harit was carried off after injuring a knee in his side's 3-2 win over Monaco in the evening in the last Ligue 1 game before the break.

PSG coach Christophe Galtier opted not to rest the attacking trio against the Burgundy side as the French champions sought to extend their lead at the top of the table before the break for the tournament in Qatar. "None of my players had sent me a signal of fear," said Galtier. "My obsession was that my team could express themselves as freely as possible without the psychosis of an injury."

"The players responded present, were serious, focused. "It would have been a great sadness for me if one of my players were injured before the World Cup and I quickly made the changes to spare each of them." Mbappe scored the opener after 11 minutes in Paris for his 12th league goal this season after good work by Messi and two other World Cup bound players Moroccan Achraf Hakimi and Portuguese Nuno Mendes.

Spain's Carlos Soler nodded in the second after 51 minutes and then set up Hakimi for the third six minutes later. Two players who are not going to Qatar, Renato Sanches and Hugo Ekritke came off

the bench and added goals in the final ten minutes. The Parisians moved five points ahead of Lens, who won 2-1 at home against Clermont on Saturday, with Rennes a further five points adrift in third.

Galtier added: "We are first and undefeated, we worked on different systems and it took us time to find the better solution so that my fantastic trio can express themselves and find the best balance. "There are still many lines of work. The only small regret I have is not having beaten Benfica in the Champions League." PSG drew twice with the Benfica in their Champions League group and qualified second behind the Portuguese club.

For their final match before the World Cup, the MNM trio—Messi, Neymar, Mbappe—did not really sparkle in a game played without great intensity. That did not prevent the champions giving a demonstration of their goal-scoring prowess before a break until their next Ligue 1 match on December 28 against Strasbourg. Mbappe's early goal, following a beautiful cross from Messi relayed by Mendes, seem to anaesthetize the Parisian forwards.

Messi hit the post after 66 minutes, Neymar collapsed at the slightest contact and played in slow motion, far from flamboyance of his first part of the season. "I don't know if my players were afraid of injuring the Parisians before the World Cup," said Auxerre coach Christophe Pelissier.

"Of the five goals we gave them three were our errors." Galtier gave some playing time to France defender Presnel Kimpembe, who came on for the final quarter of an hour having spent a month out with an Achilles tendon injury. In Monaco, Harit was carried off on a stretcher after injuring a knee in the 58th minute. —AFP

# Classifieds

## Hospitals & Clinics

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

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
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 CivilID card is 1889988



Mr. Sunil Kumar, son of Mr. Neer Bhadur, resident of H. No. 21, Guru Nanak Pura Road, Gali No. 2, Dashmesh Nagar, Kot Khalsa, Amritsar - 143001, Punjab and Ms. Shalini Bahadur, daughter of Mr. Karan Bahadur, resident of H. No. 783, Gali Sunearya Wali, Chota Hari Pura, Distt Amritsar - 143003, Punjab both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters/ telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

First Secretary (Community Affairs) and Marriage Officer, Embassy of India, Kuwait. Email: cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

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## Vikings fight back to shock Bills; Packers edge Cowboys

### Brady, Buccaneers taste victory in Munich

**MIAMI:** The Minnesota Vikings defeated the Buffalo Bills 33-30 in an epic overtime clash on Sunday between two of the hottest teams in the NFL. After a game that featured several dizzying swings of direction in an extraordinary end to the fourth quarter, the Vikings had to settle for a field goal to open overtime. But Bills quarterback Josh Allen then threw an interception to hand the game to the visitors, who moved to 8-1 with a statement victory.

The result saw the Bills fall to 6-3 and lose top spot in the AFC East to the Miami Dolphins (7-3) who beat the Cleveland Browns 39-17. The Vikings have made a habit of comeback wins this season and they were inches away from doing so in the fourth quarter. Minnesota had trailed 27-10 in the third but rallied thanks to an 81 yard touchdown run from Dalvin Cook.

CJ Ham's three yard rush at the start of the fourth shifted the momentum further to the Vikings but Greg Joseph's point after kick struck the post leaving the Vikings needing a touchdown to win. Cousins then led Minnesota down the field, helped by two superb catches from receiver Justin Jefferson, including a remarkable leap for a 32 yard catch to

keep the drive alive on fourth down. The Vikings thought they had the touchdown when Cousins again found Jefferson but the officials reversed their decision after a review ruling the receiver had not broken the plane of the goal line.

On fourth and goal, Cousins then looked to Cook who dropped the pass but a flag on the play allowed the Vikings quarterback a second chance. This time Cousins went for a

quarterback sneak but fell just short and it seemed that somehow the Bills had survived. But there was another twist in the tale as Allen fumbled a poor snap and Eric Kendricks recovered the ball for a touchdown that put the Vikings three up with 41 seconds left on the clock. Allen led a five play, 69 yard drive that ended with a Tyler Bass field goal that forced the game into overtime.

#### Packers end losing streak

Joseph's overtime field goal left the Bills with the chance to win the game with a touchdown, but on second and 10 at the Minnesota 20 yard line, Allen forced a pass towards Gabe Davis and Patrick Peterson grabbed the game winning interception. "It was a pretty unbelievable football game to be a part of," said Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell. "It was a big day for us, kind of confirming who we think we are as a football team," he added. Overtime was also needed in Green Bay, where the Packers ended a five match losing streak, coming back from 14 points down for a 31-28 victory.

Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy returned to Green Bay for the first time, after 12 years as coach of the Packers which included a Super Bowl win. McCarthy's current side were 28-14 up early in the fourth before Aaron Rodgers twice found rookie receiver Christian Watson to force the game into overtime. The Cowboys had the first possession and McCarthy opted to go for it on fourth and three but Dak Prescott's pass was incomplete leaving the Packers needing just a field goal.

That came at the end of a 55 yard, six play drive when Mason Crosby converted from 28 yards to claim a much-needed win for the Packers who improved to 4-6 to keep their season alive. "It's been a while, it has been a tough six weeks," said Rodgers, who now has an 8-2 record against the Cowboys, including two wins in the playoffs. "A lot of people wrote us off for sure and with good merit but there is a lot of pride still...we knew we needed to win this game. The biggest thing to remember is that we're not dead," he added.

The day opened with Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers tasting victory in Munich as the first regular season game in Germany ended with their 21-16 win over the Seattle Seahawks. The New York Giants improved to 7-2 with a 24-16 win over the Houston Texans while the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 27-17 with quarterback Patrick Mahomes throwing for 331 yards and four touchdowns. The Detroit Lions rallied for a second straight win, after losing five in a row, as they scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter to beat the Chicago Bears 31-20 at Soldier Field. — AFP



NEW YORK: Eric Kendricks #54 of the Minnesota Vikings tackles James Cook #28 of the Buffalo Bills during the fourth quarter at Highmark Stadium on November 13, 2022. — AFP

### Women Futsal: Tadhamon Club stun Kuwait Club

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Tadhamon Sport Club Women Futsal team defeated Kuwait Club team 6-3 at the start of the Women Futsal League during their match at Sherikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah hall in Fatat Club. In the second match, Champions Fatat Club defeated Fatayat Al-Oyoum 5-3. The first match was competitive and exciting and newcomers Tadhamon had a strong start as they defeated the runner-up of last season Kuwait Club. Tadhamon had many substitutes making it easy to keep making changes during the entire match.

Isabel D'Souza scored two goals for Tadhamon while Eman Al-Yahya, Anastasia shinko, Shorooq Basha, and Fajer Ahmad scored the other four goals. The second match saw Fatat Club having control over the match as their goals were scored by Haifa Al-Qaderi, Naseem Obeid, Dina Ali, Mariam Abdallah and Mariam Broun.



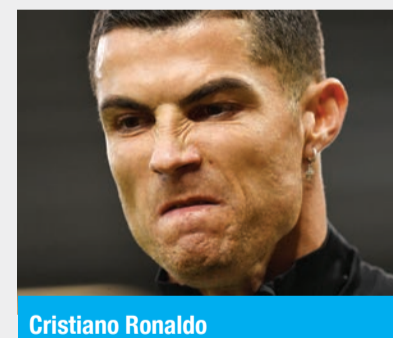
### Ronaldo claims he is being forced out of Man United

**MANCHESTER:** Cristiano Ronaldo said he felt "betrayed" by Manchester United as he claimed manager Erik ten Hag and other senior executives are trying to force him out of the club in an explosive interview on Sunday. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has been a peripheral figure on the field for United since Ten Hag took charge in May.

Ronaldo was disciplined after refusing to come on as a substitute in a 2-0 win over Tottenham last month, but had returned to the side in recent weeks and even captained the Red Devils in a 3-1 loss at Aston Villa last weekend. However, the 37-year-old was absent from the squad in Sunday's 2-1 victory over Fulham in United's last match before a six-week break for the World Cup.

"I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me," Ronaldo said of Ten Hag in an interview with the Piers Morgan Uncensored TV show. "Not only the coach, but another two or three guys around the club. I felt betrayed." When quizzed again if senior club executives were trying to oust him, Ronaldo replied: "Yes, I felt betrayed and I felt like some people don't want me here, not only this year but last year too." Ronaldo returned to Old Trafford in August 2021 from Juventus.

His first spell at United had been a glorious one under the tutelage of Alex Ferguson, winning three Premier League titles, the



Cristiano Ronaldo

Champions League and the first of his Ballon d'Or crowns as the best player in the world. Despite his 24 goals in all competitions last season, United endured a terrible campaign as they finished sixth in the Premier League and failed to qualify for the Champions League. Ronaldo then reportedly tried to engineer an exit before the start of this season, but no agreement could be found with another club.

"Since Sir Alex left, I saw no evolution in the club. Nothing had changed," said Ronaldo on what he found on his return to United. "I want the best for the club. This is why I come to Manchester United. But you have some things inside that don't help (us) reach the top level as (Manchester) City, Liverpool and even now Arsenal...a club with this dimension should be top of the tree in my opinion and they are not unfortunately." United are fifth in the Premier League, 11 points behind leaders Arsenal. — AFP