

Amir accepts Cabinet resignation, issues Assembly meeting decree

New MPs call for strong government to begin a new era



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Cabinet's resignation tendered by HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah on Oct 2, 2022. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: An Amiri order was issued on Sunday accepting the resignation of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah and his Cabinet, which submitted its resignation to HH the Amir as a formality following parliamentary elections. Deputizing for HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is expected to start constitutional consultations with former premiers and parliament speakers to name a prime minister to form the next Cabinet.

It is highly expected that Sheikh Ahmad, hailed by the opposition as a reformist, will be asked to form the new Cabinet, which must be ready before the Assembly's inaugural session on Oct 11. Another Amiri decree was issued officially setting Oct 11 as the date for the new Assembly's inaugural session, which will elect a new speaker and deputy speaker.

Veteran opposition leader and former three-time speaker Ahmad Al-

Saadoun, who won with a record number of votes, is tipped to be unanimously elected as the next speaker. A majority of new MPs have publicly said they will vote for Saadoun as speaker. New MPs however still differ on the deputy speaker, although the opposition holds an absolute majority. The problem is that those who announced they will contest the post are from the opposition itself. Several MPs said they will make their final decision on this matter after opposition MPs hold an informal meeting to discuss the issue. MPs Hasan Jowhar and Mubarak Al-Hajraf, both prominent opposition lawmakers, have publicly said they will contest the post.

A number of MPs meanwhile urged the prime minister to select strong statesmen in the next Cabinet. Leading opposition figure Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said the premier should change the ministers of finance and foreign affairs. MP Abdullah Fahhad said Kuwait should begin a new era. Meanwhile, MP Obaid Al-Wasmi said he is prepared to cooperate and is ready to vote on any law proposed by

the opposition if it serves the Kuwaiti people.

According to the constitution, the new Cabinet must be formed before the Assembly's opening session, and then be sworn in by HH the Amir. Cabinet members will take another oath in the Assembly to become members of parliament, including those who are unelected. Kuwaiti law requires the Cabinet to step down immediately after announcing the results of the parliamentary elections, and a new Cabinet should be formed before the Assembly's first session, which must take place within two weeks of announcing the results.

Kuwaitis on Thursday elected a new National Assembly, dominated by opposition members, with the hope to restore political stability elusive for the past two decades due to political disputes between the government and MPs. Under Kuwait's unique democratic system, a senior member of the ruling family heads the government. Also, unelected members of the Cabinet vote in parliament like elected MPs, except on a few issues.

Venezuela, US in prisoner swap; Iran frees Americans

WASHINGTON: Caracas on Saturday freed seven detained Americans - including five oil executives - in exchange for the release of two nephews of Venezuela's first lady who were jailed in the United States for drug trafficking. President Joe Biden issued the announcement that the Americans were on their way home - and a senior official in his administration confirmed shortly afterward that the US leader had made the "painful decision" to greenlight the prisoner swap to secure their freedom.

"Today, after years of being wrongfully detained in Venezuela, we are bringing home Jorge Toledo, Tomeu Vadell, Alirio Zambrano, Jose Luis Zambrano, Jose Pereira, Matthew Heath, and Osman Khan," Biden said in a statement. The negotiated release of "two young Venezuelans" held in the United States was confirmed in a near-simultaneous statement by Caracas - whose relations with Washington have been severely strained for years.

While Venezuelan authorities did not name the pair, they were identified by the senior US official as Francisco Flores de Freitas and his cousin Efrain Antonio Campos Flores - both nephews of President Nicolas Maduro's wife, Cilia Flores. "As a result of various conversations held since March 5 with representatives of the government of the United States, the release of two young Venezuelans unjustly imprisoned in that country has been achieved," said the communique from Caracas.

Arrested in 2015 in a US sting operation in Haiti, the cousins were sentenced two years later to 18 years in prison for plotting to smuggle

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125 killed in stadium crush in Indonesia

MALANG, Indonesia: At least 125 people died at an Indonesian football stadium when thousands of angry home fans invaded the pitch and police responded with tear gas that triggered a stampede, authorities said Sunday. The tragedy on Saturday night in the city of Malang, which also left 323 injured according to police, was one of the world's deadliest sporting stadium disasters.

Arema FC supporters at the Kanjuruhan stadium stormed the pitch

after their team lost 3-2 to the visiting team and bitter rivals, Persebaya Surabaya. Police, who described the unrest as "riots", said they tried to force fans to return to the stands and fired tear gas after two officers were killed. Many of the victims were trampled or choked to death, according to police.

At least 125 people died, East Java deputy governor Emil Dardak told broadcaster Metro TV on Sunday evening, significantly lowering officials' earlier death toll of 174 because of double counting. "Some names were recorded twice because they had been referred to another hospital and were written down again," he said, citing data collected by local police from 10 hospitals.

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MALANG, Indonesia: A group of people carry a man after a stampede at a football match at Kanjuruhan stadium on Oct 1, 2022. — AFP (See Page 14)

26 killed in India tractor trailer crash

LUCKNOW: A tractor pulling a trolley packed with religious pilgrims in India overturned and plunged into a pond, killing 26 and seriously injuring 16, officials said Sunday. The trailer was carrying around 50 people, mostly women and children, when the incident happened in Kanpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, senior local official Sudheer Kumar said. "Twenty-six people died in the incident," Kumar said.

Traffic accidents are frequent in India with more than 150,000 people killed last year, or over 400 per day, according to official statistics which

are likely an underestimate. People being transported on tractor trailers is also common, particularly in rural areas, on often poorly maintained roads where there is scant regard for safety and traffic regulations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences after the latest incident which happened as the tractor was on its way back from a Hindu temple. "Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap took place in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones and prayers with the injured," Modi tweeted.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said this kind of vehicle - a tractor pulling a large cart - should be used only to transport farm goods and freight, not people, according to The Hindu newspaper. "The road accident in Kanpur district is very heart-wrenching," he said. — AFP



KANPUR, India: Villagers weep next to the bodies of their relatives who died in a road accident on Oct 2, 2022. — AFP



Local



CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi meets Mohammed Al-Saqer, Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other representatives of the Kuwaiti economic delegation.



Sisi eyes cooperation with Kuwait's business community and companies

Kuwaiti delegation hails qualitative leap witnessed by Egypt

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on Sunday affirmed his country's aspiration to develop economic and trade cooperation relations with Kuwait, especially the Kuwaiti business community and Kuwaiti companies, and boost their investments in Egypt against the backdrop of diverse investment opportunities in all development sectors. The official spokesman of the Egyptian presidency, Ambassador Bassam Radi, said in a statement that this came during Sisi's meeting with a Kuwaiti economic delegation of business figures headed by the Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Al-Saqer.

Radi said Sisi asked to convey his greetings to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, welcoming the meeting, which

embodies the spirit of brotherly cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait. Sisi pointed to Egypt's modern infrastructure throughout its geographical area, both in terms of energy supply, transport network, roads and modern ports, as well as the advanced legislative framework for investment. He praised the strong will and supportive political decision from the highest level, "all factors that represent a solid and supportive base for foreign investment in Egypt".

The statement added that Kuwaiti businessmen conveyed to Sisi the greetings of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, stressing that the meeting presents a great opportunity to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and joint cooperation. Radi pointed out that Kuwaiti businessmen affirmed their aspiration to discuss the possibilities of maximizing cooperation between the two brotherly countries, with the avail-

ability of many promising fields and investment opportunities in Egypt, especially in the sectors of renewable energy, tourism, construction, real estate development, agriculture, industry and healthcare.

The Kuwaiti delegation also praised the remarkable qualitative leap witnessed by Egypt during the past years in all development sectors in the country in an unprecedented manner and in a record period of time, as well as for the close and regular personal follow-up of Sisi to the measures taken to facilitate the flow of investments to Egypt and all related measures. The meeting discussed the prospects of intensifying economic cooperation between the two countries to achieve common interests, while reviewing the plans of Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in Egypt or expand their existing projects in many fields. —KUNA

Kuwait Fund spearheads development projects

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Economic Development has been focused on boosting ties between Kuwait and other countries to achieve sustainable development and to support international and regional humanitarian causes. During 2021-2022, the fund financed several projects that helped to accomplish developmental goals in the fields of economics, social sciences and environment studies.

One of the most prominent projects signed by Kuwait Fund and the UN's Human Settlements Program (Habitat) in October 2021, comprised of the adaptive and resilient strategies adopted to counter sand and dust storms at the border between Iraq and Kuwait. The GCC electrical interconnection project was yet another joint effort that was also spearheaded by Kuwait Fund.

Both the projects signified regional and international cooperation to achieve a safe and clean environment for the affected people. The dust storm project aimed at reducing dust storms in the country by 35 to 40 percent and was initiated to identify the main causes of sand and dust storms, done through an expansive study of the climatic, geological and chemical aspects of the problem.

Meanwhile, the electrical interconnection project led by Kuwait Fund and the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), to develop the electrical interconnection system with the southern Iraqi network and valued at \$115 million, is expected to increase the capacity and efficiency of the electrical networks of GCCIA member states. The project contributes to raising electrical capacity in Kuwait to about 2,500 megawatts, which will reflect positively on the reliability of the electrical network and raise its operational efficiency. It is also expected to provide southern Iraq's network with a reliable electrical capacity of no less than 500 megawatts. Kuwait will benefit from this project by achieving its development goals such as providing reasonable priced energy to citizens and the growth of economic, industrial and infrastructure sectors, which would support the growth of sustainable local communities.

Honoring Kuwait's pledge to support Palestine, the Kuwait Fund recently concluded an agreement worth KD 100,000 (\$340,000) to finance a project that will provide and facilitate access to clean water for residents of the Gaza Strip (Khan Yunis and Deir Al-Balah). Kuwait Fund also signed, a memorandum of understanding last June, with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), for a period of five years, in areas of mutual interest and in countries where the parties have development programs. Furthermore, Kuwait Fund signed a tripartite agreement with Kuwait Red Crescent Society and Red Cross societies to establish joint cooperation between different countries, to provide sustainable living opportunities and maintain peace. In honor of Kuwait's pledge to support the humanitarian situation in Yemen, Kuwait Fund finalized an agreement with UNICEF, amounting to KD 619,000 to finance a project aimed at supporting mothers and newborns in conflict-affected areas in Yemen. The Fund's contribution, it said, stemmed from its humanitarian duty, based on Kuwait's belief in aiding developing countries to meet the benefits of sustainable development and create better living opportunities. —KUNA

Large crowds at Suad Al-Sabah booth at Riyadh book fair

KUWAIT: Suad Al-Sabah Publishing and Distribution House said that it was inspired by the interest and leadership of the Saudi government, to consistently develop the Riyadh International Book Exhibition, as was witnessed in this year's session as well. Large crowds of people visited the Suad Al-Sabah Publishing booth. Director Ali Al-Masoudhi said that the exhibition showcased work from a huge number of publishing houses, on various subjects such as politics, history and literature, adding that Suad Al-Sabah Publishing House "is always keen to participate in the exhibition annually, which helps to build minds and create a well-informed generation".



Ali Al-Masoudhi

Indian Embassy marks Gandhi's birth anniversary

KUWAIT: Indian Embassy, Kuwait observed the 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at a solemn function held at the embassy premises on Sunday. In his address, Ambassador Sibi George said he was paying homage to the 'Father of the Nation' on behalf of all fellow citizens. "Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the values of his inspiring life — peace, equality and communal harmony. Observing it this year assumes a special significance as the nation has been celebrating the 'Amrit Mahotsav', marking 75 years of India's independence. This is the time, for all of us, to work towards the realization of Gandhiji's dreams," George said.

The ambassador said despite the many challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the embassy was holding several events to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kuwait and also the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

"Together we organized many events, together we celebrated everything that is Indian in Kuwait. In all these celebrations there was one common thread that we were all proud of. That was Mahatma Gandhi. No day in our lives, no event in our community is complete without recalling the life and messages of our Mahatma Gandhi," he said. He reminded the audience that Gandhiji's talisman appears to be very simple in the complex world of today. Mahatma Gandhi is an embodiment of everything that India stood for millennia, including its spirit of 'world is one family'.

Earlier, the Ambassador paid floral tributes at Gandhiji's statue on Sunday. In a fitting tribute, the entire audience together read Gandhiji's talisman and held high his portraits.



2m Lyrica pills, 7,474 liquor bottles seized

KUWAIT: Kuwait customs has seized 2 million capsules of Lyrica and 7,474 bottles of liquor from passengers coming from Asian countries. The seized items were stored in a 20-foot-long storage container. A report was prepared and handed over to the respective department for further action to be taken. The Customs department also warned that anyone who tries to smuggle in illegal drugs and banned substances into the country will be legally prosecuted.

Freedom and rights



By Fajer Ahmed

local@kuwaittimes.net

With elections closing up this week, a popular topic of discussion among the people of Kuwait has been of the freedom and rights of citizens. It is ironic that some parliament members who restrict rights gained support from voters, while others who support the freedom of the people also got popular support, showing the diversity in opinions and dilemma of the Kuwaiti people.

One thing to keep in mind though is that, when parliament members run for elections, they all solemnly swear to protect the constitution and safeguard the rights of all the people under the constitution (not just the people that voted for them).

Here are some rights and freedom under the Kuwaiti constitution that each parliamentarian, regardless of his personal opinions must respect at all times.

Article 30

Personal liberty is guaranteed.

Article 35

Freedom of belief is unrestricted. The State shall protect freedom in the observance of religious rites established by custom, provided such observance does not conflict with morals or disturb public order.

Article 36

Freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed but subject to the conditions and stipulations specified by Law. Every person shall have the right to express his opinion by speaking or writing or otherwise.



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Local

Kuwait Times concludes summer training program



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Noor Bader Al-Hai



Maytham Ashkanani



Nuskiya Naser



Sabreen Nasser



Ahmed Abdelmenem



Sara Mahmoud



Sawsan Saleh

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times, the oldest English-language newspaper in the Gulf region since 1961, concluded its Summer Program for 2022, which hosted 10 students, between the age of 18 and 25 years. The course started on Aug 14, 2022 and ended on Sept 8, 2022. During the four-week course, interns were exposed to different work processes in journalism and they were found diligent, hardwork-

ing, and result-oriented. The summer program aimed to familiarize students with the working nature of the journalism industry, as well as the mechanism of news making, through on-site coverage, interviews and news investigations.

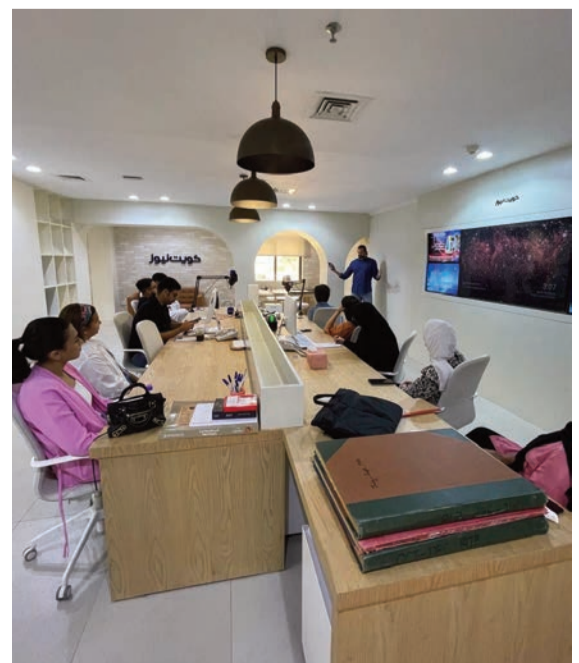
Kuwait Times team developed and enhanced the student's understanding in the field of reporting, photography and social media. The team invested in their responsibility to equip trainees with knowledge in journalism, especially practical experience.

The goal of the course was to train future journalists on how to use their skills and talents to improve their stories and helped guide the students with weekly lectures, PowerPoint presentations as well as other journalistic materials.

The program focused on many other aspects as well including the importance of social media in journalism and the types of tools and devices that support it. In addition, the course also helped students to focus on the different applications needed

to make high quality press stories in terms of production, editing skills, photography as well as digital publishing. The course also included practical and field training tips in journalistic production.

Kuwait Times always seeks to develop local community skills and knowledge by organizing training courses. After the successful completion of the course, Kuwait Times provided students with a certificate, in addition to an article published in the newspaper.



KUWAIT: The editorial team from Kuwait Times conducts training sessions for the students of the Summer Program. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local

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News in brief

FTSE Russel: Kuwait
passes all regulations

KUWAIT: Kuwait has passed all necessary regulations for the country to retain a competitive market position among emerging markets, with regards to the issue of tenders for unfinished deals. Kuwait has passed all of the technical requirements as stipulated by the Boursa, Capital Market Authority and the Maqasa. Sources revealed to Kuwait Times that, "procedures suggested by Kuwait Boursa include reducing trade from five percent to zero percent and fixing trade deals with global investors. Improvements made by the market within a flexible policy structure has also helped to open up new horizons for investors."

MoE dispatches buses
for cleaning work

KUWAIT: Rajaa Bo-Arki, the Assistant Undersecretary for Management Affairs at the Education Ministry has said that all the necessary requirements for the successful start of the 2022-23 academic year have been completed. Meanwhile, around 90 school buses have been allotted for private schools to transport cleaning companies' staff as well as security personnel. "Buses with staff from cleaning companies will also be sent to religious institutions as well as to the ministry, in addition to, those that will be sent to private schools in December as well as to the Ahmadi area in January," said Bo-Arki. She said that the ministry will further assign service workers to schools in Hawally and Al-Asima to provide a clean environment in schools.

PAMA initiates social
programs for sponsors

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Minor Affairs (PAMA) has said that it will develop social programs for sponsors in the education sector, to spread awareness about sponsoring the financial needs of students in need. Previously, KD 235,000 have been distributed as student aid in the sector. "Keeping in mind the Authority's responsibility towards minors, the authority has, for the second consecutive year, provided its support for minors who are in need of financial aid to buy their school kits," said Hamad Al-Barjas, Acting Head of PAMA. He added that the initiative is meant to reduce the financial burden of families and support a large number of students at the start of the new year. "The financing of the initiative was done by generous donors, under the supervision of the Authority and the money will be transferred to the bank accounts of those who deserve the aid."

Manpower Authority announces
college social allowances

KUWAIT: The Manpower Authority has announced the distribution of social allowances for college students. The conditions for the allowances were outlined as - the students must be Kuwaitis or children of Kuwaiti mothers who have not reached 21 years, but have permission from the interior ministry to be treated like Kuwaitis - with the exemption of disabled children who have a permanent permission to be treated like Kuwaitis for life and are exempted from any age limit restrictions; the students will be eligible for allowance until the day they graduate; the students should not be working inside or outside Kuwait, nor do they have permission to continue professional work or any other commercial activities; the students should not be receiving any other government allowances. The documents required for applying for the college allowance are as follows:

- Original Civil ID card and a copy of the Civil ID card
 - Bank certificate that includes the account number and IBAN number
 - Degree certificate and its copy
 - Employment status certificate for those who have been employed previously
 - A copy from the interior ministry department for children of Kuwaiti mothers to be treated as Kuwaitis
 - Nationality certificate for those who will be nationalized after graduation
 - Defense ministry certificate
- Registration is to be done through www.manpower.gov.kw

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Heavy traffic jams choked the streets of Kuwait on Oct 2, 2022, as all schools reopened in full capacity for the first time since the pandemic. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Vintage trade still shines in the modern era



By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Trade in antiques and vintage goods never gets old due to several reasons, Mohammad Al-Humaidhi, owner of Beit Al-Cedra vintage shop, told Kuwait Times.

Kuwait Times: How did you get the idea to open an antique shop?

Mohammad Al-Humaidhi: I always had a hobby collecting antiques, and it grew with me. Over time, it transitioned to a shop selling antiques. This place is an old Kuwaiti house that was built in 1920. Twenty years ago, I bought it due to the perfect harmony between an old Kuwaiti house and antiques.

KT: Does the antique trade today has much demand?

Humaidhi: There is great demand for antiques. Lots of people love collecting antiques to display in their homes. Some of them don't even have space in their houses due to the number of antiques they own, and because these items are precious to them, they refuse to sell them. In Kuwait and GCC countries, you can find many people who buy antiques.

KT: What do people usually ask for?

Humaidhi: It depends on whether the piece is for collecting or they want to use it daily. In general, customers mostly ask for antiques or old models of the things they use every day. So I try to provide them with household utensils and simple decorative items that wouldn't look odd in their homes due to their modern designs. The youth mostly ask for pieces like antique carpets or closets.

KT: With 20 years of experience in the antiques trade, when is the peak time for sales?

Humaidhi: The antiques field has specific types



Mohammad Al-Humaidhi

of customers, who like to collect these kinds of items. These customers buy constantly from me and other antique shops. So there are no specific times when demand increases or becomes less. Many customers visit my shop two to three times a week due to their interest in antiques and their desire to be updated with the new items we bring.

KT: Are the antiques locally manufactured or imported from abroad?

Humaidhi: When I launched my first store 20 years ago, all the items that were displayed at that time were handmade, because I started this business as a hobby, in addition to my care to have unique items that differ from those in other stores, such as vases and wood paintings. With the expansion of my antiques trade, I had to import some items, but I focus on closets, wooden utensils and coffee and tea pots that are popular in Kuwait and GCC countries in particular.

KT: Do you find there is a demand from other GCC states for heritage Kuwaiti antiques?

Humaidhi: Definitely, there is great demand from customers in other GCC countries for coffeepots, household utensils and small Kuwaiti coffee cups, in addition to chairs with Islamic calligraphy and décor. Most of the items they order are handmade, so I exert efforts to provide more unique handmade items that are not available in other stores.

KT: Do you find the antique market is improving in Kuwait?

Humaidhi: In Kuwait, you can find a number of antique shops that hold auctions for antique items. These auctions increased during the pandemic due to the quarantine. People stayed in their homes for a long time, so they started to redesign their houses and added antiques and fountains.



KT: Do antique shops have to use new digital platforms to market their items?

Humaidhi: From my side, I don't prefer to use social media platforms to market my products, and my presence on social media is weak. But it is important to remind people of the items through new marketing platforms, particularly the youth. During the pandemic, because of social media, there was huge demand for antiques. It wouldn't have been possible at that time without using social media to remind people of our items.

KT: How do you price your antique items?

Humaidhi: Generally, in Kuwait, the price of antiques is affordable for most, although some products are expensive due to their basic costs and the efforts needed to make them. I don't focus on profits, as this is a hobby that I love. If no one buys the items I bring from abroad, I am happy to keep them. There are customers who are looking for unique antiques and they find them in my store, because I try all the time to provide unique items.

KT: Do you buy antiques from customers?

Humaidhi: Due to my focus on specific types of antiques, I don't buy or display customers' antiques, as most of them are Kuwaiti heritage pieces. If you visit my shop, you can see that I sell different types of antiques related to Arab culture or English, German and Belgic antiques such as small coffee cups.

KT: How do you select your items?

Humaidhi: I am keen to travel to various countries to choose the best antique pieces myself. In addition, I don't buy items from only one place in the country I visit in order to have a wide collection, such as carpets, which I have to see and touch to make sure about their quality.



KUWAIT: Zain employees were keen on attending the sessions.



KUWAIT: The sessions hosted top Kuwaiti doctors.

Zain hosts 'Health Day' sessions for employees

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, held a 'Health Day' initiative for its staff at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The event brought in many doctors and medical experts on a weekly basis to take part in awareness programs and medical sessions that covered the most important health topics.

The initiative came under the umbrella of Zain's

internal communications strategy that closely focuses on catering to all aspects of employees' personal and professional lives. The company continuously enriches its direct relationship with its staff in and out of the workplace environment, catering to their most important needs like health, culture, sports, entertainment, and other programs. Zain considers its workforce the main element behind its success as the leader of the Kuwaiti telecom sector.

Zain's Health Day sessions featured talks about the most important health areas, including diets and living a healthy lifestyle with Internal Medicine Expert and Clinical Nutritionist Dr Samer Ashour, mental health awareness and living a balanced lifestyle with Psychiatrist Dr Mohammed Al Suwaidan, top health tips for the workplace with Family Medicine Expert Dr

Ahmad Abdulmalek, keeping a healthy heart with Cardiac Surgeon Dr Mohammed Al Banna and Cardiac Catheterization Consultant Dr Dhirar Al Khudair, and breast cancer awareness with Surgical Oncology Consultant Dr Nuha Al Saleh. The sessions witnessed great interest and interaction from Zain employees. The Health Day program also featured many activities that offered Zain employees a chance to check up on their overall health while at work, including routine checkups for blood pressure and sugar levels, as well as winter vaccinations for seasonal influenza and acute bacterial pneumonia. Zain is keen on partnering with various medical institutions from both the private and public sectors to launch similar programs and conduct awareness campaigns, informative sessions, vaccination campaigns, blood drives and more.

Immigration, identity shape poll in French-speaking Quebec

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TEHRAN: Iranian women shop at the Tajrish traditional bazaar in the capital Tehran on October 2, 2022. At least 92 people have been killed as Iran has cracked down on women-led protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the notorious morality police, the group Iran Human Rights said. — AFP

Protests in Iran leave 92 dead

Five Guards killed after clashes in southeast

PARIS: At least 92 people have been killed as Iran has cracked down on women-led protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the notorious morality police, the group Iran Human Rights said Sunday. Kurdish Iranian Amini, 22, was pronounced dead on September 16 after she was detained for allegedly breaching rules requiring women to wear hijab headscarves and modest clothes, sparking Iran's biggest wave of popular unrest in almost three years.

An additional 41 people died in clashes Friday in Iran's far southeast, an area bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, reported Oslo-based IHR citing local sources, saying the protests were sparked by accusations a police chief in the region had raped a teenage girl of the Baluch minority. Solidarity rallies with Iranian women who have defiantly burnt the hijabs they have had to wear since the 1979 Islamic revolution have been held worldwide, with demonstrations in more than 150 cities on Saturday.

Clashes between Iranian protesters and security forces have rocked cities nationwide for 16 nights in a row after they first flared in western regions home to Iran's Kurdish minority, where Amini hailed from. "Rioters" and "thugs", some hurling Molotov cocktails, attacked the Tehran headquarters of Iran's leading ultraconservative daily Kayhan on Saturday, said the newspaper, whose director is appointed by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam urged the international community to take urgent steps against the Islamic republic to stop the killing of Iranian protesters, saying they amount to "crimes against humanity".

"Teenage girl raped"

At least 92 protesters in the Mahsa Amini rallies have been killed so far, said IHR, which has been working to assess the death toll despite internet outages and blocks on WhatsApp, Instagram and other online services. London-based Amnesty International said earlier it had confirmed

53 deaths, after Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said last week that "around 60" people had died.

As Tehran was also battling unrest in the country's southeast, it said five Revolutionary Guards members were killed in clashes Friday in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan province. The poverty-stricken region has often seen clashes with Baluchi minority rebels, Sunni Muslim extremist groups and drug smuggling gangs. But a Sunni Muslim preacher, Molavi Abdol Hamid, said the community was "inflamed" after the alleged rape of a teenage girl by a police officer in the province, in a post on the cleric's website on Wednesday. IHR accused the security forces of the mainly Shiite country of "bloodily repressing" the Zahedan protest that erupted after Friday prayers over accusations a police chief in the province's port city of Chabahar had raped a 15-year-old girl from the Sunni Baluch minority.

Iran has accused outside forces of stoking the nationwide protests, especially



MONTREAL: Women hug each other during a protest in Montreal, Quebec, Canada for Mahsa Amini who died in custody of Iran's morality police. — AFP

its arch enemy the United States and Washington's Western allies. Iran's intelligence ministry said Friday that nine foreign nationals including from France,

Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland were arrested "at or behind the scene of riots", along with 256 members of outlawed opposition groups. — AFP



OUAGADOUGOU: This video grab taken from a video broadcasted on October 2, 2022 by the national television of Burkina Faso shows sub-lieutenant Jean-Baptiste Kabre (center), reading a statement, surrounded by members of the military claiming to have taken power. — AFP

Unrest simmers in Burkina Faso after 'coup'

OUAGADOUGOU: Security forces fired tear gas to disperse angry protesters outside the French embassy in Burkina Faso's capital on Sunday, as unrest simmered in the impoverished West African nation following the claim of a second coup this year. The latest unrest began on Friday, when junior military officers announced they had toppled the country's junta leader, sparking deep concern among world powers over the latest putsch to hit the Sahel region battling a growing Islamist insurgency.

Late on Saturday, the junta leader, Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, said he had no intention of giving up power and urged the officers to "come to their senses". His comments came shortly after the army general staff dismissed the coup as an "internal crisis" within the military and said dialogue was "ongoing" to remedy the situation.

The capital remained tense overnight, with demon-

strators gathering on the main roads of Ouagadougou as a helicopter hovered above. In a statement read out on television on Sunday, the officers who claimed the coup said they had lifted a curfew they had imposed and called for a meeting of ministry heads for later in the day. The officers had accused Damiba of having hidden at a military base of former colonial power France to plot a "counteroffensive," charges that he and France denied.

On Sunday, dozens of supporters of the new self-proclaimed putsch leader, Ibrahim Traore, gathered at the French embassy in the capital. Security forces fired tear gas from inside the compound to disperse the protesters after they set fire to barriers outside and lobbed rocks at the structure, with some trying to scale the fence, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The French foreign ministry condemned "the violence against our embassy in the strongest terms" by "hostile demonstrators manipulated by a disinformation campaign against us." It marked the latest incident against a France-linked building in two days, after a fire at the embassy on Saturday and a blaze in front of the French Institute in the western city of Bobo-Dioulasso. A French institute in the capital also sustained major damage, the foreign ministry said. — AFP

Death toll soars above 40 as Ian wrecks Florida

FORT MYERS: The death toll from Hurricane Ian, one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the United States, soared above 40 Saturday, as President Joe Biden heads to Florida later in the week to survey the devastation. Shocked Florida communities were only just beginning to face the full scale of the destruction, with rescuers still searching for survivors in submerged neighborhoods and along the state's southwest coast.

Homes, restaurants and businesses were ripped apart when Ian roared ashore as a powerful Category 4 hurricane on Wednesday. The confirmed number of storm-related deaths rose to 44 statewide, the Florida Medical Examiners Commission said late Saturday, but reports of additional fatalities were still emerging county by county-pointing to a far higher final toll.

Hard-hit Lee County alone recorded 35 deaths, according to its sheriff, while US media including NBC and CBS tallied more than 70 deaths either

directly or indirectly related to the storm. In the coastal state of North Carolina, the governor's office confirmed four deaths related to Ian there. Biden and his wife, Jill, will visit Florida on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre tweeted, but the couple will first head to Puerto Rico on Monday to survey the destruction from a different storm, Hurricane Fiona, which struck the US territory last month.

In Florida's Lee County on Saturday, rescuers and ordinary citizens in boats were still saving the last trapped inhabitants of the small island of Matlacha. Debris, abandoned vehicles and downed trees littered the pummeled hamlet's main street and surroundings that are dotted by colorful wooden houses with corrugated roofs.

The community, home to about 800 people, was cut off from the mainland following damage to two bridges, and those who fled early were only just beginning to return home to survey the destruction. Sitting in the shadow of a deserted Matlacha house, Chip Farrar told AFP that "nobody's telling us what to do, nobody's telling us where to go." "The evacuation orders came in very late," the 43-year-old said. "But most people that are still here wouldn't have left anyway. It's a very blue-collar place. And most people don't have anywhere to go, which is the biggest issue." — AFP



MATLACHA: A man walks past debris scattered on Pine Island Road in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Matlacha, Florida. — AFP

International

Immigration and identity shape poll in French-speaking Quebec

‘80% of immigrants do not work, do not speak French’

MONTREAL: Does immigration threaten the unique culture of French-speaking Quebec? However controversial, the claim is being pushed hard by the Canadian province's ruling party, whose brand of identity politics looks set to deliver them a win at the ballot box next week. A French-speaking bastion in mostly English-speaking North America, Quebec has long defended tooth and nail the language of Moliere. It's a fight taken up by the governing party since coming to power four years ago, the conservative Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) - but with an added focus on immigration.

Incumbent Quebec Premier Francois Legault made his views clear at the outset of the campaign: unchecked immigration by non-French speakers risks undermining social cohesion in the province. It would be “a bit suicidal” to take in more newcomers given the decline of French, Legault - whose party is leading in the polls ahead of Monday's provincial election - argued again this week.

During a debate, his immigration minister, Jean Boulet, went further - and provoked an uproar - with the baseless claim that “80 percent of immigrants do not work, do not speak French or do not adhere to the values of Quebec society.” His comments are also glaringly at odds with the economic reality in the province of nearly 8.5 million inhabitants facing a severe labor shortage - one that could be remedied through increased immigration.

With an ageing population retiring en masse and an unemployment rate at a historic low, Quebec is

looking to fill more than 250,000 jobs. And the government anticipates that number will keep rising - reaching some 1.4 million by 2030. If reelected, Legault, a 65-year-old multi-millionaire businessman, plans to keep annual immigration capped at 50,000 people. But some observers, like the sociologist Jean-Pierre Corbeil, are ringing alarm bells over the growing political conversation in Quebec linking language and immigration.

“We tend to put all the responsibility (for the decline of French) on the backs of immigrants,” he told AFP. “And that's where it's dangerous, there is a discourse of exclusion that is taking shape.” “I find that it is extremely, I would almost say, unhealthy,” echoed linguistics expert Richard Marcoux. “We will really have to resume the discussion after the elections to be able to address immigration issues in a different way.”

Is Quebec French in decline?

Although views diverge on the question of immigration, all major parties vying for seats in Quebec's national assembly agree on the need to preserve the French language. “We are in a critical situation. There is a real linguistic emergency in Quebec,” said Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois. Such fears are based on the latest census data which found that the proportion of the population that speaks French most often at home has been on the decline in Quebec since 2001, falling from 81.1 percent to 77.5 percent last year.



MONTREAL: Campaign posters are seen in the streets of Montreal. Quebecers will head to the polls on Oct 3, 2022 to elect their new provincial government. — AFP

But the sociologist Corbeil, who is also the former head of the government's data collection on linguistic trends, disputes the suggestion the situation is “catastrophic.” He says institutions are relying on an overly “simplistic” definition of a French-speaker - including

only those who use it as their main language at home. “Shouldn't the objective be to discuss the state of French?” he asks, pointing to the many citizens with diverse backgrounds who are fluent in French - although it may not be their mother tongue. — AFP

Ethnic tensions dominate as Bosnia votes

SARAJEVO: Bosnians voted in general elections on Sunday, following a campaign marked by threats of secession, political infighting, and fears of future turmoil as ethnic tensions in the country grow. Voters are casting ballots in a dizzying number of contests, including for the three members of Bosnia's tripartite presidency, the deputies of the central parliament and a string of local races.

Polls opened at 7:00 am local time (5:00 GMT). Nearly three decades after war ravaged the Balkan country, Bosnia continues to be burdened by its ethnic divisions. The Balkan state has been governed by a dysfunctional administrative system created by the 1995 Dayton Agreement that succeeded in ending the conflict in the 1990s, but largely failed in providing a framework for the country's political development.

Bosnia remains partitioned between a Serb entity - the Republika Srpska (RS) - and a Muslim-Croat federation connected by a weak central government. In the war's wake, ethnic political parties have long exploited the country's divisions in a bid to maintain power. “I hope for nothing. I vote because that is the only thing I can do as an individual,” said Amra Besic, a 57-year-old economist, after voting.

Coalition clash

In the run-up to Sunday's vote, the country has been torn between secessionist Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats demanding greater autonomy and electoral reforms. The country's Muslim Bosniaks



SARAJEVO: A group of men play outdoor chess at a park in Sarajevo on October 2, 2022. Bosnians headed to the polls to vote in general elections following a campaign season marked by threats of secession, political infighting, and fears of future turmoil as ethnic tensions in the country grow. — AFP

will also face a choice of voting for a disparate, 11-party coalition that is trying to unseat the rule of the mainstream SDA.

The SDA is led by Bakir Izetbegovic - the son of the first president of independent Bosnia - and has largely dominated the political scene in the country for decades. After casting a ballot at a polling station in downtown Sarajevo, Izetbegovic called on Bosnians to vote for politicians “who will not create blockades and crises, who will not chase away the youth from Bosnia-Herzegovina”. — AFP

medical treatment abroad, and his son Siamak, 50, was released from detention in Tehran, the United Nations said on Saturday.

“With the finalization of negotiations between Iran and the United States to release the prisoners of both countries, \$7 billion of Iran's blocked resources will be released,” the state news agency IRNA said. Billions of dollars in Iranian funds have been frozen in a number of countries - notably China, South Korea and Japan - since the US reimposed biting sanctions on the Islamic republic in 2018 after unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran has accused Seoul of holding \$7 billion of its funds “hostage”, repeatedly calling on South Korean authorities to release it. IRNA on Sunday said that “Washington is pursuing at the same time the release of its citizens detained in Tehran and the release of Iranian funds in South Korea”. The development comes as on-off talks have been underway since April 2021 to revive the 2015 deal that gave Iran much-needed sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Iran has repeatedly called for the lifting of sanctions, as well as guarantees that the United States will not again pull out of a revived deal. Baquer Namazi is a former UNICEF official who was detained in Feb 2016 when he went to Iran to press for the release of his son Siamak, who had been arrested in October of the previous year. Both were convicted of espionage in Oct 2016 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. The father was released on medical leave in 2018 and had been serving his sentence under house arrest.

“We were deeply gratified to learn from the UN Secretary-General today that Iran has lifted the travel ban imposed on Baquer Namazi,” US State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement, adding that both men had been “unjustly detained”. “Our efforts are far from over. We remain committed and determined to securing the freedom of all Americans unjustly detained in Iran and elsewhere,” he said.

The Namazis' lawyer Jared Genser confirmed the news of the release and said the younger Namazi was now at home with his parents in Tehran for the first time in seven years. “While these are critical first steps, we will not rest until the Namazis can all return to the United States and their long nightmare has finally come to an end,” Genser said in a statement. — AFP

Brazil votes in Bolsonaro-Lula showdown

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilians voted Sunday in a polarizing presidential election leftist front-runner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hopes to win in a single round amid fears far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro will not accept a defeat. Polls opened at 8:00 am for eight hours of balloting with an early trickle of voters dutifully decked out in the red colors of Lula's Workers' Party, or the green-and-yellow of Brazil's national flag that Bolsonaro has claimed as his own. “I'm a Christian, I only vote for candidates who are for what's in the Bible, so I'm voting for Bolsonaro,” housewife Aldeyze dos Santos, 40, told AFP in Brasilia, the capital.

In Rio de Janeiro, retired psychologist Katia Ferrari, 67, said: “I hate Bolsonaro.” “In Lula's time, things were much better, no matter if he stole... everyone steals,” she said in an allusion to Lula's controversial graft conviction, later overturned. The campaign has left the Latin American giant deeply divided, with former president Lula (2003-2010) leading ex-army captain Bolsonaro with 50 percent of valid votes to 36 percent, according to a final poll from the Datafolha institute released Saturday evening.

The figures put Lula within arm's reach of the score needed to win outright and avoid a runoff on October 30: half the valid votes, plus one. Bolsonaro, known for his combative style, has repeatedly said “only God” can remove him from office, attacked supposed fraud in Brazil's electronic



SAO PAULO: People queue at a polling station during the legislative and presidential election in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on October 2, 2022. — AFP

voting system, and vowed his re-election bid can have just three outcomes: “prison, death or victory.”

Lula, the charismatic but tarnished ex-president seeking to stage a comeback at 76, has said he fears the incumbent will create “turmoil” if he loses - a concern heard often in Brazil heading into election day. Bolsonaro's attacks on the voting system have raised fears of a Brazilian version of the riots that erupted at the US Capitol last year after his political role model, former president Donald Trump, refused to accept his election loss.

Trump gave Bolsonaro his resounding endorsement, calling him a “fantastic leader” and “one of the great presidents of any country in the world” in a video posted on social media. — AFP

Venezuela, US in prisoner swap...

Continued from Page 1

800 kg of cocaine into the United States. The Venezuelan government says they were framed. However Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who the United States recognizes as interim president of Venezuela, said the prisoner exchange was only further “proof” that “a criminal regime operates in Venezuela, linked to drug trafficking”.

Five of the seven freed Americans were executives of the Citgo oil corporation, detained in 2017 while on a business trip to the South American country and accused of corruption. Citgo is the US subsidiary of Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA. The Citgo employees - former company president Pereira, along with Vadell, Toledo, and the Zambrano's - each had been sentenced to more than 13 years in prison. The other two Americans freed - Heath and Khan - were arrested separately.

“All seven of these Americans are in stable health,” and Biden has spoken with each of them, the administration official said. They said the exchange took place Saturday “in a country between Venezuela and the United States”. “A plane landed from our side, carrying those two - and a plane landed that departed from Venezuela carrying the seven Americans,” the official said. “And then the passengers departed on different planes from the ones they came in on.”

Biden in his statement vowed his “unflinching commitment to keep faith with Americans held hostage and wrongfully detained all around the world.” The United States had long contended that its seven nationals were held on spurious charges. State Department spokesman Ned Price referred to them a year ago as “political pawns”. On Saturday, the senior administration official said “tough negotiations” led to the Americans' release. “We've been raising their cases with Venezuelans for months now.”

Meanwhile, Iran is awaiting the release of about \$7 billion in funds frozen abroad, state media said Sunday, after it allowed an Iranian-American to leave the country and released his son from detention. Baquer Namazi, 85, was permitted to leave Iran for

125 killed in stadium crush...

Continued from Page 1

Survivors described panicking spectators in a packed crowd as tear gas rained down on them. “Officers fired tear gas, and automatically people were rushing to come out, pushing each other and it caused many victims,” 43-year-old spectator Doni, who declined to give his last name, told AFP. “Nothing was happening, there was no riot. I don't know what the issue was, they suddenly fired tear gas. That's what shocked me, didn't they think about kids, women?”

President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation into the tragedy, a safety review into all football matches and directed the country's football association to suspend all matches until “security improvements” were completed. A hospital director told local TV that one of the victims was five years old. Images taken from inside the stadium during the stampede showed police firing huge amounts of tear gas and people clambering over fences.

Amnesty International called for an investigation into why tear gas was deployed in a confined space, saying it should only be used “when other methods have failed”. People carried injured spectators through the chaos and survivors lugged lifeless bodies out of the stadium. “It was so terrifying, so shocking,” 22-year-old survivor Sam Gilang, who lost three friends in the crush, told AFP. “People were pushing each other and... many were trampled on their way to the exit gate. My eyes were burning because of the tear gas. I fortunately managed to climb up the fence and survived,” he said.

Video footage circulating on social media showed people shouting obscenities at police, who were holding riot shields and wielding batons. Torched vehicles, including a police truck, littered the streets outside the stadium on Sunday morning. The stadium holds 42,000 people and authorities said it was a sell-out. Police said 3,000 people stormed the pitch.

Fan violence is an enduring problem in

Indonesia, where deep rivalries have previously turned into deadly confrontations. Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya are longtime rivals. Persebaya Surabaya fans were not allowed to buy tickets for the game due to fears of violence. However Indonesia's coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, Mahfud MD, said organizers ignored a recommendation to print fewer tickets and hold the match in the afternoon instead of the evening.

On Sunday, Arema fans threw flower petals at the club's lion mascot monument outside the stadium in tribute to the victims. In Jakarta as many as 300 football fans, including some known as diehard “ultras”, gathered for a candlelit vigil outside the Gelora Bung Karno stadium, Indonesia's biggest. Some chanted “Murderer!” and set off firecrackers.

The football world mourned the disaster with Gianni Infantino, president of world football governing body FIFA, calling the stampede “a tragedy beyond comprehension”. Manchester United and Barcelona posted tributes online while Spanish football clubs were to observe a minute's silence before matches on Sunday as a mark of respect. The German football association and Italy's Serie A also tweeted their condolences.

The Asian Football Confederation, the governing body for football in the region, expressed its regret at the loss of life. The Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) was in touch with FIFA about the stampede and hoped to avoid sanctions, PSSI secretary general Yunus Yussi told a press conference. FIFA's safety guidelines prohibit the carrying of crowd control gas by police or stewards at pitchside.

Indonesia is to host the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in May. It is also bidding to replace China as host of the 2023 Asian Cup alongside South Korea and Qatar, with a decision due this month. Other stadium disasters include a 1989 crush at Britain's Hillsborough Stadium, which led to the deaths of 97 Liverpool fans, and the 2012 Port Said stadium tragedy in Egypt where 74 people died in clashes. In 1964, 320 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured during a stampede at a Peru-Argentina Olympic qualifier at Lima's National Stadium. — AFP

International

Ukraine's key eastern town 'cleared' of Russian troops

European heads condemn Russian annexations in Ukraine

MYKOLAIVKA: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday that Lyman, a key town located in one of the four Ukrainian regions that Russia annexed, was "cleared" of Moscow's troops. The latest development - a feature of Ukraine's weeks-long counteroffensive against Moscow's invasion - comes as Russia pushed forward with finalizing the annexation of captured Ukrainian territories despite condemnation from Kyiv and the West.

The recapture of Lyman - which Moscow's forces pummeled for weeks to control this spring - marks the first Ukrainian military victory in territory that the Kremlin has claimed as its own and has vowed to defend by all possible means. "As of 12:30 pm (0930 GMT) Lyman is completely cleared. Thank you to our military!" Zelensky said in a video posted on social media.

Ukraine's army said it had entered Lyman on Saturday, prompting Moscow to announce the "withdrawal" of its troops from the town towards "more favorable lines". "Now I am optimistic and very motivated. I see the activity on the front line, and how foreign weapons... help us take our lands back," a 33-year-old Ukrainian soldier, who uses the nom de guerre "Smoke", told AFP after returning from near Lyman. In a video address late on Saturday, Zelensky pledged to retake more areas in the country's eastern Donbas region within the week.

Court approves annexation

With Russian losses mounting, experts have warned that President Vladimir Putin could turn to nuclear weapons to defend territory - an option floated by a Putin ally. Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov said Saturday that Russia should consider using "low-yield nuclear weapons" after Moscow's troops were forced out of Lyman. Putin staged a grand Kremlin ceremony on Friday to celebrate the annexation of the four Ukrainian territories: Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk and Zaporizhzhia, following referendums denounced as void by Kyiv and its allies. Despite condemnation from the West, Russia's Constitutional Court on Sunday recognized as lawful the annexation accords signed by Putin with the Moscow-backed leaders of the four Ukrainian territories. The annexation treaties will be considered by Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, on Monday, according to Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin. The four territories create a crucial land corridor between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, also annexed by Moscow, in 2014.

Together the five regions make up around 20 percent of Ukraine. Kyiv has also called for the immediate release of the chief of the Moscow-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, condemning his "illegal detention" by the Russians. Ihor Murashov was leaving the plant Friday when he was detained and "driven in an unknown direction" while blindfolded, Ukraine's nuclear agency Energoatom has said.

Centrists win Latvia vote; Russian-speaking parties on back foot

RIGA: Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins's pro-Western centrist party has won elections in Latvia while parties supported by the Baltic state's large Russian-speaking minority have suffered major setbacks, official results showed on Sunday. With almost all ballots from Saturday's vote counted, Karins's New Unity party was in first place with 18.94 percent while the Harmony party, traditionally backed by Russian speakers, may not have won enough votes to enter parliament.

Harmony came first in the last election in 2018. The results showed other centrist parties coming second and third and just one party associated with Russian-speakers, Stability!, scraping past the threshold to enter parliament with 6.75 percent. The Russian-speaking minority in Latvia makes up around 30 percent of the population.

'Rally around the flag'

Latvians voted in the shadow of neighboring Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with many concerned about Russian aggression and expansionism. National security and support for Ukraine were key issues for many voters, as well as the need for stability in this country of 1.8 million people on the eastern edge of the European Union and NATO. "Neither I nor my government nor my country reacts on fear," Karins told AFP on Saturday after polls closed.

"We will continue to invest in our own defence as a NATO member state," he added. Karins said he expected the consultations on forming a new government to begin on Monday. Political expert Marcis Krastins said before the vote that Karins was "most likely" to be named prime minister, depending on how many smaller parties would support him. "Russians invading Ukraine helps Karins to secure voters in Latvia because in such times people tend to rally around the flag," Krastins said.

Storm 'will only get stronger'

"The results are not bad but what is not good is that Stability!... will be in parliament," Yevgenijs, an 18-year-old student in Riga, told AFP. One voter said he made his decision based on the conflict raging nearby. "I am 83 years old, I lived through Soviet and German military occupations... I am today making my choice depending on which party supports Ukraine the most against the Russian invasion," Verners K told AFP.

After voting, President Egils Levits said: "People are seeing that we are already in a storm, but it will only get stronger, and it's making people think more about their future and their country's future." Ahead of the vote, Levits had warned people against backing politicians in the Russian-speaking community who "hesitated to clearly state who is the aggressor and who is the victim at the outset of the Russian invasion".—AFP



MYKOLAIVKA: A local resident walks past a destroyed building in Mykolaivka, eastern Ukraine amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

'Grave concern'

In a statement from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), its chief Rafael Grossi said Murashov's detention was cause for "grave concern". Grossi is expected to travel to Kyiv and Moscow "next week", the UN agency added. Zaporizhzhia - Europe's largest nuclear energy facility - has been at the centre of tensions, with Moscow and Kyiv accusing each other of strikes on and near the plant, raising fears of an atomic disaster.

Following the annexations, Washington announced "severe" new sanctions against Russian officials and the defense industry, and said G7 allies support imposing "costs" on any nation backing annexation. Zelensky urged the US-led military alliance NATO to grant his country fast-track membership. He also vowed never to hold talks with Russia as long as Putin was in power.

Russian annexations

Meanwhile, the presidents of nine NATO countries in central and eastern Europe declared on Sunday they would never recognize the annexation by Russia of Ukrainian territory. Their reaction comes two days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties to annex four Moscow-occupied regions of Ukraine - Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk and Zaporizhzhia - following "referendums" the West has dismissed as "sham".

The presidents issued a joint statement saying they could not "stay silent in the face of the blatant violation of international law by the Russian Federation". "We reiterate our support for the sovereignty and territorial

integrity of Ukraine," they said. "We do not recognize and will never recognize Russian attempts to annex any Ukrainian territory." The statement was issued by the presidents of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Four of the signatories - Poland, and the three Baltic states - are on NATO's eastern flank with Russia. Two others - Romania and Slovakia - have borders with Ukraine. Hungary, which also borders Ukraine, was notably absent from the list. Its nationalist prime minister, Viktor Orban, has sought close ties with Putin in recent years and railed against European Union sanctions on the Kremlin. Also absent were Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia.

The statement, published on the website of the Polish president's office, said the leaders of the signatory countries had "visited Kyiv during the war and witnessed with their own eyes the effects of Russian aggression". "We support Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion, demand Russia to immediately withdraw from all the occupied territories and encourage all (NATO) Allies to substantially increase their military aid to Ukraine," it said. "All those who commit crimes of aggression must be held accountable and brought to justice."

The presidents said they stood by a decision NATO made 14 years ago, supporting Ukraine's wish to join the trans-atlantic military alliance at a future date. They did not comment on Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014, or on Ukraine's request last Friday for fast-track NATO membership following Russia's annexation manoeuvre.—AFP



IZYUM: A member of a Ukrainian mine-clearing unit sweeps the area for explosives near Izyum, eastern Ukraine amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

what we know how to do, but now even more than ever it's our duty," he said, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We have 35 staff, in seven teams, from different regions of Ukraine," said Vasyl Maidyk, commander of the demining teams in Izyum district. "Nobody knows how long the process will last," the 42-year-old told AFP at the base in Izyum. "Despite the help of international organizations we haven't even finished finding mines left since the first phase of the conflict began in 2014," he said. But he added that "if we work quickly", Izyum district can be cleared by November so that infrastructure can be operational again by winter.

Since the liberation of Izyum in early September, his teams have covered some 100 hectares in the district, and found over 5,000 mines from around former Russian positions. The haul includes both anti-tank and anti-personnel mines as well as artillery shells, and, he said, "butterfly" mines, which are internationally banned.—AFP

support for his conservative GERB party rising, crediting it with about 25 percent of the votes.

The Balkan country has been dogged by political instability since early last year, when GERB lost power following massive anti-corruption demonstrations. Borisov's rival, outgoing reformist premier Kiril Petkov, 42, has urged voters to let him "continue the change" he started but is lagging in the polls on around 16 percent. The Harvard-educated former entrepreneur stormed onto the political scene in 2021 and managed to piece together a precarious four-party coalition after winning last November's vote.—AFP



SOFIA: Voters wait to cast their ballots at a polling station during the country's parliamentary elections in Sofia on October 2, 2022. — AFP

News in brief

42 bodies found in Libya

TRIPOLI: Forty-two bodies have been found in a mass grave in the Libyan city of Sirte, an ex-stronghold of the Islamic State group, the country's missing persons authority said Sunday. Exhumation teams unearthed "42 unidentified bodies" after following up reports of a "mass grave" at the site of a former school in Sirte, the authority said. "DNA samples have been taken for analysis in coordination with the office of forensic medicine," it added, without elaborating further. Sirte, a central coastal city, was held by IS between 2015 and 2016, as it exploited the chaos engulfing much of Libya in the wake of the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising. The jihadist group was dislodged by forces loyal to the then Government of National Accord in December 2016 after months of intense house-to-house fighting.

Zionists dismantle IS cell

JERUSALEM: Zionist internal security agency said Sunday it dismantled in the north of the country a cell linked to the Islamic State group, whose alleged sympathizers staged deadly attacks earlier this year. "Six residents of Nazareth were arrested several weeks ago and interrogated by the Shin Bet on suspicion of seeking to carry out terrorist activities on behalf of (IS) inside Zionist entity," the agency said in a statement. It added that the individuals had "met to prepare attacks". The Shin Bet agency said the probe "highlights the influence of the Islamic state in Zionist entity". In March, four people were killed when a convicted IS sympathizer went on a stabbing and car-ramming rampage in the southern city of Beersheba.

Women protest femicide

QUITO: Hundreds of women marched Saturday against femicide in Ecuador, which a gender violence NGO says has claimed more than 200 victims since the start of the year. The country was rocked by the murder of lawyer Maria Belen Bernal, 34, last month, who disappeared after entering a police training facility in capital Quito where she had gone to visit her husband. The incident sparked nationwide protests and police have named her husband, who is on the run, as the main suspect. On Saturday, protesters held up placards that read "Look at me carefully because I could be the next" victim and chanted "We want to live". Protests took place on the streets of the capital Quito as well as other parts of Ecuador following a call from social organizations to stand "united against the femicide state".

9-year-old shot dead

LONDON: A British man is set to appear in court Monday charged with shooting dead a nine-year-old girl in her own home, an attack that shocked the country and which local residents blamed on rival gangs. Thomas Cashman, 34, of West Derby in suburban Liverpool, is charged with the murder of Olivia Pratt-Korbell on August 22, a police statement said. He is also charged with the attempted murder of Cheryl Korbel, 46, the child's mother, and Joseph Nee, a burglar. Detectives have said Olivia was standing behind her mother, who had opened the door of their home after hearing gunshots in the street outside. She tried to close the door when the shooter's intended victim forced his way in pursued by his attacker, who then opened fire at the man. The mother was hit in the wrist and Olivia in the chest.

4 killed in boat mishap

MADRID: Rescuers said they found four bodies on a migrant boat off the Canary Islands Sunday, just hours after a lone survivor had been pulled to safety, with an NGO saying it had set sail with 34 people aboard. Spain's Salvamento Maritimo coastguard said on Twitter that it had "recovered the bodies of four people" from a boat some 150 nautical miles southwest of Gran Canaria island, with the lone survivor rescued on Saturday night by a passing merchant ship and then evacuated by helicopter. Helena Maleno, head of Caminando Fronteras, a Spanish NGO that helps migrant boats in trouble at sea and families searching for loved ones, said on Twitter they had received a distress call from the same vessel a week earlier after it set sail from Western Sahara. At the time there were 34 people on board.

Yemen truce at 'dead end'

SANAA: The ceasefire in war-ravaged Yemen is at "a dead end", the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Saturday in a statement, a day before the UN-mediated truce is due to expire. Yemen's war between the Houthi rebels and a Saudi-led coalition since 2014 has left hundreds of thousands dead and created what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The temporary ceasefire, which took effect in April and has twice been renewed, is set to expire on Sunday, despite recent attempt by the UN envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, to extend it. "Over the past six months, we haven't seen any serious willingness to address humanitarian issues as a top priority," the Houthi statement said, accusing the Saudi-led coalition of stalling in negotiations on measures that would "alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people". — From AFP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

Business

Iraq's young covet govt jobs in headache for economy

Four out of 10 young people are unemployed in a country of 42 million

BAGHDAD: Decent salaries and stability are the hallmarks of a job in Iraq's civil service, an institution much coveted by young graduates, even as it starves the private sector and hobbles the economy.

The patronage systems that feed the public sector in the oil-rich but war-battered nation are so entrenched that even the outgoing finance minister has despaired of ever trimming them down to size.

"We want work!" It's a refrain that fresh graduates chant each year on the streets of the southern city of Nassiriyah. Maitham Mohammed Redha, 32, is among them. Public sector jobs are "our legitimate right", he says, adding that he has personally lobbied the provincial governor for work because he doesn't have "wasta", or an inside connection. His situation is mirrored across Iraq, a country of 42 million in which four out of 10 young people are unemployed and where the state is by far the biggest employer.

Propped up by oil production, which accounts for 90 percent of national revenues, young Iraqis view public sector jobs as a refuge against the political winds and insecurity that perpetually batter businesses. The lure is such that the private sector is robbed of bright young talent, as the smartest tend to opt for a largely unproductive easy ride in government service.

"Graduates, if they start working in the private sector, consider it a temporary job until they can find an opportunity in the public sector," said Maha Kattaa, Iraq country coordinator for the International Labour Organization. "The private sector feels it cannot compete with the advantages, benefits provided by the public sector," she added.

Mohammed Al-Obeidi, who has worked for nearly two decades at a ministry, acknowledges that "the salaries are good". "Some ministries have good benefits" and the option to retire at 60 — or even as

young as 55 — provides scope for early retirees to take on private sector work while also drawing their pension.

'Vain populism'

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi has repeatedly stressed the need to trim the public sector. He noted last summer that "previous governments have... inflated public sector jobs in a vain populism that has exhausted the Iraqi economy".

Between 2004 — the year after a US-led invasion toppled longtime dictator Saddam Hussein — and 2019, the number of civil service posts quadrupled, he said. The public sector wage bill alone accounts for two-thirds of the state budget, he said, while Kattaa estimated the government employs nearly 40 percent of Iraq's population of working age. Such numbers are "among the highest... in the world", she told AFP.

Kadhemi has acknowledged the urgency for reform, but equally that he does not have a "free hand" to enact it. His survival as head of government always depended on bargaining over patronage opportunities by the country's main Shiite factions.

In the public sector, and even in private firms, recruitment is often driven by the allocation of tribal and political favors. Aptitude or formal qualifications therefore often count for little. Even the country's finance minister professes to have given up in despair.

High growth a bright spot

"Nearly everything conspires to thwart real change and (instead conspires) to cement... rotten practices," Ali Allawi lamented, in a letter read out to the cabinet when he resigned in August.

Placing the blame squarely on the "cancer" of corruption, Allawi contends that the state has been



DHI QAR, Iraq: Iraqi graduates from the Dhi Qar governorate demonstrate in its major city of Nasiriyah, blocking the Zaytoon bridge on August 23, 2022, to demand the removal of officials they accuse of corruption, and the assignment of fresh graduates in governmental positions. —AFP

unable to "break free from the control of political parties and outside interest groups".

Kattaa says companies must improve working conditions, by matching private sector social benefits and wages. One bright spot is that the oil price boom of the last year has driven national output higher—the IMF predicts Iraq's economy will grow 10 percent this year.

Entrepreneurs are seeking to capitalize on this,

among them Maitham Saad, 41. Three years ago, he set up a company that sells dates from southern Iraq to international markets. It now employs about 30 people, despite struggling to recruit, especially young people. "Once they are employed in the private sector, if their boss is decent, they are happy," he says. Unlike in the civil service, youngsters "can negotiate their salary", he says, expressing guarded optimism for the future. —AFP

Germany builds gas terminals to replace Russian pipelines

BERLIN: Germany's most strategically important building site is at the end of a windswept pier on the North Sea coast, where workers are assembling the country's first terminal for the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Starting this winter, the rig, close to the port of Wilhelmshaven, will be able to supply the equivalent of 20 percent of the gas that was until recently imported from Russia. Since its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has throttled gas supplies to Germany, while the Nord Stream pipelines which carried huge volumes under the Baltic Sea to Europe were damaged last week in what a Danish-Swedish report called "a deliberate act."

In the search for alternative sources, the German government has splashed billions on five projects like the one in Wilhelmshaven. Altogether the new fleet should be able to handle around 25 billion cubic meters of gas per year, roughly equivalent to half the capacity of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline.

New platform

At the site in Wilhelmshaven, the half-finished concrete platform emerging from the sea sprays workers in fluorescent yellow vests with a fine mist. Back on solid land, a constant stream of lorries delivers sections of grey pipe, which should relay the terminal to the gas network.

LNG terminals allow for the import by sea of natural gas which has been chilled and turned into a liquid to make it easier to transport. A specialist

vessel, known as an FSRU, which can stock the fuel and turn LNG back into a ready-to-use gas, is also hooked up to the platform to complete the installation.

Unlike other countries in Europe, Germany until now did not have an LNG terminal, instead relying on relatively cheap pipeline supplies from Russia.

But since the invasion of Ukraine, Germany has set about weaning itself off Moscow's gas exports, which previously represented 55 percent of its supplies. To diversify its sources, secure enough supplies of the fuel and keep its factories working, Berlin has bet massively on LNG to fill the gap left by Russian imports. Chancellor Olaf Scholz last week signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates for the supply of LNG, while touring Gulf states in search of new sources. Renting five FSRU ships to plug into the new terminals has also set Berlin back three billion euros (\$2.9 billion).

Environment

Following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Germany passed a law to drastically speed up the approval process for LNG terminals. In Wilhelmshaven, the work is coming along rapidly. The terminal should be finished "this winter", says Holger Kreetz, who heads the project for German energy company Uniper. The strategic importance of the terminal has seen building work advance surprisingly quickly. "Normally, a project like this takes us five to six years," Kreetz tells AFP.

The arrival of the new terminal has been welcomed by many residents in Wilhelmshaven, where deindustrialization has pushed the unemployment rate up to 10 percent, almost twice the national average. "It's good that it's in Wilhelmshaven... it'll bring jobs," Ingrid Schon, 55, tells AFP.

Opposition comes from groups who fear the accelerated timescales for approval and construc-



WILHELMSHAVEN, Germany: In this file photo taken on September 29, 2022 Chief Operating Officer (COO) of German energy company Uniper, Holger Kreetz, gives an interview during a media event at the construction site of the Uniper Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at the Jade Bight in Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea coast, northwestern Germany. —AFP

tion could come at a cost to the environment. Young activists from the group "Ende Gelände" managed to block the site in Wilhelmshaven for a day in August. The German environmental organization DUH said the works would "irreversibly destroy sensitive ecosystems as well as endanger the living space of threatened porpoises".

The source of the fuel has also been a sore point, with concerns raised that natural gas produced from fracking in the United States could be imported via the new terminal. Criticism of the project has been dismissed by Economy Minister Robert Habeck, a Green party politician, who has emphasized the importance of "energy security". By 2030, the site is set to be converted for the importation of green hydrogen, produced with renewables, which Berlin has backed as part of its energy transition. —AFP

OPEC+ in-person ministerial meeting on October 5

VIENNA: The OPEC+ oil cartel will meet in Vienna at the ministerial level on Oct 5 to discuss future output strategy, according to a statement issued by the organization on Saturday. It's the first in-person meeting at the ministerial level for OPEC+ since March 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions moved the meeting online.

Investors are awaiting the decision at next week's OPEC+ meeting, as oil prices have recently tumbled over fears of an economic slowdown and demand contraction. Both the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and the Brent crude have dropped from peaks of over \$120 a barrel in June to about \$80 a barrel. OPEC+, which comprises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, slashed oil production massively in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hammered demand. The group began to unwind the output cuts in July 2021 as the market improved.

At its last ministerial meeting held virtually in early September, OPEC+ announced a small production cut of 100,000 barrels per day for October, its first output cut in over a year, to bolster the sliding crude prices. —Xinhua

Gas leak from Nord Stream 2 'likely' halted

BERLIN: The Nord Stream 2 pipeline is no longer leaking under the Baltic Sea because an equilibrium has been reached between the gas and water pressure, a spokesman told AFP. "The water pressure has more or less closed the pipeline so that the gas which is inside can't go out," Nord Stream 2 spokesman Ulrich Lissek said. "The conclusion is that there is still gas in the pipeline," he added.

Asked how much gas was believed to be in the pipeline, Lissek said: "That is the one-million-dollar question." Information on the status of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline leak, which was significantly larger, was not immediately available.

The Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, which connect Russia to Germany, have been at the centre of geopolitical tensions as Russia cut gas supplies to Europe in suspected retaliation against

Western sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

While the pipelines are not currently in operation, they both still contained gas before they fell victim to apparent sabotage, producing four leaks.

A Danish-Swedish report released on Friday concluded the leaks were caused by underwater explosions corresponding to hundreds of kilograms of explosives. "All available information indicates that those explosions are the result of a deliberate act," the countries said. The source of the explosions has remained a mystery, however, with both Moscow and Washington denying responsibility.

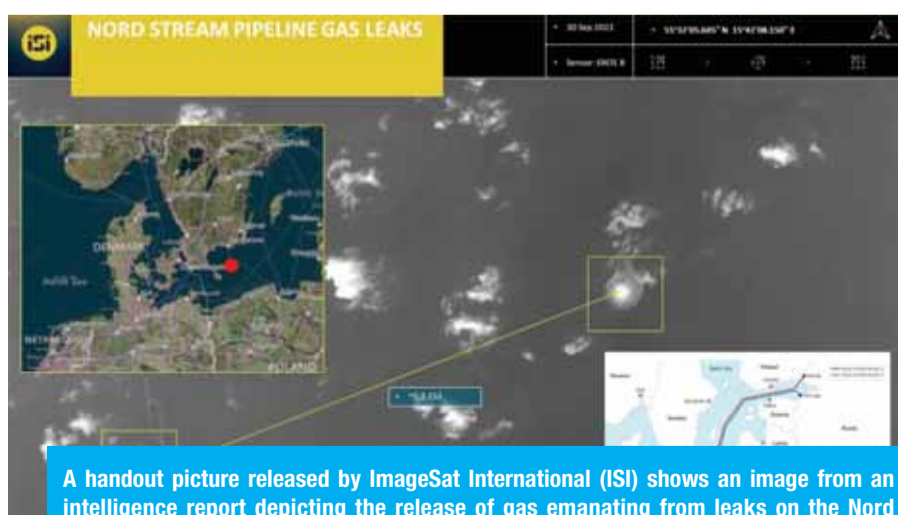
All the leaks, which were discovered on Monday, are in the Baltic Sea off the Danish island of Bornholm. Two of the leaks are located in the Swedish exclusive economic zone, and the two others in the Danish one. Lissek said Nord Stream 2 had informed the Danish energy regulator earlier Saturday that the pipeline had stopped leaking gas. Danish authorities had said the leaks would continue until the gas in the pipelines is exhausted, which is expected to occur on Sunday. The Swedish coastguard said late Friday

that the leaks on Nord Stream 2 showed signs of weakening due to the exhaustion of the gas contained in the pipes.

The diameter of the sea surface "boiling" caused by the leak in the Swedish exclusive economic zone was now only 20 metres (66 feet) wide, 10 times smaller than at the start. The leak on Nord Stream 1 had also started to weaken on Friday, with surface diameter down to 600 meters in diameter, down from between 900 and 1,000 meters on Monday.

Experts said all available information suggested a "deliberate act" caused the leaks in the Russian-owned pipelines. While neither pipeline was in use at the time of the suspected blasts, they were filled with gas that has been spewing out and bubbling to the surface of the Baltic Sea since Monday.

Denmark's Energy Agency said on Sunday it had been informed by Nord Stream AG that stable pressure had been achieved in the damaged Nord Stream 1 pipeline, indicating the outflow of natural gas from the last leaks had ended. On Saturday, it was announced that gas was no longer flowing out of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.



A handout picture released by ImageSat International (ISI) shows an image from an intelligence report depicting the release of gas emanating from leaks on the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline, in the Swedish economic zone in the Baltic Sea. —AFP

The blasts, which Germany indicated on Friday was probably perpetrated by Moscow, have raised the stakes in Europe's energy conflict with Russia. Norway's armed forces have stepped up patrols of the country's energy facilities, and the EU plans to test the security of its energy sites in the wake of the Nord

Stream pipeline explosions. Norwegian forces are bolstering their presence on land, at sea, in the air, sub-surface and in cyberspace, a spokesperson said. An abnormally high number of drone sightings have been reported since on the Norwegian continental shelf in the North Sea. —Agencies

Business

Al-Shall Weekly Economic Report

CBK acts in tune with Fed decision to hike rate amid global inflation

KUWAIT: The US Federal Reserve raised the base interest rate on the US dollar by 0.75 percent on September 29, which was almost unanimously approved. The head of the Federal Reserve had indicated weeks earlier that controlling inflation is the bank's priority, which meant the prospect of maximum monetary policy tightening. Such a decision is against a cost. It increases financing costs which damage economic growth opportunities. It also caused significant losses in financial markets and increased the chances of debtors' defaulting on meeting their commitments, whether sovereign or private.

As the Russia-Ukrainian war continues and expands, and as European peoples in major crises favor right-wing populist parties and leaders as in Sweden, Italy, and to some extent, Britain, Hungary and Poland earlier-dealing with the problem has become more complicated.

From March 15, 2022 to September 21, 2022, the Federal Reserve raised the base rate on the US dollar five times by a total of 3.00 percent to make the interest rate level 3.00 percent- 3.25 percent . The increase started with 0.25 percent in March, then 0.50 percent in May, followed by three 0.75 percent increases each in June, July and September. Likewise, four GCC countries whose exchange rate is fully pegged to the US dollar raised the interest rates on their currencies, justified by the complete dependence on the US dollar interest rate. Their increases is not aimed to curb inflation, as is the case of the US Federal Reserve, but to localize their currencies and thus reduce the chances of conversion into

US dollars if the dollar grants a higher interest rate.

In Kuwait, whose currency exchange rate is pegged to a basket of major currencies, which is also dominated by the US dollar. Accordingly, the Central Bank of Kuwait raised the discount rate six times following each increase of the base interest rate on the US dollar, in addition to a single increase last August. The fundamental difference between the US Federal Reserve increases and those of the other GCC countries is that each increase in the GCC discount rate amounted to 0.25 percent with a total of 1.50 percent to reach a total of 3 percent on the Kuwaiti dinar on September 22, 2022.

The previous hike means that the margin on the interest rate of the US dollar has shifted in favor of the latter (0.00 percent-0.25 percent) for the first time during the current century, as shown by the accompanying chart. We are still confident in the professionalism of the Central Bank of Kuwait, and it may have an explanation for allowing the interest on the Kuwaiti dinar to slip below the interest of the US dollar which is a precedent, in addition to the rise in the exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar, and we hope to hear his explanation. One explanation may be that the formation of its board of directors is incomplete and only four positions are occupied by virtue out of eight. Although it is an acceptable explanation because the authority of the interest decision is the authority of the board of directors and the absence of that authority is dangerous under the prevailing global conditions.



KATUNAYAKE, Sri Lanka: Passengers walk past a duty free store at the Colombo International Airport in Katunayake. — AFP

Sri Lanka cuts tax on female hygiene products

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's government on Sunday cut taxes on female sanitary products in a bid to help women and girls unable to afford them because of the country's economic crisis. Even before the downturn last year, many schoolgirls and women in Sri Lanka, like in other poor countries, would stay home when menstruating because they couldn't afford sanitary products.

A study this year by policy advocacy group Advocata said "period poverty"-being unable to afford sanitary products-among Sri Lanka's 5.3 million women of reproductive age was about 50 percent.

Campaigners believe the situation has worsened with Sri Lanka suffering severe shortages of essen-

tial goods and inflation rates in excess of 70 percent. President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said Sunday that customs duties, airport levies and other local taxes on raw materials imported to make female hygiene products was waived with immediate effect. Imported pads and tampons will also cost 20 percent less due to a reduction in import duties, Wickremesinghe's office said in a statement. The tax cut was to "make hygiene products more affordable in view of ensuring hygiene among women and school girls," the statement said.

Months of protests over economic hardships led to the resignation of president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July. The country defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt in April and is in talks with the International Monetary Fund to secure a \$2.9 billion bailout.

The new government of Wickremesinghe on Sunday began implementing a new turnover tax of 2.5 percent on all goods and services in a bid to raise state revenue. However, the government marginally reduced the price of petrol in line with global prices, but kept the price of diesel, commonly used in public transport, unchanged. — AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 28 SEP 2022

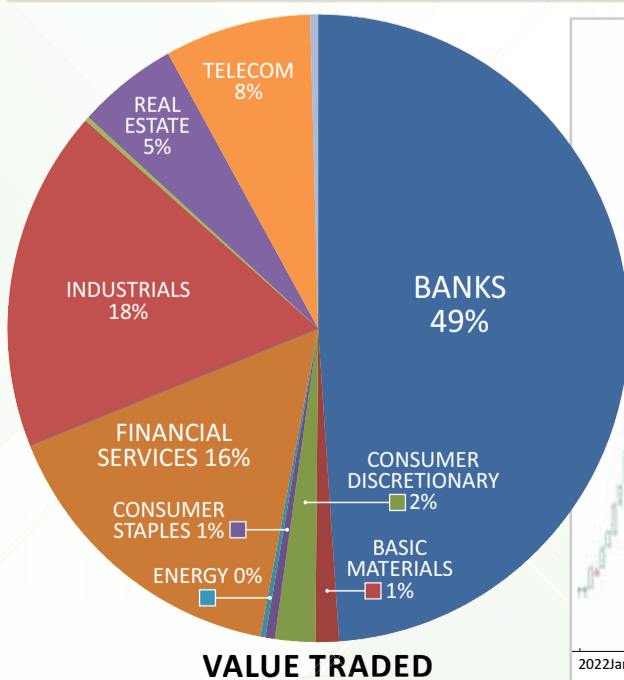
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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	36,720	7,949.86	-4.5%	-7.5%	4.1%	370,163,976	198,373,982	35,956	27.6	2.6	79.2%
Main Market	9,622	5,338.38	-4.6%	-9.0%	-9.3%	393,420,433	39,618,957	19,877	16.0	1.3	20.8%
All Share	46,342	7,105.71	-4.5%	-7.8%	0.9%	763,584,409	237,992,939	55,833	25.2	2.3	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	29,299	1,743.29	-4.1%	-6.3%	7.4%	174,677,861	140,804,689	17,930	25.3	2.6	63.22%
BASIC MATERIALS	804	901.39	-7.0%	-10.7%	-12.0%	4,458,891	3,494,326	1,058	9.6	1.3	1.73%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	928	1,385.19	-2.8%	-9.3%	3.6%	47,156,488	6,028,443	3,088	31.8	10.7	2.00%
CONSUMER STAPLES	142	467.34	-6.1%	-12.5%	-36.1%	3,052,186	1,405,894	383	31.3	1.0	0.31%
ENERGY	223	1,067.54	-1.7%	-11.0%	-25.3%	11,320,007	771,409	581	13.7	1.1	0.48%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,137	1,253.74	-7.3%	-12.1%	-11.9%	308,347,598	45,833,024	11,606	38.3	1.9	8.93%
HEALTH CARE	228	459.73	0.0%	6.3%	-42.3%	0	0.000	8	12.5	3.4	0.49%
INDUSTRIALS	3,596	1,016.58	-7.7%	-16.2%	-10.9%	79,423,539	50,695,630	9,169	32.3	1.4	7.76%
INSURANCE	621	1,501.15	-3.8%	-4.7%	-2.1%	2,906,815	629,054	374	8.9	1.0	1.34%
REAL ESTATE	2,573	1,202.14	-4.1%	-5.2%	-9.4%	99,035,861	15,047,462	5,066	24.0	1.3	5.55%
TECHNOLOGY	8	589.27	3.1%	-3.0%	-13.8%	55,100	6,669	24	0.0	0.7	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,568	1,163.39	-2.7%	-6.9%	6.8%	27,933,398	21,911,072	3,544	13.6	2.0	7.70%
UTILITIES	215	513.16	-2.5%	-3.0%	-14.5%	5,216,665	1,179,267	437	14.9	2.2	0.46%

Top Gainers						Top Losers					
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFC	82.9	7.66%	5	0.415	1	TAHSSILAT	17.2	-18.48%	110,718	1,996	26
IPG	473	5.58%	23,016	9,899,239	5	ABAR	115	-17.27%	3,756,991	459,972	326
RKWC	147.0	5.00%	75,903	10,533,711	10	SECH	57.1	-17.25%	6,304,567	373,808	283
MRC	74.0	4.23%	517	36.256	4	NIH	108.0	-16.92%	4,531,874	481,325	341
CBK	485	4.08%	1,002	467.976	3	TUARA	47.5	-15.93%	4,290,720	214,186	201

Top Volume						Top Value					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	841	-6.24%	76,794,120	66,248,943	8,917	KFH	841	-6.24%	76,794,120	66,248,943	8,917
GFH	77.7	-9.55%	65,954,319	5,204,103	2,189	AGLT	668	-10.81%	51,806,498	35,437,394	6,286
NCCI	112	-10.40%	60,085,819	6,858,808	1,398	NBK	976	-4.59%	25,047,459	24,906,620	2,851
AGLT	668	-10.81%	51,806,498	35,437,394	6,286	ZAIN	585	0.86%	26,086,888	15,160,464	2,432
NIND	229	-9.49%	43,257,054	10,305,421	1,360	NIND	229	-9.49%	43,257,054	10,305,421	1,360



Market Summary:

- Premier Market weekly volume and value rose 22% and 16%, respectively. Main Market volume rose 4%, while value dropped 12%.
- The declining trend continues in both Premier and Main indices due to the global geopolitical issues raised by the Russian war.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7105, with support levels at 7105, 7071, 7042, and 7000, while resistance at 7214. Premier index closed at 7949, support levels at 7926, 7841, 7784, and 7701, while resistance at 8013. The Main index closed at 5338, support levels at 5308, 5247, and 5148, while resistance at 5393.

Business

Truss admits tax cuts misstep at start of tense Tory conference

Mini-budget sparks market turmoil, dismal headlines and disastrous polls

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Liz Truss on Sunday conceded she should have better prepared Britain for her recent debt-fuelled mini-budget slashing taxes, which sparked market turmoil, dismal headlines and disastrous polls. Less than a month into the job but already mired in a deep crisis, the new Tory leader insisted the controversial plans would return Britain to economic growth, as it grapples with decades-high inflation and imminent recession.

As her restive ruling Conservative party's annual conference gets underway in Birmingham, Truss also sought to reassure critics she will reduce the extra government borrowing earmarked to fund the tax cuts for the wealthiest. "I do stand by the package we announced... but I do accept we should have laid the ground better there," Truss told the BBC in her first live TV appearance since the contentious proposals were unveiled on September 23.

"We have a clear plan moving forward both to deal with the energy crisis and to deal with inflation, but also to get the economy growing," she added, while also vowing to curb government borrowing "over the medium term".

'Under a bus'

Opposition parties, much of the public and even Conservative MPs—notably backers of her defeated leadership rival Rishi Sunak—are aghast at the mini-budget announced by finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng. It went further than many had expected, abolishing the top rate of income tax and lifting a cap on bankers' bonuses.

Markets tanked in response, and the Bank of England staged an emergency intervention to bail out embattled pension funds, setting the stage for a difficult four-day gathering in Birmingham.

Truss revealed Sunday she had not discussed axing high-earners' 45 percent tax rate with her cabinet, and appeared to distance herself from the politically toxic move by claiming "it was a decision

that the chancellor made". That prompted an immediate rebuke from erstwhile Tory MP ally Nadine Dorries, who accused her of "throwing (Kwarteng) under a bus on the first day of conference".

Meanwhile, appearing on the BBC immediately after Truss, senior Conservative lawmaker Michael Gove branded the plans "profoundly" problematic and said there would need to be "a course correction".

Poll rout

Reports suggest some Tory MPs could join opposition parties' attempts to block the most controversial aspects of the mini-budget in parliament.

They emerge as a raft of polls showed a dramatic slump in the standing of the party as well as Truss and Kwarteng. One Yougov survey Friday found 51 percent of Britons think that she should resign—and 54 percent want the finance minister to go.

Several other polls in recent days showed the Labour party with mammoth leads of up to 33 points over the Conservatives—its biggest since the heyday of former Labour prime minister Tony Blair in the late 1990s. Echoing Blair, Labour leader Keir Starmer insists that his party now represents mainstream UK voters. As it is, both Sunak and former prime minister Boris Johnson are reportedly staying away from Birmingham. But Truss will have plenty of critics lying in wait at what the Tories bill as Europe's largest annual political event. Protesters angry at rising energy bills and the government's handling of the worsening cost-of-living crisis massed in London and other cities Saturday, with more demonstrations planned for Birmingham on Sunday.

Existential threat?

Kwarteng is due to address the grassroots gathering on Monday, before Truss closes it with the leader's keynote speech on Wednesday. Although both have ruled out a U-turn on their economic package, they conceded ground Friday by allowing



LONDON: A handout picture released by the BBC, taken and received on October 2, 2022, shows Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss (right) appearing on the BBC's 'Sunday Morning' political television show with journalist Laura Kuennsberg (left). —AFP

the Office for Budget Responsibility to send Kwarteng an initial independent costing score-card of it later next week.

But the OBR has confirmed none of its assessments will be published until November 23 — something critics are urging the government to bring forward. In Birmingham, the conference program has already been pared back to eliminate some of its fringe partying following the September

8 death of Queen Elizabeth II—who appointed Truss only two days before she died.

Many commentators are urging contrition from the new leader, to avoid the kind of doomsday scenario laid out by senior Tory MP Charles Walker. A general election is not due until January 2025 at the latest. But if one were held tomorrow, Walker said, "we would cease to exist as a functioning political party". —AFP

But that could still prove unaffordable for many, and comes amid decades-high inflation that has pushed up the cost of petrol, food and numerous other everyday essentials.

"Enough is enough. It's time to funnel our collective rage into something active and productive," Lily Holder, 29, from southeast London, said as she joined the protests. "The people want and desperately need change—and they need it soon." Demonstrators demanding more action to tackle the climate emergency also attended, with the "Just Stop Oil" group demanding the UK government stop all new oil and gas extraction.

'Iron grip'

Meanwhile, protesters turned out in Birmingham to rally against the handling of the situation by the ruling Tories, who kicked off their annual conference in the central English city on Sunday. Following a week of turmoil on financial markets prompted by their September 23 mini-budget, under-fire Prime Minister Liz Truss and her Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng arrive on the defensive over the economic package.

The tax-slashing plans, which will dramatically increase government borrowing, went further than

ing a second eight-day walkout over pay and conditions that is only set to end on Wednesday.

But it is the rail sector that has been spearheading the industrial unrest, carrying out its biggest stoppages in decades. The latest had been planned for the week after the queen's death, but was then postponed. Many rail workers are also set to strike again on Wednesday, and on other potential dates later in the month.

This weekend's walkout coincides with preparations for Sunday's London Marathon, leaving participants struggling to reach the capital, as well as the ruling Conservatives' annual conference in Birmingham also starting Sunday. Mick Lynch, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, apologized to people impacted but blamed the government.

"The government has brought this dispute on," he told the BBC, as he joined other striking staff on picket lines across the country. "They (put) the challenges down to us, to cut our jobs, to cut our pensions and to cut our wages against inflation." But Tim Shoveller of Network Rail, which owns and manages Britain's railway infrastructure, described the strikes

many expected, abolishing the top rate of income tax and lifting a cap on bankers' bonuses.

It prompted the pound to drop to its lowest ever level against the dollar. The turmoil forced the Bank of England to make an emergency intervention to stabilize the situation, amid fears of a collapse in UK pension funds. After nearly a week of silence, Truss faced a grueling round of BBC radio and regional television interviews Thursday, before penning an article in The Sun published overnight.

In it, she conceded for the first time that the plans had prompted "short-term disruption", but vowed to press on with them and handle public money with "an iron grip". Meanwhile, in his own piece in the Daily Telegraph Kwarteng said his ministry will next month unveil a "medium-term fiscal plan" that will set out a path to reducing borrowing, alongside "new fiscal rules and a commitment to spending discipline". He noted a full forecast from the country's fiscal watchdog, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), would also accompany the plan on November 23. The lack of an OBR forecast has been cited as one of the reasons for the market tumult that followed the September 23 release of the mini-budget, which cut taxes for the wealthiest amid a cost-of-living crisis. —AFP



LONDON: Pedestrians walk past closed gates outside Euston Station, on October 1, 2022, as strike action by railway staff restarts. Members of four trade unions kicked off a 24-hour walkout, which is set to create the worst rail disruption of the strike-hit year so far, as some areas of the country see no services all day. —AFP

as a "huge own goal" leading to "less money to spend improving the railway". —AFP

Nestle drops Indonesian palm oil supplier

GENEVA: Swiss food giant Nestle said it would stop purchasing palm oil from Astra Agro Lestari (AAL), an Indonesian firm whose farming practices have come under fire from activists.

Nestle, known for its KitKat chocolate bars and Nespresso coffee capsules, said it had instructed its direct suppliers to stop purchases from three AAL-linked entities. The decision follows an investigation conducted earlier this year by EcoNusantara, an independent Indonesian organization dedicated to the protection of forests and the climate, the company told AFP, confirming information reported by Bloomberg News.

The investigation discovered land seizures, environmental damage and human rights violations by the three AAL subsidiaries. "As part of our approach to sustainable palm oil sourcing, we have been closely monitoring the situation in the region, and the three Astra Agro Lestari entities in question have been on our grievance list for several months," Nestle said in a statement.

The process of switching suppliers will likely take at least several weeks, but Nestle said it aims to have the process completed by the end of the year. In an open letter last week, representatives of indigenous populations and civil society organizations called on global food processors to stop purchasing palm oil from the AAL firms. The appeal was addressed in particular to Procter & Gamble, Hershey's, Kellogg's, Unilever, Mondelez, Colgate-Palmolive, PepsiCo et Nestle.

"Nestle's suspension of AAL from its supply chain is an important first step toward ensuring accountability for ongoing human rights violations," said activist group Friends of the Earth.

NBK Money Markets Report

Volatility reigns across global equity markets

KUWAIT: Last week, high volatility was the theme across all asset-classes on the back of a potential systemic shock to major economies. Raphael Bostic, president of the Atlanta Fed, spoke last week saying the UK's government fiscal plan has increased economic uncertainty and raised the odds of a global recession. Bostic's warning came after the sterling touched a record low as traders digested UK chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng's £45 billion tax-cutting package. "A basic tenet of economics is more uncertainty leads to less engagement by consumers and businesses," he said. "The key question will be what does this mean for ultimately weakening the European economy, which is an important consideration for how the US economy is going to perform." Bostic's comments came on the heels of a warning from Susan Collins, president of

the Fed's Boston branch, who said an external shock could send the US economy into a recession.

Resilient, but not promising

On the data side, consumer confidence in the US came above expectation of 104 as the reading was 108. Consumer confidence is a leading indicator of consumer spending and hence sheds light on how households perceive the economy. On the other hand, core durable goods orders increased by 0.2 percent on monthly basis and barely missed expectations of a 0.3 percent increase.

The US dollar has stabilized during the Asian trading session on Friday following a sharp correction lower on Thursday. After hitting a year-to-date high midweek at 114.778, the dollar index then fell abruptly to an intra-day low of 112.56 as it gave back all the gains from this week. The pullback for the US dollar coincided with a sharp correction lower for US yields as well. The two-year US Treasury bond yield has now fallen for two consecutive days after hitting a peak at 4.35 percent on Monday, which brought an end to a run of thirteen consecutive days of higher closes. The pullback in US yields was even more pronounced at the long

end of the curve with the 10-year US Treasury yield dropping sharply from a year-to-date high of 4.02 percent to an intra-day low of 3.69 percent. The main trigger for the pullback in the US dollar and US yields appears to be growing fears over potential negative implications for the global economy and financial markets from the loss of confidence in the UK government's public finances.

Tax cut financing conundrum

The Bank of England (BoE) made a statement on Monday that it would not hesitate to change interest rates by as much as needed to curb inflation and reach the 2 percent target and that they were monitoring markets very closely. The BoE also said it would make a full assessment of the government's tax cut plans. Finance Minister Kwasi Kwarteng sent the sterling and government bonds into freefall on 23 September with a so-called mini-budget that was designed to grow the economy by funding tax cuts with huge increases in government borrowing. Although the sterling pound plunged to its all-time low of 1.0327 in Asian trade Monday, the currency recouped its losses and surged all the way to a high of 1.1234 on Friday.

The BoE's decision to step back into the UK Gilt market at the long end of the curve to protect financial stability in the UK has certainly upped the level of concern over the potential negative economic and financial market fallout from the loss of confidence in UK's public finances. The BoE emphasized that "if dysfunction in the long-dated UK government debt market was to continue or worsen, there would be a material risk to UK financial stability."

Eurozone inflation once again surprised consensus to the upside, rising from 9.1 percent annually in August to 10.0 percent in September and surpassing market expectations of a 9.7 percent reading. Core and services inflation both rose 0.5 percent, to 4.8 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively, 0.1 percent higher than expected. Core industrial goods inflation also rose 0.5 percent to 5.6 percent. Meanwhile, energy inflation went back on the rise, going from 38.6 percent to 40.8 percent yearly, as the surge in energy prices in August filtered through to consumers. Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.31080



In this aerial view people exchange Panini World Cup football stickers at Rivadavia park in Buenos Aires. —AFP photos



A man sells and exchanges Panini World Cup football stickers in downtown Montevideo.



Children exchange Panini World Cup football stickers at the Analia Franco shopping center in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In Latin America, World Cup stickers are a quadrennial craze



View of the Panini World Cup football album and stickers in Santiago.



A person exchanges Panini World Cup football stickers in Santiago.



People exchange Panini World Cup football stickers in Santiago.



View of the Panini World Cup football album and stickers in Santiago.



A child glues Panini World Cup football stickers at the Analia Franco shopping center in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Some spend crazy amounts, others line up at dawn or gather at informal swap meets—anything to satisfy a passion that combines love of soccer, this year's World Cup in Qatar and the ever-popular pursuit of Panini soccer stickers. Sold in 150 countries, the stickers seem to arouse a particular frenzy in Latin America because of the possibility that this might be the last World Cup for Argentinean football icon Lionel Messi, who is 35, or that a Latin American side might finally break Europe's hold on the Cup.

"Almost everything I earn, that anyone lends me, or that they owe me, I invest in the stickers," Hilda Losada, who is Argentinian, told AFP. The 68-year-old grandmother, who is working to complete her album of nearly 700 stickers and her grandson's as well as has been waiting in line since 5:00 am for the opening of a store in Buenos Aires. The stickers have been in short supply for days in Argentina, with the government itself intervening to mediate between the Italian publisher and frustrated shopkeepers who want a bigger piece of the juicy trade.

"This is one of the few places where you can find them now," Losada said, standing in a long line of collectors. Not everyone will leave happy, and some are vowing to turn to the black market, if need be, even if it costs twice the official price of about \$1 for five stickers. Her family tells her she's crazy, but Losada pays them no mind as she happily pursues her fascination. She has been collecting the cards every four years since she was "a little girl," she insists, even if galloping inflation in Argentina—currently at 56 percent—does not make that easy.

"Argentina is nearly always in an economic crisis," shrugged the shop owner, Leila Edul. "But now, with these stickers... money somehow appears out of nowhere." That is true despite the soaring price of a packet since the 2018 World Cup in Russia. In Brazil, the cost has doubled, from 37 US cents to 74 cents.

'We like to trade'

"My father bought me three packets," said an exuberant Tiziano Orselli, 14, as the two inspected the offerings at a swap meet at Buenos Aires's Rivadavia Park. "When I saw 'Argentina 19' and realized it was Messi, I was too happy," he said. I showed it to everybody and then I stuck it, there, in the album," he said, his eyes still wide at the thought. Mauricio Valencia had set up a table on sawhorses and piled it high with stacks of stickers to trade or sell. He said he had done this previously in Colombia, because "in Latin America we like to trade (Panini) stickers."

"But it's not the same here," he added. "There is such fervor—it's packed every weekend." Raul Vallecillo, a Panini official in Chile, said Latin American sales have exceeded the expectations of the Italian manufacturer, which published its first album for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

Chile's national team did not qualify for this year's World Cup, which opens in Qatar in November, yet Panini sold in a single month the stock it had expected to last four months, he said. The same trend holds in Venezuela, Colombia and Peru, all of which also failed to qualify, he said. Vallecillo said the infatuation with the

cards is heightened by the likelihood that this will be the last appearance of aging superstars like Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, as well as the hope the Argentine or Brazilian side will be able to break the European teams' 20-year stranglehold on the championship.



A man shows envelopes with Panini World Cup football stickers in a street in Buenos Aires.

Street vendors

In Sao Paulo, collectors have been gathering outside the Football Museum. Forty-year-old Leandro Fonseca is on the hunt for some special-edition stickers, including some with Neymar's image, which have been selling on the internet for hundreds of dollars. "I'm off to a late start on the 'extras,' but I hope to fill 20 albums, he said. "I fill several during every World Cup." He said he had spent around \$1,800 so far to complete seven albums.

Across Latin America, the resale busi-

ness is brisk. On a busy road in Montevideo, children come, carrying lists of sticker numbers, to try to buy those they're missing.

The stickers of stars like Messi, Neymar and local favorite Luis Suarez sell for around 100 pesos (\$2.40). Other lesser stars from the Uruguayan, Argentine or



A person exchanges Panini World Cup football stickers in Santiago.

Brazilian sides go for 20 to 50 pesos, while still others go for just 10 pesos (though a star like France's Kylian Mbappe brings in 50 pesos). Guillermo Orcile has been helping his seven-year-old son Salvador complete his album entirely through trades. "It's important that he understand how trading works, which makes these albums important," he said. "Because if it's just about buying, then the spirit is lost." —AFP



A woman buys Panini World Cup football stickers at Rivadavia park in Buenos Aires.



A child glues Panini World Cup football stickers at the Analia Franco shopping center in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Brazilian robbed of jewelry worth millions on way to Paris Fashion Week

A Brazilian businesswoman travelling to Paris Fashion Week has reported being robbed of jewelry worth almost \$3 million after her taxi was attacked in a traffic jam outside the French capital, police sources told AFP on Thursday. The woman said two men on a scooter smashed the cab window on the road to Paris from Charles de Gaulle airport on Tuesday.

The thieves grabbed her Louis Vuitton suitcase and handbag before fleeing with the jewelry inside. "We're at the start of our enquiry," a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity, while an official in the local prosecutor's office said they were still evaluating the value of the losses.

The robbery was first reported by the Parisien newspaper. Hit-and-run as well as "snatching" attacks on cars heading to and from Paris airports have become common tactics for thieves hoping to strike wealthy tourists in recent years.

In 2018, 14 young people were arrested by French police, suspected of carrying out 88 such attacks in just over a year. In 2016, US reality TV star Kim Kardashian was tied up and robbed at gunpoint by thieves who made off with jewelry worth at least nine million euros as she stayed in a luxury residence in central Paris during Fashion Week. — AFP

Karl Lagerfeld to get major retrospective at New York Met

The late fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld will be the subject of a major retrospective at the New York Metropolitan Museum's Costume Institute in May, Vogue boss Anna Wintour said Friday. Wintour was among the fashionistas who gathered at Lagerfeld's former photo studio in Paris to announce the exhibition during Paris



Editor in Chief of Vogue, Anna Wintour, at the coin toss ahead of the singles match between USA's Frances Tiafoe of Team World and Serbia's Novak Djokovic of Team Europe in London. — AFP

Fashion Week. "Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty", running from May 5 to July 16, will be the first major retrospective of the German-born designer's work, covering



his career from the 1950s to his final collection in 2019, the year of his death. The Met Gala, New York's glitziest party, will also be held in Lagerfeld's honor on May 1. "His genius was in constantly renewing his goals, always absorbing new information without losing his way," said Wintour.

"His career was full of paradoxes. Karl was the king of commerce, but also the great intellectual of fashion, one of the most cultured people I have ever

met." Born into a wealthy but strict family, Lagerfeld began his six-decade career in Paris, where his friendship and later rivalry with Yves Saint-Laurent was legendary. Lagerfeld's daring creations and spectacular shows for Chanel, Fendi and his own brand-combined with his own personal myth-making-helped define fashion's ultra-glamorous super-model era. — AFP

Paris Fashion Week



Models present creations for Valentino during the Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris. — AFP photos

Sports

Lazio stroll past Spezia; Monza moved out of relegation zone

Sassuolo cruise in first match with woman referee

ROME: Lazio ensured they would stay in Serie A's top four on Sunday after beating Spezia 4-0 in Rome, while Maria Sole Ferrieri Caputi made history in Sassuolo's 5-0 thumping of Salernitana as the first woman referee in Italy's top flight. Early goals from Mattia Zaccagni and boyhood Lazio fan Alessio Romagnoli and a brace in the second half from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic at the Stadio Olimpico put Lazio three points behind league leaders Napoli in third. Maurizio Sarri's team are level on 17 points with AC Milan and second-placed Atalanta after making short work of Spezia, who are three points above the relegation zone, and claiming their third straight league win.

However Lazio will drop back down to fourth should Atalanta not lose to Fiorentina later on Sunday and Udinese win at Verona on Monday. "It could have been an ugly goal as far as I'm concerned, all that matters is that it went in," said Romagnoli after scoring his first Lazio goal since his summer move from Milan with a well-taken volley. "It was really great today because the team played really well... I've only just got here but the group has been working together for 14 months (on Sarri's style of play) and I think you can see the results."

Lazio's dominance over their opponents was evident from kick-off, and they would have been ahead in the second minute had Ciro Immobile not blasted over a penalty he won just 39 seconds into the match - the earliest ever in a Serie A match. The hosts were soon in the lead however thanks to Zaccagni, who started and finished the move which ended with him tapping home in the 12th minute after exchanging passes with Felipe Anderson. And 12 minutes later Romagnoli was kissing the Lazio badge under the Curva Nord end of the stadium where he went to watch the Roman team as a boy.

Caputi makes history

Milinkovic-Savic hit the bar with a header eight minutes before half-time but the Serbia midfielder rolled home from Danilo Cataldi's pass to make it three just after the hour mark. The 27-year-old then dinked in his 50th Serie A goal in stoppage time which gave



ROME: Spezia's French Moroccan midfielder Mehdi Bourabia clears a ball during the Italian Serie A football match between Lazio and Spezia on October 2, 2022. — AFP

the match a scoreline that reflected the balance of play.

Ferrieri Caputi had one moment of controversy in her Serie A officiating debut, giving Sassuolo the penalty from which Andrea Pinamonti put the hosts two goals ahead six minutes before half-time. Armand Lauriente had already put Sassuolo in the lead in the 12th minute with his first Serie A goal when she whistled for what Salernitana thought was a soft foul on Emil Ceide by Giulio Maggiore. Kristian Thorstvedt, who had laid on Lauriente's opener, then swept home the third in the 53rd minute after rapid counter led by Agustin Alvarez Martinez.

Abdou Harroui made it four with 14 minutes remaining before Janis Antiste rolled in a low finish to complete the rout in stoppage time. Alessio Dionisi's side are now seventh, level on 12 points with Inter

Milan who were beaten by Roma at the San Siro on Saturday and drop down a place to eighth. Monza moved out of the relegation zone thanks to a 3-0 win at the league's bottom side Sampdoria, their second straight victory after beating Juventus before the international break.

Matteo Pessina and Gianluca Caprari both scored their first goals for the club owned by Silvio Berlusconi, who now sit 16th, before Stefano Sensi scored against his former club, whose team were loudly booed by fans after the final whistle. Samp have lost their last four and are four points behind 17th-placed Bologna, who take on Juve in Turin on Sunday night. Lecce drew 1-1 with Cremonese with penalties from Daniel Ciofani and Gabriel Strefezza leaving each side with a point. — AFP

Ten-man Lorient keep it in family as they beat Lille

LORIENT: Even reduced to 10 men on Sunday, Lorient found a way to beat Lille 2-1 and continue an unexpected surge into the Ligue 1 top three. Theo Le Bris, brought on by coach Regis Le Bris, his uncle, 20 minutes earlier, hit his first Ligue 1 goal with three minutes to play to earn Lorient a fifth straight victory. "It's not luck that we scored this goal, we put in a lot of effort," said Theo Le Bris.

The 'Hakes' stayed within a point of second-place Marseille and ensured they would retain third ahead of Lens who play later. "Even with 10 players, I didn't think that the game was lost, and even after the equaliser we didn't collapse, we were able to seize the small opportunity that they left us to win," said coach Regis Le Bris. In the Breton drizzle, the home team took the lead in the eighth minute as Stephane Diarra's shot ricocheted round the goalmouth before rebounding into the net off visiting right back Bafode Diakite.

Lorient were reduced to 10 men in the 62nd minute when Dango Outtara stamped on Adam Ounas and collected a second yellow card. Coach Le Bris responded by bringing on his nephew Theo in the 67th minute Lille leveled a minute later. Ounas cut inside and found Jonathan Bamba in the penalty area. He wrong-footed the defence by passing to Jonathan David who scored into an empty net. Lille continued to push forward, but were caught out when Theo Le Bris, the man from uncle, fired home the winner with a shot between the keeper's leg. "Lorient are a very good team, but they didn't win the game, we lost it," said Lille coach Paulo Fonseca.

Mbappe lifts PSG

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to score the winning goal as Paris Saint-Germain defeated Nice 2-1 on Saturday to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1. French international Mbappe was left out of the starting line-up by coach Christophe Galtier with one eye on Wednesday's Champions League clash at Benfica. That is one of 11 fixtures the French champions face in the six weeks leading up to the World Cup.

Mbappe was replaced by 20-year-old Hugo Ekiteke, who was making his first start for PSG but struggled to make an impact. However, it was fellow superstar Lionel Messi who grabbed the attention when he gave PSG a 29th-minute lead with a sumptuous, curling free-kick from the edge of the box which sailed over the Nice wall and past goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel. "I'm incredibly lucky to see him every morning in training," said Galtier. It was Messi's 60th career goal from free-kicks but first in a PSG shirt. — AFP



LORIENT: Lille's French midfielder Benjamin Andre (left) fights for the ball with Lorient's Nigerian forward Terem Moffi during the French L1 football match between FC Lorient and Lille LOSC on October 2, 2022. — AFP



COLOGNE: Cologne's German defender Benno Schmitz (right) plays the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between FC Cologne and Borussia Dortmund on October 1, 2022. — AFP

Dortmund miss chance to go top with 'bitter' collapse in Cologne

COLOGNE: Borussia Dortmund missed a golden chance to go top of the Bundesliga on Saturday when they surrendered the lead in a "bitter" 3-2 defeat at Cologne. Leaders Union Berlin lost at Frankfurt but Dortmund failed to capitalize just a week ahead of their heavyweight clash with defending champions Bayern Munich.

They led Cologne 1-0 at the break before conceding two costly goals in two minutes early in the second half to leave manager Edin Terzic lamenting his fragile side's third Bundesliga defeat. "It's very disappointing for us - it's very bitter," said Terzic. "We weren't ready to show our toughness (in the second half). "At one of the most important stages in the game, we were not ready to defend our goal."

Cologne manager Steffen Baumgart - whose side have lost only once in the Bundesliga this year - praised his team for "a very good performance". Dortmund led at half-time thanks to a Julian Brandt goal, set up by English teenager Jude Bellingham, who was named captain for the first time due to Mats Hummels' late withdrawal. "We should have done ourselves a favor - we have to do more," said a disappointed Brandt. The visitors dominated the opening half and looked in full control of the game, until Florian Kainz equalized in the 53rd minute.

Former Dortmund striker Steffen Tigges took advantage of poor defending from a Dortmund corner just two minutes later, climbing above the defense to head home. A suddenly disorganized Dortmund continued to defend poorly, giving midfielder Dejan Ljubicic far too much time in the 71st minute, allowing the midfielder to guide in a long-distance shot to put the game beyond doubt. Dortmund pulled one goal

back through a lucky deflection in the 78th minute, but Cologne held on for a deserved victory.

In Saturday's late game, Werder Bremen thrashed Borussia Moenchengladbach 5-1 at home, thanks to two goals from Niclas Füllkrug, who now sits atop the Bundesliga scoring charts with seven goals in eight appearances. While Gladbach, who had conceded just five times in seven games leading into the game, could have edged Dortmund out of fourth place with a victory, Bremen exploded out of the gates and led 3-0 after just 13 minutes.

Bremen added a fourth just before halftime and another in the second half as they secured their first win at home since being promoted from the second division. After the match, Bremen fans chanted for Füllkrug to "fill Germany's hole" up front in the coming World Cup, while the man himself credited his "world-class" team for his impressive form. "I'm in good form and I want to stay in good form, but it's always the team who contributes to that."

First loss for Union

Elsewhere, an early goal from Mario Goetze followed by an individual effort from Jesper Lindstrom guided Frankfurt to a comfortable 2-0 win over Union at home. Frankfurt lost striker Randal Kolo Muani to a second yellow card in the 68th minute, but the home side held firm to beat the previously unbeaten Berliners. Berlin coach Urs Fischer said after the game "we did not bring the basics which usually characterise us onto the pitch". The season's other surprise package alongside Union, Freiburg, moved up to second after a dominant 2-1 win at home against Mainz.

Freiburg sprinted to a 2-0 half-time lead thanks to goals from Michael Gregoritsch and Daniel-Kofi Kyereh, but should have been further ahead and endured some nervy moments late after Mainz's Aaron Caricol scored in the second half. A brace from Timo Werner and a penalty from Christopher Nkunku helped Leipzig to a 4-0 win over struggling Bochum, who are still winless after eight games. In Wolfsburg, an injury-time goal from Yannick Gerhardt helped the home side to a 3-2 win over Stuttgart, just their second victory of the season. — AFP

'Quite emotional' Djokovic cruises into fourth final

TEL AVIV: Novak Djokovic said he felt "quite emotional" after reaching his fourth final of 2022 on Saturday with a straight-sets win over Roman Safiullin in the Tel Aviv semi-finals. The 35-year-old Djokovic triumphed 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) and will look to win his third title of the season, and 89th of his career, when he tackles Croatia's Marin Cilic in Sunday's final. Former US Open champion Cilic defeated 68th-ranked Constant Lestienne of France 7-5, 6-3 in his semi-final having trailed 2-5 in the first set.

"I think it was a very competitive match, especially in the second set," said Djokovic after reaching his 127th final. "I must say I was quite emotional on the court today in the second set, there was a lot of tension, and that was also due to his aggressive style of tennis. Big serves, and when he has time, he's so solid from the forehand and backhand corner." Former world number one Djokovic raced to a 5-0 lead on his way to capturing the opening set in just 23 minutes without facing a break point.

However, Safiullin, the world number 104 bidding to make an ATP final for the first time, was far more competitive in the second set. He had two break points which Djokovic saved in the sixth game. The 25-year-old Russian was made to pay when the 21-time Grand Slam winner broke for a 5-4 lead. Safiullin battled back to 6-6 before Djokovic swept through the tiebreaker, securing victory after 94 minutes on court.

"I knew that I had to stay very strong, and that he was definitely going to raise his level in the second set, which happened," added Djokovic. "I was serving for the match and played a couple of loose points, but credit to him for fighting back. It was an enjoyable evening on the court for sure." Djokovic, who has titles in Rome and at Wimbledon this year, is currently seventh in the rankings and as a Grand Slam winner only needs to finish in the top 20 to guarantee a place in the ATP Finals. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Red Bull Racing's Mexican driver Sergio Perez (right) leads at the start of the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix night race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit on October 2, 2022. — AFP

Red Bull's Perez wins Singapore Grand Prix as Verstappen seventh

SINGAPORE: Sergio Perez won a rain-affected Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday meaning his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen, who finished seventh, must wait at least another week to retain his Formula One world championship. The Mexican took the chequered flag 7.5sec ahead of the Ferrari of Charles Leclerc, whose teammate Carlos Sainz was third in the night race that started more than an hour late because of a storm. Verstappen had a mathematical chance to clinch a second world title in Singapore, but needed to win and have other results go his way.

The Dutchman was always going to struggle after starting eighth on the grid at the Marina Bay Street Circuit but he battled back from a slow start where he dropped to 13th to finish seventh. It means his world championship lead over Leclerc has been cut to 104 points ahead of next week's Japanese Grand Prix. Perez is two points behind Leclerc. Verstappen will need to be 112 points ahead at the end of next Sunday's race in Suzuka to retain his title.

It means a win will be enough for Verstappen if Leclerc fails to finish second. "It was certainly my best performance," Perez said. "I controlled the race. The last three laps were so intense. When I got out of the car, I felt it. I gave everything today." Perez was under investigation for an infringement under one of numerous safety car periods during the race, and potentially faces a time penalty that could hand the victory to Ferrari.

"I have no idea what's going on, they just told me I was under investigation and to increase the gap," Perez said. Leclerc started on pole but had a sluggish getaway on intermediate tyres in the slippery conditions allowing Perez to reach the first corner in the lead. "I pushed all the way," said Leclerc. "The bad start put us on the back foot and it was a really difficult race after that. "I need a good night's sleep and to get ready for Japan." Sainz said he felt he could never threaten the front two after he crossed the line 7.7sec behind his teammate. "It was very tough out there," Sainz said. "I never really got into a rhythm in the wet and then couldn't challenge the top two guys. "I had to settle for P3, but the good thing is I didn't do any mistakes and could bring the car home and be quick towards the end of the race." — AFP

Sports

Chaos before stampede delivered disaster to Indonesia football fans

Victims trampled or choked to death

News in brief

Nishioka beats Shapovalov

SEOUL: Yoshihito Nishioka stunned fourth seed Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) to win the Korea Open on Sunday for his second ATP title. The Japanese player is set to rise to a career-high 41 after adding the Seoul crown to his triumph at the 2018 Shenzhen Open in China. Nishioka defeated world number two Casper Ruud on the way to the final and he was neck-and-neck in the first set against Canada's Shapovalov, until he broke in the 10th game to take the first set. Shapovalov, who was also chasing a second title, took the upper hand early in the second set. But the 27-year-old Nishioka bounced back, levelling the set and then powering on to win the match and the title on the tie-break. Nishioka also topped fifth seed Dan Evans earlier in the tournament. "I feel amazing, two titles is great for me," he said. "I was actually very excited to play here and I think that was good for my performance."

Penrith dominate Parramatta

SYDNEY: The Penrith Panthers won their second consecutive Australian National Rugby League title with a 28-12 grand final thumping of Parramatta in Sydney on Sunday. The Panthers were always in control against their fellow Western Sydney rivals, scoring five tries to two in a dominant display in front of 82,000 fans at Sydney's Olympic Stadium. Led superbly by half-back Nathan Cleary, Penrith opened the scoring after 10 minutes and kept the Eels scoreless until the last five minutes, when Parramatta crossed for two consolation tries. The Panthers outmuscled and outplayed their opponents, who were never in contention for what would have been an upset win against a side that only lost four matches throughout the season. "I think that first half was the best we've ever played," Cleary said. Cleary's co-captain Isaah Yeo said it was important to win the early confrontations.

Ghana to face Morocco

JOHANNESBURG: Resurgent Ghana will face title-holders Morocco in the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Algeria after eliminating fierce rivals Nigeria in a qualifier. Ghana were runners-up in two of the first three editions of the biennial competition, which is restricted to stars playing in their country of birth, then failed to qualify three times. Morocco became the first country to win back-to-back CHAN tournaments in 2021, defeating Mali 2-0 in the final in Yaounde. Ghana and Morocco were joined in Group C by Sudan and debutants Madagascar after the draw was made in an Algiers opera house on Saturday. Hosts Algeria, who qualified for only one of the previous six editions, were placed in Group A with Libya, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Algeria will face shock 2014 winners Libya in the opening match of the tournament on January 13 at the Baraki Stadium in Algiers.

European Super League

MADRID: Real Madrid president Florentino Perez again insisted on the idea of a European Super League when speaking at a club members assembly on Sunday. In April 2021 a dozen of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to a controversial new project but it crumbled after a strong backlash from supporters and football's governing bodies. Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project. "The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete format," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts." "The objective of the Super League is to modernize football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality."

Making Nazi salutes

SYDNEY: Soccer bosses vowed on Sunday to act swiftly against fans accused of making Nazi salutes and shouting over an Indigenous welcoming ceremony at the Australia Cup final, prompting widespread outrage. Fans at the game between A-League side Macarthur FC and semi-professional Sydney United 58 on Saturday were also heard chanting far-right Croatian songs, newspapers reported. Football Australia said it "strongly condemns" what it described as a small minority of the 16,461 spectators during Macarthur's 2-0 win over the team formerly known as Sydney Croatia. Eight people were evicted from western Sydney's CommBank Stadium, it said. "Football Australia is today assessing all footage and images available of certain individuals which are of concern to our organization and the broader Australian football community, including the display of the 'Hitler salute'," the governing body said. —From AFP

MALANG: Sam Gilang rushed to the exit of the Indonesian football stadium with thousands of other terrified spectators as police fired tear gas and hit fans with batons, creating a stampede that claimed at least 125 lives. "People were pushing each other and... many were trampled on their way to the exit gate," the 22-year-old survivor told AFP.

Spectators—including women and children—pushed and stepped on one another, scrambling through the packed terrace gasping for air, to reach any exit at Kanjuruhan stadium in the city of Malang, East Java. Many of the victims were trampled or choked to death, police said, in what is one of the worst disasters in sporting history. Gilang lost three friends in the crush. "It was so terrifying, so shocking," he said.

A domino effect of tragic events unfolded after the final whistle in a 3-2 win for visiting team Persebaya Surabaya—the bitter rivals of Malang city's Arema FC. Several thousand fans descended to the pitch—some angry, some who wanted to join the crowd to shake the hands of players for home team Arema FC after the loss to their fierce rivals. With horns blaring and obscenities shouted at the police from the crowd, they watched as their fellow fans ran across the grass.

But the police tried to force fans back into the confined stands, pushing them with their batons and riot shields. They then unleashed a hail of tear gas on the terraces in front of the stadium's exit gates 12 and 13. Police said there was a "riot" but some witnesses rebuffed that description of events. "There was no riot. I don't know what the issue was, they suddenly fired tear gas," 43-year-old spectator Doni, who declined to give his last name, told AFP. "That's what shocked me, didn't they think about kids, women?"

'Smoke spread everywhere'

Panic set in as the canisters rained down, causing hundreds to rush for the exit points. "Smoke spread everywhere, I got hit and I panicked. The exit was already too crowded. I was confused and scared about which to take," said 17-year-old Fian, who

Kipruto, Yehualaw triumph at London Marathon

LONDON: Kenyan Amos Kipruto marked his London Marathon debut with a decisive victory on Sunday as Ethiopian 23-year-old Yalemzerf Yehualaw became the youngest winner of the women's race. It was a maiden London victory for Yehualaw in what was just the second marathon of her career. The 30-year-old Kipruto, a world bronze medalist in Doha in 2019, crossed the line in London in two hours, four minutes and 39 seconds after breaking away late on. Leul Gebresilase of Ethiopia finished second in 2:05:12, with Bashir Abdi of Belgium third in 2:05:19. Ethiopian distance great Kenenisa Bekele was fifth with compatriot Sisay Lemma, last year's London Marathon winner, seventh.

Kipruto, understandably elated by his victory, said: "This is my London debut and it's a wonderful day. 'I'm very, very happy I won, but I can't explain how I won. I decided to make a decisive break because of my training—I was confident and I knew when to go.' Yehualaw's winning time of 2:17:26 was just three seconds outside the personal best she set at Hamburg in April when making the fastest debut in any women's marathon.

Her time was also the third fastest in the history of the women's London Marathon. Defending London champion Joyciline Jepkosgei was second, the Kenyan finishing in 2:18:07, with Ethiopia's Alemu Megertu third in 2:18:32. Yehualaw's victory was all the more

Japanese dream as Soumillon bids for Arc redemption

PARIS: Around two thousand Japanese racing fans made their annual pilgrimage to Longchamp racecourse on Sunday hoping one of their four runners will finally crack the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at the 18th attempt. Widely regarded as Europe's greatest race the quartet is a record entry for Japan in the Arc—there are a maximum 20 runners in all—which has seen them finish second on several occasions.

Titleholder and Japan Derby winner Do Deuce are their best hopes of making history with Deep Bond, who finished a tailed off last in 2021, and veteran Stay Foolish their other runners. Their colors were posted up on four doors near the grandstands with good luck messages written on them by Japanese turfists.

Stay Foolish's rider Christophe Lemaire has won multiple Japanese jockey titles since moving there in 2015 after a successful spell in France and he understands Japan's passion for the race. "To win an Arc would be the Holy Grail knowing what it represents for the Japanese," he said. How the expected 30,000 spectators react should Christophe Soumillon win on Vadeni may have French racing authority France Galop crossing their fingers it is not whistles and boos.

The 41-year-old Belgian ace is due to start a 60 day ban in a fortnight after elbowing rival Rossa Ryan at Saint Cloud on Friday resulting in him



MALANG: Security personnel (lower) on the pitch after a football match between Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya at Kanjuruhan stadium in Malang, East Java. At least 127 people died at a football stadium in Indonesia late on October 1 when fans invaded the pitch and police responded with tear gas, triggering a stampede, officials said. — AFP

declined to give his last name. With his eyes stinging and unable to breathe, Fian recalled people shouting to each other, "escape through the emergency exit to your left!"—potentially directing hundreds to a doorway only wide enough for one person.

Those who managed to get out emerged carrying lifeless bodies out of the stadium, inciting fury among the escaped spectators. Supporters threw any item they could find—rocks, plastic bottles—at police as officials tried to evacuate from the stadium. Toppling police cars and trucks, furious fans set them ablaze in an act of revenge for what had transpired. "The police were so arrogant, they could have just directed the supporters," Gilang said. "It's

enough to use the batons, no need to use tear gas."

Back in the stadium, one of Gilang's friends lay dead in the home team's changing room, carried there after being trampled to death. In the immediate aftermath, Indonesia is grappling with its own Hillsborough moment—the 1987 disaster in England that led to the deaths of 97 Liverpool fans during an FA Cup semi-final. President Joko Widodo said an investigation into Indonesia's tragedy will follow, as well as a safety review into all football matches—which are suspended until "security improvements" are completed. But improvements or not, "now my parents said I am not allowed to go watch football anymore," survivor Fian said. — AFP



LONDON: (Left to right) Second place, Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei, winner, Ethiopia's Yalemzerf Yehualaw and third place, Ethiopia's Alemu Megertu, pose at the presentation for the women's race at the 2022 London Marathon in central London on October 2, 2022. — AFP

impressive as she appeared to trip on a speed bump with six miles to go. Nevertheless, the women's 10 kilometre world-record holder recovered to rejoin the leading pack.

Yehualaw surged clear with four miles to go and Jepkosgei was unable to reel her in. Yehualaw's break-away included an astounding 4:43 mile split in the 24th mile. It appeared the world record for a women's-only marathon of 2:17:01 was under threat, but Yehualaw was happy just finishing first. "I really like this race," she said. "I knew it was fast paced and I was aware we were on world record-breaking time at one point, but I just focused on running as fast as I could."

'Legend' Kipchoge among London absentees -

Several leading runners were ruled out of this year's race in London through injury, including British hope Mo Farah, while four-time winner Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya opted against competing after smashing his own world record by half a minute in last week's Berlin Marathon in a time of 2:01:09.

"Kipchoge is an inspiration for us all and he is a legend for the young generation in Kenya," said Kipruto. "He is another level in sport and has been a mentor to me. I really wish to follow in his footsteps. I'm so proud to be here." The women's race was without world record-holder Brigid Kosgei, the 2021 and 2021 champion. The Kenyan withdrew because of a hamstring injury. — AFP



PARIS: British jockey Luke Morris (left) riding on 'Alpinista' crosses the finish line to win The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse race ahead of Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon riding Vadeni (center) and Italian jockey Lanfranco Dettori riding Torquator Tasso at The Paris Longchamp racecourse on October 2, 2022. — AFP

falling. Neither France Galop nor David Redvers, a co-owner of a horse Soumillon rides later on Sunday, are happy he refused to stand down for the most high profile racing weekend in France. Under French racing rules a ban comes into force a fortnight after the punishment is handed out.

Soumillon rides French Derby winner Vadeni for his employer the Aga Khan—the jockey's two previous wins on Dalakhani (2003) and Zarkava (2008) were for him—and his daughter Princess Zahra made plain on Saturday their dismay with his actions. "Obviously it was an unconscionable and an unthinkable thing to happen and to do. It was very difficult to watch," she said. "We talked about it (the incident) of course but it was too close to racing

this weekend to do anything."

Frankie Dettori is another riding legend who has had his ups and downs this season but the exuberant Italian has a peach of a ride as he seeks a record-extending seventh Arc win on last year's winner Torquator Tasso. The 2021 champion—one of two German runners in the race—has a disadvantageous outside draw (18 of 20) but Dettori is not put off by that having guided Golden Horn to victory in 2015 from 14. Torquator Tasso, an 80-1 outsider last year, would become the ninth to win the race twice and the eighth to win it back to back. "We pulled off a miracle from a wide draw and trip on Golden Horn back in 2015 - I'll never forget that one!" the 51-year-old told his Sporting Index blog. — AFP

Sports

Barcelona edge Mallorca 1-0 as Atletico dominate sorry Sevilla

Lewandowski strike earns Barca narrow win at Mallorca

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski's lethal finish sent Barcelona provisionally top of La Liga with a tight 1-0 win at Real Mallorca on Saturday. Marc-Andre ter Stegen kept a fifth consecutive clean sheet in the top flight and, along with Lewandowski's brilliantly taken strike in the 20th minute, it was enough to put Barcelona one point clear of Real Madrid, who host Osasuna on Sunday.

Earlier Atletico Madrid cruised to a 2-0 win over a toothless Sevilla, increasing the pressure on Julen Lopetegui. Marcos Llorente and Alvaro Morata's goals took Atletico provisionally up to sixth, while leaving the hosts 16th, just a point above the relegation zone. In Mallorca, Xavi Hernandez's side demonstrated they are ironing out the creases which caused them so many problems last season, improving both defensively and in attack, with the relentless Lewandowski leading the charge.

Barcelona's coach earned a new domestic record of 18 consecutive league matches on the road without defeat, moving ahead of former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane. Ter Stegen, who has started this season in top form,

beat his own personal record of 500 minutes without conceding in La Liga, reaching 534 minutes and counting.

At the other end, Lewandowski leads the scoring charts in Spain on nine goals from seven games, after clinically curling into the bottom corner to break the deadlock against Mallorca. "This win will help us ahead of some very tricky weeks," Ter Stegen told Movistar. "The record isn't as important as the win. I'm sure it will give me confidence. These wins put you in a good dynamic, these games mean a lot. "They help us maintain the pressure on Real Madrid."

Showing grit

Xavi deployed young left-back Alejandro Balde out of position on the right side of his defense because of injuries to Ronald Araujo, Jules Kounde and Hector Bellerin, and brought Ansu Fati into the starting line-up. It was the 19-year-old's first start in La Liga since November 2021, after a string of injury problems, and his burst forward contributed to Barcelona's opening goal. The winger, left out of Luis Enrique's most recent Spain

squad and desperate to impress to try and get the call-up for the World Cup, fed Lewandowski, who cut inside and finished like few others can.

Mallorca should have leveled 15 minutes later but Marc-Andre ter Stegen made a superb save to deny Jaume Costa from close range. Barcelona struggled to create more openings and the game threatened to boil over, with a flurry of bookings and Xavi's assistant and brother, Oscar Hernandez, being issued a red card for apparent dissent. Kang-in Lee sent a shot agonizingly wide of the far post as Mallorca tried to hit Barcelona on the counter at the death.

In previous seasons Barcelona might have caved, but Xavi's side are starting to prove their fortitude. "Generally we did very well, we limited them to just two chances, Ter Stegen made a brilliant save and Lewandowski scored a great goal," said Xavi. "(However) it would be poor to limit it to that. We defended very well. They are players that make the difference, but I would say the team competed well." At the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan and with only one win from seven

league games, Sevilla supporters jeered their own side.

Sevilla coach Lopetegui said he would focus on the things he could control, amid speculation the club are considering his future. "I'm focused on what's up to me, these are circumstances intrinsic to football," said Lopetegui. "The situation is not one we wanted. I'm sure the team will turn it around. I am sad today, being weak is something else." Atletico dominated, with Morata missing two big chances and Llorente drilling into the far corner in the 29th minute, beyond the reach of Bono. After a mistake by Jose Carmona, Morata doubled the lead before the hour mark, neatly lofting home.

Only impressive saves from Bono prevented Cunha and substitute Antoine Griezmann from adding to Atletico's lead, as they answered their critics after derby defeat by Real Madrid. "The team was a team again, we worked all together," Atletico coach Simeone told DAZN. Earlier Villarreal, sixth, could not find a way past Cadiz goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma in a 0-0 draw on the road, while Real Valladolid won 3-2 at Getafe. —AFP



Kuwait Special Olympics organize training course

KUWAIT: The course of studies to prepare specialists in games and contests management system of Special Olympics was concluded at Abdullah Al-Salem Leaders center. The course was organized by Kuwait Special Olympics in cooperation with the regional headquarters of Special Olympics MENA. There were 20 participants.

International lecturer at the Special Olympics on the Games Management System (GMS) and sports Olympics Mustafa Hassouna lectured during the course. Participants were trained on data-base program of managing and recording games and events data along with results and reports of all sports events of the Special Olympics.

The program divides athletes according to the elements of Special Olympics (gender, age, athletic ability), as well as the application of various sports



laws. Chairwoman of Kuwait Special Olympics Hanaa Al-Zawawi said they were keen to improve the Special Olympics system. She hoped that participants will contribute to the Special Olympics

abilities to organize the largest number of Championships in all games, which will positively reflect on the level of events, and improvement of players' performance.

Kuwait Triathlon National Team shines

KUWAIT: Kuwait Triathlon National Team won three gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze in the Asia Cup Championship 2022 which was held in Aqaba, Jordan on Saturday. Abdelaziz Al-Duaij took gold medal in the Under-30; Salman Al-Saffar grabbed the gold medal in 30-50 age group; Najlaa Al-Jraiwi won the gold medal in 30-50 group, while Usams Burahma won the silver medal in Under-30. Also, Huda Al-Saleh took Under-30 medal; Noura Al-Barrak won the bronze medal for Under-30.

Chairman of Kuwait Triathlon Club and Federation Rashed Al-Kandary congratulated the athletes for their achievement in the championship. He said "Kuwait athletes proved their ability to compete with the best. He said the participation in Asia Cup is part of the Federation's agenda in the new season, and is a preparation for the Triathlon World Championship in Abu Dhabi which will be held on November 23-26.



Rangers hit 10-man Hearts as Motherwell make Celtic to sweat

GLASGOW: Celtic remain two points clear of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premiership after contrasting victories for the Glasgow giants on Saturday. Rangers were rampant in a 4-0 win at Hearts to briefly move to the top of the table. Celtic bounced back from their first league defeat in a year before the international break, but only just as they beat Motherwell 2-1 and had captain Callum McGregor sent off late on.

Hearts were also made to pay for a first-half red card shown to Cammy Devlin, but they were already trailing 2-0 by the time the Australian international was given his marching orders for a stamp on Rabbi Matondo. Antonio Colak struck twice inside half an hour to take his tally to 11 goals in 14 games for Rangers

Alfredo Morelos and Ryan Kent then scored late on as Rangers enjoyed the perfect preparation for their trip to face Liverpool in the Champions League on Tuesday. "It's good to see different players on the scoresheet but I think Colak's performance was really good," said Rangers boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst. "Apart from his goals, he is very important the way he puts energy in the team." Celtic moved back to the top of the table thanks to goals from Japanese internationals Kyogo Furuhashi and Reo Hatate.

However, the Hoops were nearly undone at Celtic Park by a calamity of errors. After Furuhashi forced home Matt O'Riley's header to open the scoring, Motherwell were gifted a route back into the game when Josip Juranovic chested the ball into his own net in a misunderstanding with Joe Hart. Hatate grabbed the winner in style with a sensational strike from outside the box 25 minutes from time. But he nearly undid that good work with a slack pass a minute from time that forced McGregor to haul down Ross Tierney and take a red card for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity.

"We certainly created enough chances to win the game more comfortable than we did," said Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou. "A couple of self-inflicted wounds probably made it closer than it should have been." Defeat for Hearts handed St Mirren the chance to move up to third as they backed up their 2-0 win over Celtic a fortnight ago by beating Livingston 2-1. Hibernian are up to fourth after they were 2-0 winners at Ross County, while Aberdeen beat Kilmarnock 4-1. Dundee United remain rooted to the foot of the table after losing 2-1 at home to St Johnstone in Liam Fox's first match as permanent manager. —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
Khaldiya	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, AMEER BASHA SHAIK S/O SHAIK SYED HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT NO. M8395064 ISSUED AT KUWAIT ON 01/10/2015 & CIVIL ID NO. 270020803046 HAS CHANGED MY NAME FROM AMEER BASHA SHAIK TO AHAMAD BASHA SHAIK IN ALL MY DEALINGS AND DOCUMENTS, I WILL BE KNOWN BY NAME

OF AHAMAD BASHA (GIVEN NAME) AND SHAIK (SURNAME). name to Mohammed Aslam. (C#2414) — 3/10/2022

I, SULTHANSHA AMEEN, holder of Passport No. L3465469, issued in Kuwait, date 9/10/2013, hereby change my name to MOHAMEDAMINE ABOUBAKER for all purposes. (C# 2412) - 30-09-2022



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland scores his team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Manchester United on October 2, 2022. — AFP

Man City thrash United; Foden and Haaland score hat-tricks

West Ham climb out of the relegation zone

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday. Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

"You can see the passes we give each other. We always want to go forward and to attack," Haaland told Sky Sports. "It's what I love about the team. In the end, it's amazing. There is nothing more to say." Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag. But the Red Devils were given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants. City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.

Within four minutes it took two goal-line clearances and a fine save from David de Gea to deny Haaland, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva the opening goal. Four minutes later, City did open the

floodgates when Foden swept home Silva's cross for the Manchester native's first derby goal. Ilkay Gundogan's free-kick hit the post and Foden blasted another big chance wide before Haaland inevitably made his mark on 34 minutes.

Haaland's hat-trick haul

United were left to bemoan the absence of Raphael Varane to defend a De Bruyne corner as he received treatment on an ankle injury that forced him off at half-time. Without the Frenchman, there was no match for Haaland's presence in the penalty box as his header crossed the line before Tyrell Malacia's attempted clearance.

Moments later, City showcased their ability to counter-attack as Jack Grealish fed De Bruyne, who perfectly picked out Haaland to convert on the stretch at the back post. Haaland then turned provider with a low cross that Foden converted to leave United trailing 4-0 at half-time for the third time in a year. Unlike, in a 5-0 defeat at Old Trafford to Liverpool last season and at Brentford last month, there was some semblance of a United response after the break. Antony smashed home his second goal in as many Premier League appearances since a £82 million (\$92 million) move from Ajax.

But Haaland quickly reclaimed centre stage with a thumping finish to meet Sergio Gomez's cross. Michael Owen's record of three hat-tricks in his first 48 appearances had stood as a Premier

League record for over two decades, but Haaland has needed just eight. City were on course to match the record margin of victory in a Manchester derby when Haaland set up Foden to smash home and complete his hat-trick.

That was Foden's final involvement as he was withdrawn in a quadruple change as Guardiola could afford to also hand a rest to De Bruyne, Gundogan and Grealish. United took advantage of City taking their foot off the accelerator in the final 10 minutes as substitute Martial scored twice to cut the arrears. Ten Hag left Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench for the full match and his decision to instead give Martial a chance to impress on his return from injury proved correct. The Frenchman headed in the rebound after Ederson parried Fred's shot and then emphatically fired home from the penalty spot.

On Saturday, Newcastle ended their six-match winless run in the league as Eddie Howe's men swept to a 4-1 rout of 10-man Fulham at Craven Cottage. Everton won 2-1 at Southampton as Conor Coady and Dwight McNeil both scored their first goals for the club after Joe Aribo put the hosts in front. West Ham climbed out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 win against fellow strugglers Wolves at the London Stadium. Gianluca Scamacca scored his first Premier League goal in the 29th minute and Jarrod Bowen clinched the points in the 54th minute. Bournemouth and Brentford shared a goalless draw at Dean Court. — AFP

Qatar prepares Luxury, budget rooms for WCup

DOHA: Fifty days before the World Cup kicks off in Qatar, workers are pouring concrete and hammering through the night to ready luxury hotels and bargain apartments for a million or more football fans. Hundreds of migrants are laboring inside the 211 meter high Katara Towers, dramatically shaped like intertwined scimitar swords, where VIP guests of world football's governing body FIFA will stay during the tournament.

The wealthiest will pay thousands of dollars a night for rooms with marble wine cellars and a lobby with one of the world's biggest chandeliers. Yet mountains of sand sit on the steps and some of the smoked glass windows are yet to be installed at this landmark on the Lusail seafloor close to the stadium that will host the final.

"Everyone is working around the clock," said one engineer on the project, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It will be touch and go whether everything is installed to suit people paying so much," this expert told AFP. A spokesperson for the Accor group, which will run the Fairmont and Raffles hotels in Katara Towers, insisted they would be ready for "FIFA guests" during the World Cup and then officially open after the tournament.

Frenzied work is being carried out across Doha. Forty kilometers away in Barwa Barahat Al Janoub, another army of laborers works under floodlights at night and scorching sunlight in the day, to ready apartments for fans paying \$84 a night for a steel bed in a shared room. The Barwa complex, out in the semi-desert, is expected to house more than 7,500 World Cup fans and will later be used for the thousands of foreign workers who keep Qatar's oil- and gas-fueled economy moving.

A source on the project—which is 10 kilometers from a metro station—said that hundreds of rooms still need to be finished and that workers were engaged in "a furious race against time". A spokesperson for the Qatar organizing committee said: "All of the accommodation options at the FIFA World Cup 2022 will be ready in good time before fans, teams and officials arrive in Qatar for the tournament."

A "comfortable inventory" exists for teams and fans, this spokesperson added. Positioned at opposite extremes, the sword-shaped towers and austere workers' rooms will play key roles in housing supporters of the 32 nations taking part in the World Cup from November 20. Organizers say that more than one million fans will visit and that 130,000 rooms will be usable in hotels, apartments, cruise ships and desert tents. — AFP

Kuwait book AFC Futsal Asian Cup quarterfinal

KUWAIT: Abdulrahman Al-Masbahi scored at the end of the first half to earn Kuwait a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Iraq on Saturday as the host nation progressed to the AFC Futsal Asian Cup quarterfinal from Group A, alongside group leaders Thailand. The host nation went into the game with one point in hand over their regional neighbors - both possessing an equal chance to progress.

But, Abdulrahman Al-Masbahi's leveler in the 21st minute was enough to send the home crowd into a frenzy. Meanwhile, Thailand crushed Oman aside in a huge 6-1 defeat as they cruised to the quarterfinals first in the group. In Group B, Tajikistan squeezed through to the next round ahead of Turkmenistan in a match that witnessed a heavy 8-5 scoreline.

The highly-contested affair presented both with an opportunity to progress, with Uzbekistan having already made it through. However, it was the Tajiks who had the upper hand over the Central Asian showdown. The quarterfinals see Kuwait facing Group B winners Uzbekistan and Group A leaders Thailand drawn against Tajikistan, with



2018 champions Iran from Group C, having already progressed after a two-match unbeaten run and a difficult to beat 14-goal margin - with all matches played on Tuesday.

Three Group C sides - Indonesia (3 points), Lebanon (1 point) and Chinese Taipei (1 point) - will contest one remaining vacant group spot in the quarterfinals on Wednesday with Vietnam (6 points), Saudi Arabia (3 points) and 2018 runners-up Japan (3 points) fighting out two in Group D. Current 2018 champions Iran have amassed the most silverware in the competition with 12 titles, while only Japan, who were runners-up that same year, trail with three. — KUNA

