

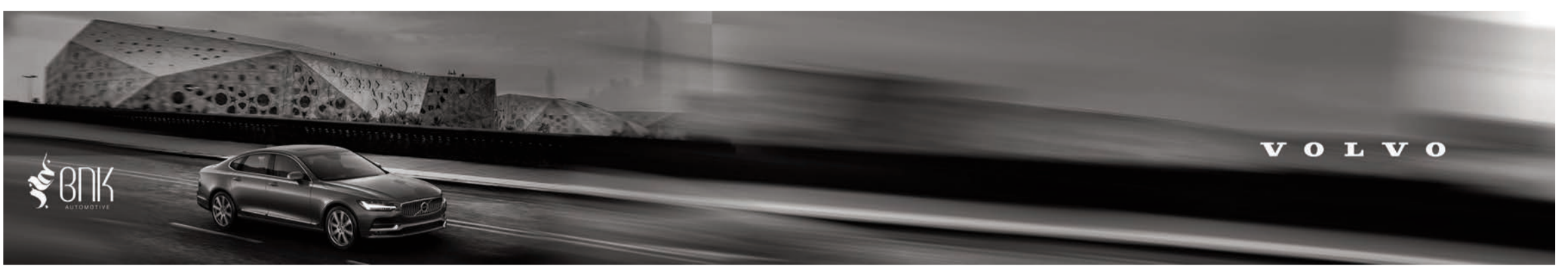


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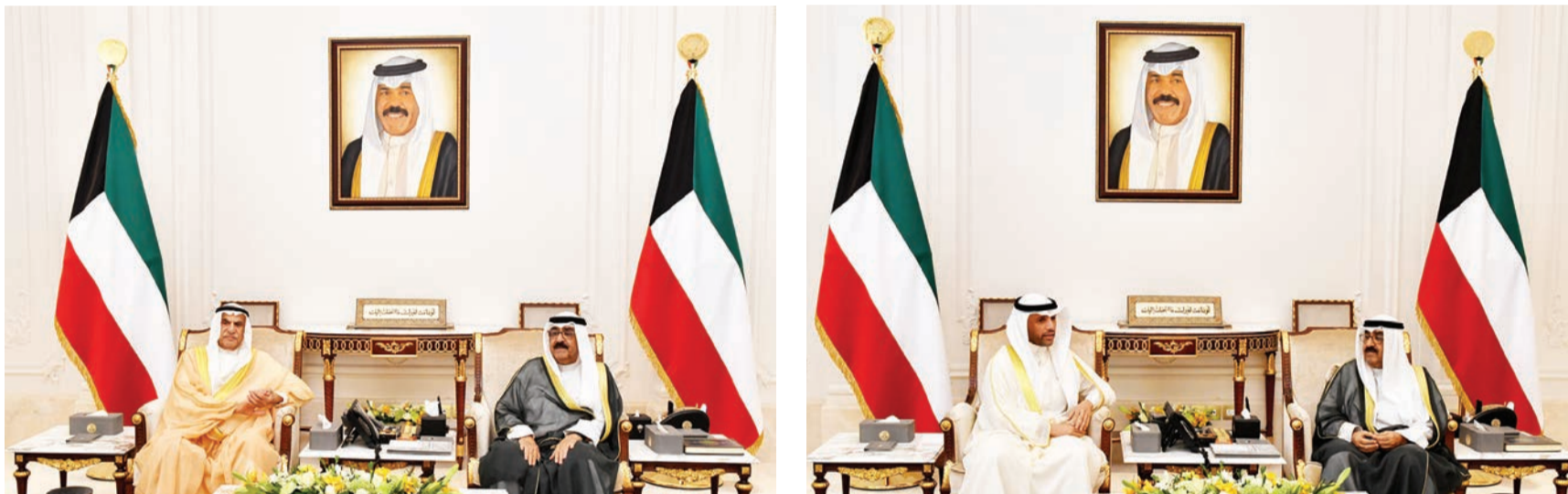
The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf

RABIA ALAWWAL 8, 1444 AH  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022



## Crown Prince begins traditional consultations to name premier

Jailed lawmaker freed, another still in prison • MPs to submit pardon bill



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets former parliament speakers Ahmad Al-Saadoun (left) and Marzouq Al-Ghanem (right) on Oct 3, 2022. —KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah launched on Monday customary consultations to name the prime minister by meeting former parliament speakers Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Ahmad Al-Saadoun. HH the Crown Prince is also expected to meet former prime ministers HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah as part of the consultations required by the constitution.

He is likely to meet HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, who is highly expected to be asked to form the next government that will deal with a new National Assembly dominated by the opposition. The new Cabinet must be formed and sworn in by HH the Crown Prince before the new Assembly is scheduled to hold its inaugural session on Oct 11 to hear an Amiri address, then elect the new speaker.

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## Kuwaiti investments in Egypt top \$15bn, PM keen for more

CAIRO: Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Monday praised the depth of relations between Egypt and Kuwait, stressing his country's keenness to strengthen them and increase the volume of Kuwaiti investments to serve the interests of the two countries and peoples. This came during Madbouly's meeting with a Kuwaiti delegation that included a number of businessmen headed by Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and head of the Kuwaiti side of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council Mohammed Jassem Al-Sager at the headquarters of the Egyptian Investment Authority.

Egyptian Finance Minister Mohamed Maait revealed the value of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt has surpassed \$15 billion. During the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Economic Forum on Monday, Maait said volume of trade between Kuwait and Egypt reached \$5 billion, adding that Kuwait is Egypt's third largest Arab trade partner and fourth largest global partner among countries with investments in Egypt.

Madbouly expressed his country's readiness to increase the volume of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt during the coming period and its keenness to strengthen partnership with the local and international private sector, "especially with the stimulus policies adopted by the state to support the private sector". Sager said Kuwait has paid attention to developments of the Egyptian economic reform program since 2016, explaining that "our presence represents most sectors in the Kuwaiti economy, which reflects the extent of interest in the Egyptian market". — KUNA (See Page 3)



CAIRO: Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly poses for a photo with a visiting Kuwaiti delegation headed by Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Al-Sager. — KUNA

## UAE opens economy ministry in metaverse

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates, which already boasts the world's tallest skyscraper and has launched a bold Mars mission, now hopes to become a pioneer in the depths of the metaverse. In a project launched at Dubai's gleaming Museum of the Future, it announced that the UAE's economy ministry was setting up shop inside the immersive virtual world that is now taking shape. Those who don their virtual reality goggles or use other means to venture within will find a ministry open for business with companies and even ready to sign bilateral agreements with foreign governments, officials said.

The metaverse is an online world where users will eventually be able to game, work and study, its proponents say - although it is still in a "test" phase, the UAE's economy minister conceded. Abdulla bin Touq Al-Marri was speaking at the inaugural Dubai Metaverse Assembly, held at the museum whose innovative ring shape decorated with Arabic calligraphy flanks the city's main thoroughfare.

Representatives of tech giants mingled with entrepreneurs and developers exploring the



DUBAI: Photo taken on June 20, 2022 shows a view of the Museum of the Future. — AFP

potential of the metaverse, a network of digital spaces intended as an extension of the physical world. "In the last couple of years we've seen investments, we've seen companies move in, and with the changes of the (visa) regime... we see talent coming in," Marri told AFP in an interview. "We trained our employees to really immerse themselves in the metaverse, use the metaverse

Continued on Page 6

## Neanderthal DNA sequencer wins medicine Nobel

STOCKHOLM: Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal and discovered the previously unknown hominin Denisova, on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize. Paabo's research gave rise to an entirely new scientific discipline called paleogenetics, and has "generated new understanding of our evolutionary history", the Nobel committee said. "By revealing genetic differences that distinguish all living humans from extinct hominins, his discoveries provide the basis for exploring what makes us uniquely human," it said in a statement.

Paabo - the founder and director of the department of genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig - found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. "This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections," the jury said.

One such example is that COVID-19 patients with a snippet of Neanderthal DNA run a higher



LEIPZIG: This undated handout picture shows Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo. — AFP

risk of severe complications from the disease, Paabo found in a 2020 study. The secretary of the Nobel Medicine Prize committee, Thomas Perlmann, told reporters Paabo was "overwhelmed" and "speechless" on Monday when he called him in Leipzig, Germany, to share the good news.

Paabo, 67, takes home the award sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$901,500). He is one of the rare Nobel science laureates to win the prize alone. Major scientific discoveries are usually awarded to two or three people to reflect large team collaborations. The last single medicine laureate was Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan in 2016.

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## Kuwait, Years From Now

Student Art Competition 2022

Strategic Partner

SOON

## Local

## Bishts continue to entice Kuwait



KUWAIT: Jaded photographs from Tamimi's trips to China and Japan where he observed sewers at work.



A close-up of the intricate sewing pattern on a bisht.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Making bishts - a traditional men's cloak popular in the Gulf region - is considered one of the most important traditional handicrafts and the oldest. The traditional bisht is in high demand by many Kuwaitis, who wear them at weddings and on several occasions, where it exudes a very royal and luxury look. Saeed Al-Tamimi told Kuwait Times about his journey in the world of bishts since 1962.

Tamimi, who owns several shops in Souk Mubarakiya in Kuwait City, began his journey when he was 10 years old, when his first family-owned shop was located in the old bishoot market. "I have been working in this field since I was 10 years old. The shop was in the middle of the old bishoot market. We lived our lives there, and witnessed the market's development through the years," he added.

Tamimi's shop is always crowded with women, as his shop is not limited to making bishts, but also abayas - a loose-fitting robe worn by women. His shop's reputation has extended for generations. People know him as an expert who specializes in taking measurement with his bare eyes, with extensive experience in knowing the quality and details of raw materials.

"We started as a partnership with Al-Baghli in the bishoot market. My father took me along to learn the craft in my childhood. We have roots in this trade and we have been working in the bisht field for a long time," he said. "In the seventies, we went as a group of specialists in the abaya and bisht trade in a Kuwaiti delegation to China. There was synergy in the market in the past and we were not competing," he added.



Saeed Al-Tamimi

Tamimi revealed the industry has developed - where in the past there were five to six colors of bishts, now it has reached more than 58 colors in fabrics imported from Japan and Britain. "The development began from the seventies, when trendier colors were in demand in the Kuwaiti market." Regarding the bisht boom, Tamimi said: "We now have more customers because there are more occasions and weddings, and for gifting. Because of the variety of products, sales are better than before."

Tamimi said his shop sews bishts and abayas in Syria. "There are expert women in Syria for making bishts. We import the fabric from Japan and send it to Syria for sewing to contribute to helping needy Syrian women and to have better quality." Tamimi said traders remain updated on the latest trendy colors and shapes in this field, adding Japanese specialists visit them every three months to keep them abreast of developments in the field of bishts and abayas. "The Japanese experts are open-minded and welcome our new ideas, and there is 100 percent guarantee that their crafts-



Salesmen show two traditional types of bisht used in Kuwait. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

manship is of the highest quality."

The wool used for bishts is sheared from New Zealand sheep, Tamimi said, explaining there are differences in thicknesses of the weave, depending on the seasons. There are three types of stitches used in

customizing. The zari thread is made of gold or silver, or gold-plated or silver-plated threads imported from France, Germany and Japan. The bisht was formerly worn in diwanis, but nowadays it is limited to weddings and formal occasions.

## Kuwaiti FM congratulates ICRC Head

KUWAIT: The foreign ministry said that Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah congratulated Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, on her appointment as the newly-elected President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Al-Sabah praised the committee's efforts, achievements and humanitarian activities, appreciating the level of cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the ICRC during the past decades. In turn, the new ICRC President lauded the role of Kuwait and its humanitarian efforts around the world and its support and assistance to afflicted countries. — KUNA



Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

## Co-ops annual sales reach KD 1 billion

KUWAIT: Bedah Al-Dossari, Head of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies said that the annual sales of cooperative societies have reached KD 1 billion, with cash flow recorded at KD 400 million. Speaking about how co-ops are considered to be the main investment centers in the country, Al-Dossari said that the co-ops have also been consistent in observing the purchasing policies laid out by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the import of consumer items. He also said that local manufacturing companies were expected to have a factory in the country from where goods can be supplied to the co-ops.

Meanwhile, Al-Dossari said that the co-ops were keen to put the nationalization policies in practice, as per the Cabinet decision taken in 2020, directing local factories to appoint 10 per-

cent of citizens as their employees.

"According to the ministerial resolution no. (25/T) approved in 2021, to support the promotion of local agricultural produce, there are many censorship laws that might help co-ops regulate their pricing strategies, so as to be in compliance with the laws of the Union of Cooperative Societies," he said, adding that the Union also has the right to penalize any companies that illegally increased their prices.

"Co-ops have spearheaded the retail movement in the country, and have supported the local industries in the community and revitalized internal and external trade in the country," Al-Dossari noted. — KUNA



Bedah Al-Dossari

local spotlight

## Leaders of a special type



By Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh

local@kuwaittimes.com

Can Kuwait, with its partial democracy, achieve presence in the free countries' club? This "disappointing" question is directed to free countries: Do you accept our membership with you? Do you have in your laws quarter membership, half membership and so on? There is a law in life called all or none - our body's muscles work according to this law, which seems to apply to politics too. There is nothing called partial democracy - parts will not be recognized as an alternative for the whole.

In 2015, leaders of the world adopted the sustainable development plan for 2030 by creating a world in which democracy, wise governance and rule of law, in addition to a suitable environment at both the national and international levels, are necessary for sustainable development. We today, based on the new elections, have an opportunity to expand the democratic process as promised by the Kuwaiti constitution. This is the true challenge for this Assembly, which with time will influence the future of our generations.

All educated politicians are aware of democracy's stipulations, from respect for human rights and freedom of joining societies to freedom of expression and opinion as well as reaching the authority and practicing it according to the rule of law, along with organizing free and transparent elections with secret balloting as an expression of the will of the people. Also, having a multiparty system, separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, having transparency and being questioned for public administration. Finally, providing media with means characterized by freedom and independence.

These are the elements of democracy that allow us to enter the club of free countries and achieve what we committed ourselves to in the sustainable development plan. We have time for being measured and fulfill the dream of Kuwait's constitution - we only need leaders of a special type.

### Truck ban times on main roads

عوامی سڑکوں پر ٹرکوں کی آمدورفت ممنوع ہے۔ اتوار سے جمعرات تک ہر ہفتے درج ذیل اوقات میں:

پہلا دورانیہ:

صبح 6:30 بجے سے

صبح 9:00 بجے تک

دوسری مدت:

12:30 بجے سے

3:30 بجے تک

**Driving trucks is prohibited on main roads from Sunday to Thursday:**

**First period:**  
from 6.30 am to 9 am

**Second period:**  
from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm

يمنع سير الشاحنات على الطرقات العامة من يوم الأحد الى يوم الخميس من كل اسبوع في الأوقات التالية:

**الفترة الأولى:** من الساعة 6:30 صباحاً حتى الساعة 9:00 صباحاً

**الفترة الثانية:** من الساعة 12:30 ظهراً حتى الساعة 3:30 عصرًا

Local

# Why do we suffer from impatience in Kuwait?

By Khaled Al-Abdullahi

**KUWAIT:** Impatience is an issue that is quite evident in the Kuwaiti society, and can be seen on the streets during traffic jams, while waiting for medical care or even at co-ops waiting for our turn in line at the cashier. It is not uncommon for people to be impatient at some point throughout their lives, but it is a problem when impatience becomes a social phenomenon.

Former law professor at the University of California, Davis Toni Bernhard JD, in a 2013 article on Psychology Today, mentioned that impatience sometimes rises when our expectations are not met. These expectations could range from long traffic jams to unavailable parking spots to expecting a phone call at a certain time. Our expectations of the future and circumstances play a big role in why we might become impatient if our expectations are not met.

Moreover, a 2020 study on patients' impatience waiting for health service, by Dr Annabelle Roberts and Dr Ayelet Fishbach at the University of Chicago, found patients tend to become more impatient as their medical service is closer to being done. They found, according to surveys, that one in five patients switch doctors after long wait times, and 30 percent of patients even leave their appointment before receiving any care from their doctor.

Kuwait Times asked citizens about their thoughts on the subject of impatience in Kuwait and which factors play into a person becoming impatient. Adnan Al-Mejren, a 29-year-old Kuwaiti, spoke about the relationship between impatience and gratification. "There is the issue of delayed gratification and instant gratification, where people would rather have instant gratification, which is temporary,



at the expense of gratification in the future," he explained.

"The problem we have in Kuwait is that most families give their children whatever they want because they can. Most families spoil their kids, which leads them to have this problem. They end up wanting everything immediately, which is not the children's fault, as they were born and brought up like this. For example, you graduate, and here you get this expensive car. They ask for clothes they get the most expensive brands. Therefore, they end up not knowing that things come with hard work. They end up thinking that things will come as soon as they want them, without having to do anything," Mejren said.

Moreover, he spoke about social factors that cause people to become impatient. "There is another factor that causes this issue - delays in completing paperwork at ministries, which needs to be addressed. Some employees give you wrong instructions or tell you to come at another time because they do not want to do their job at that

specific moment. Others will tell you to come back later because the system is not working, even though they can resolve their issue and do the work. The same person will return with the same problem later, so why not finish their work? This leads to more delays and more crowding. Islam teaches us that work is worship - if people apply this to their daily lives, we will not have problems like these," Mejren told Kuwait Times.

Another Kuwaiti, Ahmed Jamal, 34, was also asked about the problem of impatience in Kuwait society. "It is the way many people are brought up in Kuwait. Some people want the easiest and fastest way to get things done. With some people, it is a matter of their nature. Some people are coolheaded and do not mind waiting, while others are hotblooded and want things done immediately," he said.

Asked which factors might play into this, he said: "Education, environment and the way they are brought up. Some children, by their nature, do not want to learn. They want everything ready, which is evident in their behavior, where the person is always in a hurry to get things done."

About natural factors, such as the climate, Jamal said: "It is natural that when we have high temperatures, people tend to be agitated. As we have seen with our friends in Europe, temperatures of 35 degrees centigrade have caused some people to die, unfortunately. In Kuwait, we live with 50-degree centigrade temperatures in mid-summer, which will of course cause a lot of extreme temperaments."

When asked about infrastructure, Jamal said: "Traffic is a problem all countries have to deal with. But advanced countries, unlike ours, are organized and are able to cope with the increased density. People there are afraid to commit any violations,

because they will be held accountable. Here, people can get away with things like speeding and cutting people off on roads. Moreover, in Kuwait we suffer from outdated infrastructure, and we cannot cope with the exponential growth in population."

A 2013 study by Dr Janick Naveteur of University de Lille's department of biology and fellow colleagues examined the effects of time pressure and traffic on rule violations and risky behavior on 48 participants, where they found that impatience was caused by increased intensity and a negative psychological reaction to the situation when they were forced to stop during traffic. This means the effect of having to stop within their route while having a time constraint negatively affected their psychology at that moment.

Moreover, the problem of impatience comes with health risks, as the effects of being impatient is not just a psychological or social issue, but it is also a physiological one, as it could have negative impacts on people's health. The risks of being impatient have been studied in a 2013 study done on children and adolescents aged 10 to 18 by Matthias Sutter of the University of Cologne and fellow colleagues. They found that more impatient people tend to spend more money on substance abuse, have a higher body mass index and are less likely to save money in general.

In Kuwait, we can see this evident in the high rates of obesity, rising health risks such as diabetes and high blood pressure, as well as the rise in substance abuse in society. Therefore, we can conclude that impatience is a social phenomenon that affects society as a whole and can hinder the way a country functions. So, we must take care to minimize factors that cause impatience in people.

## Egyptian-Kuwaiti Economic Forum to enhance economic ties



The Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce signs a protocol of cooperation with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Egyptian Prime Minister meets with the Kuwaiti delegation. — KUNA photos

**CAIRO:** Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt, has appreciated the deep relations between Kuwait and Egypt, at the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Economic Forum, held in Cairo, adding that Egypt aims to strengthen ties and increase Kuwaiti investments in the country, to enhance mutual interests of both countries. The meeting was also attended by Mohammed Al-Sager, Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We welcome Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, as well as its support in developing opportunities in the private sector, both locally and internationally, especially with its policies meant to encourage the private sector," Madbouly said.

"The Egyptian investment law accommodates the investment and the disinvestment of capital and project revenue at any point in time, as the government has also issued a bankruptcy law to protect investors. Moreover, many procedures have been implemented such as 'the golden license' and laws relating to the pricing of industrial lands and the insurance of projects either through ownership or interest, where the investor can own the land after a specific period," he added.

"There is also a 20-day period for all approvals as well as for licensing procedures put in place by committees, who are authorized to help with any problems that may arise."

"The economic index in Egypt has



Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly shakes hands with Mohammed Al-Sager.



Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Al-Sager.

been balanced until the start of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as Egypt has also been affected by the war just like the rest of the world," he said.

Mohammed Al-Masri, Vice President of the Egyptian Commercial Chamber said, "The invitation by the Kuwaiti panel reflects the empowerment of local and international private sectors aiming to increase revenue to 65 percent from 30 percent, as the nationalization of industry in the Arab world is a priority."

Meanwhile, Mohammed Al-Sager, said

that Kuwait's delegation to the meeting in Egypt included 46 prominent businessmen who would work together to strengthen the economic and investment cooperation between Kuwait and Egypt, to increase the trade relations between the two countries.

Al-Sager also lauded Egypt's efforts to develop the investment environment, which has been initiated since 2016 and has developed within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030. He said that the most notable procedures in this regard include

the investment, companies and bankruptcy laws, as well as the state ownership policy which contributes to achieving cooperation between public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, Commerce and Industry Minister Eng. Ahmad Sameer and Finance Minister Mohamed Maait witnessed the signing of a cooperation protocol between the General Union of Egypt's Chamber of Commerce and Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The protocol was signed by First Deputy Chairman of the Chambers Union

Mohammad Al-Masri and Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Al-Sager and is aimed at developing commercial relations between the two countries.

Under the protocol, the two countries will be committed to exchange information with regards to the commercial trade, as well as encourage the business sector in both countries, to establish common partnership grounds, so as to help each other in events of mutual interest such as exhibitions and conferences. — Agencies

## Three Indian naval ships to arrive in Kuwait Tuesday

**KUWAIT:** Three Indian naval ships will visit Kuwait from October 4 to October 7. The two indigenously-built ships of the Indian Navy, first training squadron INS TIR and INS Sujatha and indigenously-built Indian Coast Guard ship Sarathi are scheduled to arrive at the Shuwaikh Port on Tuesday. The goodwill visit of the naval ships is expected to strengthen the multifaceted friendly ties and growing cooperation between Kuwait and India.

During the stay, the crew members of the Indian naval ships are expected to hold interactions with the Kuwaiti naval force pertaining to nuances of maritime operations, including means of combating maritime terrorism and piracy. It may be recalled that the Indian Naval Ship INS TEG visited Kuwait in July this year. Indian naval ships have been deployed extensively in the region for numerous missions including for anti-

piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. They have also been providing maritime security in the region. In view of the huge response from the Indian community members for visit to the naval ships, the Indian Embassy has re-allotted the time slots for those who have registered with complete information. In this regard, a confirmation email along with necessary instructions with re-allotted time slots has been sent to all the registered members, Indian Embassy said in a press release on Monday.

INS Tir (A86), meaning Arrow, is the first dedicated cadet's training ship to be built by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai and commissioned by the Indian Navy. She is the senior ship of the 1st Training Squadron of the Southern Naval Command. INS Tir was commissioned on 21 February 1986. Sensors on board Tir include Decca Radar and a SATNAV (Satellite Navigation) system. She can carry up to 293 people on board, though her typical deployment is with 20 instructors and staff and 120 cadets. INS Tir is named after HMIS Tir, a River-class frigate of the Royal Indian Navy, earlier transferred from the Royal Navy where she served in World War II as HMS Bann (K256).

INS Sujata, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol



Vessel class of ship, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 3, 1993. The ship is designed to undertake fleet support operations, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance, monitoring of Sea Lines of Communication and offshore assets and escort duties.

With an overall length of 102 meters, breadth of 11.5 meters and a full load displacement of 2,500 tons, the ship is capable of speed in excess of 25 knots. The ship has a complement of 21 officers and 166 sailors.

INS Sujata has been modified for cadets training and is part of the 1st Training Squadron.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarathi' is the third in the series of six 105 meters offshore patrol vessels. 'Sarathi' meaning 'charioteer' is a projection of Indian Coast Guard's will and commitment to serve and protect the maritime interests of the nation. The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd and fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment and sensors.

## News in brief

## Kuwait Airways starts direct flights to KL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways announced on Sunday, its decision to start direct flights to Kuala Lumpur twice a week (Sunday and Wednesday), starting this month. Maen Razouqi, Kuwait Airways CEO, said that the airline plans to also increase the number of its flights to Kuala Lumpur this year, with three flights a week to the city, starting November. "Kuala Lumpur is an important historic and tourist destination, with diverse cultures and an attractive place to spend your holidays," said Razouqi, adding that Kuwait Airways plans to use the environment friendly A-330 Airbus planes for the new destination. —KUNA

## Kuwait PM congratulates Germany on national day

KUWAIT: His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has sent a cable on Monday to the President of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmeier, congratulating him on the national day of his country. —KUNA

## MoE turns down request to raise private school fees

KUWAIT: The education ministry has instructed private schools to keep their fees as they currently are, adding that any increase in their existent fee structure would result in being penalized by the Ministry. The ministry also added that the fee structure in schools should be as previously agreed upon, adding that the current fees was adequate and no further increase should be made. "The ministry has made a complete study on the situation in private schools and has compared current fees with the amount requested to be increased and found that these requests were not justified, therefore the fees will continue to remain the same," sources revealed to Kuwait Times. Meanwhile, sources also said that, "the ministry will continue its campaign in private schools, to ensure that the number of students in each class remain the same and that classes are also safe for students," adding that, "the reports from school inspectors would also be checked and those schools found lacking in fire and safety checks will be penalized."

## Assaulter transferred to criminal court

KUWAIT: The public prosecution has transferred the case of the man who was filmed assaulting his wife on a public road in Jaber Al-Ahmad Road, to criminal court. The accused is currently charged on four counts including assault, cursing, damage and use of drugs and the prosecution has announced its decision to temporarily detain the accused criminal for 21 days, after which he will be transferred to the central prison.

## Athletics Commission to announce new regulations

KUWAIT: The Athletics Commission will hold a press conference on Wednesday, to announce new regulations for athletes, at its headquarters in Riggae. Mahmoud Abul, Acting Head of the Commission will attend the conference as well as other clubs and athletic unions. The new regulations will be applicable for all kinds of sports - team, individual and women's sports. The regulations have been announced following the commission's strategy to improve the situation of athletes in Kuwait.

## Kuwait in solidarity with Indonesia riot victims

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said that it stands in solidarity with Indonesia, following the football match riot incident that killed and injured several spectators. The ministry expressed its condolences to the government and people of Indonesia and wished those injured a swift recovery. —KUNA

## Gold shopping patterns among Asian communities in Kuwait

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Despite the great harmony between communities in Kuwait, there are some cultural differences that govern several aspects of life, and one of these differences is gold-buying preferences among Asian communities. Kuwait Times visited downtown Kuwait City to talk to Asian nationals to learn more about the reasons why they prefer to buy gold jewelry from specific places in the country.

"I think it's about the taste and culture. For example, if I want to buy jewelry for a senior member of my family or for someone who is more into traditional pieces, then I would come to downtown Kuwait to buy 22 carat gold. But for someone aged between 18 to 45, they will prefer something of 18 to 21 carat gold, and the best place to go then would be to Mubarakiya or Hawally gold markets," said Jumana Vir, an Indian customer.

"Prices differ between downtown markets that sell Indian designs and other gold markets in the country that have other designs due to several reasons - other gold markets price their pieces based on the manufacturing country, in addition to brands that are sold at a higher price, while in downtown markets they charge less," she added.

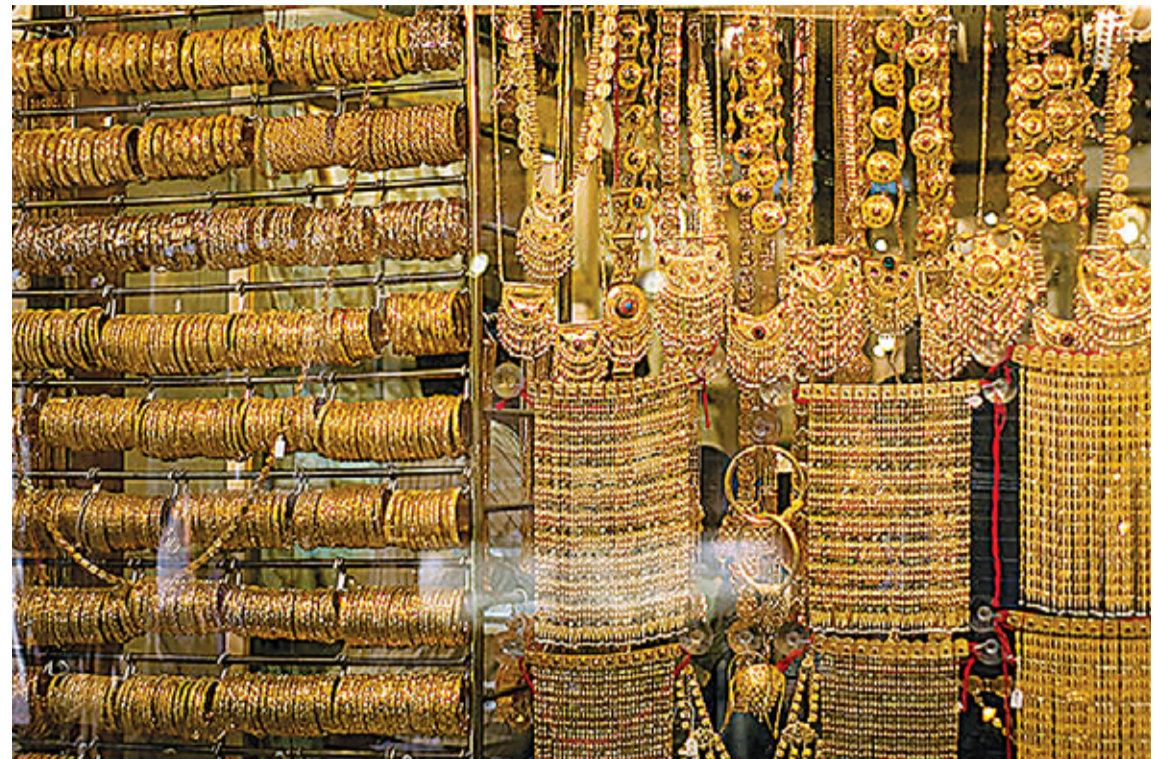
"Asian people and Indians in particular come to downtown gold shops due to two reasons - the price difference and different designs from other gold shops around the country. Regarding prices, people in this place can bargain with the salespersons unlike other markets, where the salesperson could be from another nationality and it would be hard to communicate comfortably with him," said Shaik Shemran, another Indian customer.

"The designs in downtown Kuwait are very familiar to what we Asians like, so we go to places that provide us with the things we prefer. If we would like to buy something else for a change, we would go to Mubarakiya or Salmiya, which mostly sell Arabic and international designs," she added.

"Since I live in Salmiya, I went to nearby gold shops. But after visiting several shops there, I couldn't find designs that suited my taste, so I thought to check the shops in downtown Kuwait after I heard they have a wide collection of Indian designs," said Shapna Shameem, an Indian customer. "The gold prices in GCC countries are more reasonable than other Asian countries, and it costs us less compared to our countries as well," she pointed out.

Mohammad Shareef, another Indian customer said: "I prefer to buy gold jewelry exclusively in 22 carat in Indian designs. Most Indians do not prefer buying 21 carat gold due to the difficulty they could face when they decide to sell their pieces in India and the low price they could get." He said he prefers to buy from downtown markets due to the wide collection and designs he would find. "The making charges are lower in downtown than other gold shops around the country, so it is better to buy from here."

Kuwait Times also spoke to gold shop employees in downtown Kuwait and asked them about the preferences of Asians in buying gold jewelry. "People from Asia (Indian in particular) prefer to buy gold pieces from downtown markets due to the traditional designs they are mostly looking for, as these designs connect them to their culture, not to mention that it



Vinod Kumar



Shaik Shemran



Mohammad Shareef



Zameel Thidid

allows them to sell the items in their countries later, as it matches the public taste there too," said Sayed Asif Ahmed, who works at a gold shop. He pointed out that it is almost impossible to find 21 carat gold jewelry in downtown markets, where the majority of the Asian community is concentrated. "Indians mostly prefer 22 carat gold; therefore, gold shops won't sell any other type of gold. Other nationalities make up a small percentage of customers here," he said.

"People from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan only buy 22 carat gold, and that's why you can find these communities frequent specific markets such as those in downtown Kuwait City, while other nationalities prefer 18 carat gold, such as Filipinos," said Vinod Kumar, another gold shop employee. "Usually, middle-aged people come to downtown markets to buy 22 carat pieces and ask for traditional designs," he added, pointing out that the prices are mostly the same between downtown shops and other gold markets in Salmiya or Hawally, for example.

Zameel Thidid, who works at a gold shop, pointed out: "Despite most downtown gold market customers being Asians, we also have some Arabs and Kuwaitis who come to us asking for traditional Asian gold designs due to the convergence in tastes."

Dave Panchal, another worker, said: "Most Asian customers frequent this gold market because the majority of gold shops here sell 22 carat jewelry. The market for 21 carat gold is in Mubarakiya. In addition, Asians prefer the gold market in Kuwait due to the expensive prices of gold pieces in their countries, as well as the fact that gold in Kuwait is purer."

He added: "I think Asians are not looking for traditional designs in particular. If you bring them 21 carat gold pieces in traditional designs, they won't buy them, because they are looking for the carat and not the design, which it is due to two reasons - a kind of investment and the Asian mentality that is set on 22 carats. They won't accept anything other than 22 carat gold."

## CAN launches breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: Dr Khaled A. Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN), announced the launch of the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign under the patronage of the Health Minister Dr Khalid Al-Saeed.

Al-Saleh said that, "we renew our call for mothers and daughters to take interest in periodically testing their health for early detection of the disease. Early detection saves lives and breast cancer is a curable disease if it is discovered in its early stage," adding that all women above the age of 40 need to do a mammogram test. Meanwhile, Dr Husna Majid Al-Shaheen, Board Member and Head of the Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative for 2022, said that the community needs to come together to



Dr Khaled A. Al-Saleh and Husna Majid Al-Shaheen with other representatives at the campaign.

spread awareness about such diseases.

Breast cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer among women with the number of cases reach-

ing 2.3 million in 2020, according to WHO figures, which is 24.2 percent of the total number of cancer cases in the world.



## ICSK Senior celebrates Gyanotsav 2022

KUWAIT: The Indian Community School (Senior), Kuwait celebrated the educational fair Gyanotsav 2022 on Sept 28 2022, where students showcased their innovative skills in different fields.

Dr V. Binumon, Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK, delivered the welcome address. He said that the exhibition was held to provide a platform for children to display their knowl-

edge, creativity, investigative skills and talent. He appreciated the efforts taken by the teachers and students for putting up a grand event and also asked the students to keep up the enthusiasm throughout their life.

In the inaugural speech, he said to the students that the road to success was not easy, with many obstacles but hard work, dedication and motivation would make one's goal look easy. He concluded his speech by reminding the students that success was not what mattered but it's the courage that counts.

The school also conducted a fair which was open from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, for different schools in Kuwait. More than 3,000 students from various schools visited ICSK along with their teachers and principal to see the innovative projects of the young

minds of ICSK.

The evening session from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm was open to all the parents, guardians and relatives of the students of ICSK. There were many commercial stalls which were set up in the courtyard by various departments for a noble cause. The money collected by these commercial stalls will be donated for charity. The students detailed the idea of their projects and the judges were impressed with the way they presented it.

The best three exhibits from each category were honored with prizes and certificates. All the participants were given participation certificates. The best three departments were also presented with prizes. The event provided a perfect motivational platform for the future innovators.





India unveils high-altitude helicopters

## Zionist forces shoot dead two Palestinians in West Bank raid



RIO DE JANEIRO: Supporters of Brazil's former President (2003-2010) and presidential candidate for the leftist Workers Party (PT), Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, react during the vote count of the legislative and presidential election, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. —AFP

# Bolsonaro forces Lula into Brazil run-off

## Latin American giant's polarizing campaign will now enter a new phase

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil's bitterly divisive presidential election is headed for a runoff on October 30 as incumbent Jair Bolsonaro beat first-round expectations to finish a closer-than-expected second to front-runner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Lula, the veteran leftist seeking a presidential comeback, had 48.3 percent of the vote to 43.3 percent for the far-right president with over 99 percent of polling stations reporting, according to the Superior Electoral Tribunal.

At least 50 percent of votes had been needed to avoid a runoff. It was an unexpectedly strong result for combative ex-army captain Bolsonaro and for Brazil's far-right, which also had surprise good showings in a series of key Congressional and governors' races. Lula, the popular but tarnished ex-president who led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, had been the favorite to win the race—possibly in a single round. On the eve of the election, leading polling firm Datafolha had given Lula 50 percent of the vote to 36 percent for Bolsonaro.

Instead, the Latin American giant's polarizing campaign will now enter a new phase as Bolsonaro, 67, and Lula, 76, dig in for a four-week fight to the final bell. In Bolsonaro's camp, the mood was celebratory. "I called it: I said Datafolha would get it wrong, again," Bolsonaro's congressman son Eduardo wrote on Twitter.

### 'What's happening to Brazil?'

Lula rallied his disappointed backers, vowing: "We are going to win these elections" in a speech to hundreds of supporters decked out in Workers' Party red on Sao Paulo's main avenue. "We're going to keep fighting until the final victory," he said.

"There's no comparison between the Brazil (Bolsonaro) has built and the one we did."

But the result fell short of expectations for his backers, who were left fearing an ugly runoff race.

"It's going to be a difficult campaign," said Lula fan Viviane Laureano da Silva, who had gathered with hundreds of other supporters for what they hoped would be a first-round victory celebration in central Rio de Janeiro.

"But Lula's going to win. I'm from the slums, and I've seen how people there support him," said the 36-year-old civil servant.

"I don't know what's happening to Brazil. Fifty percent of our population is sick. Lula is the only one who can heal our people," said Jose Antonio

Benedetto, 63, who was carrying a banner reading "Love and truth will prevail" in Sao Paulo.

### Far-right flexes muscles -

Lula, an ex-metalworker who rose from destitute poverty to become the most popular president in Brazilian history, is seeking to stage a return after falling spectacularly from grace and spending 18 months in jail.

Convicted in a massive graft scheme involving state-run oil company Petrobras, he regained the right to run for office last year when the Supreme Court quashed his convictions.

Bolsonaro, who swept to office in 2018 on a wave of anti-establishment outrage, has lost support from the political center with his pugnacious political style, his performance on the weak economy, surging Amazon rainforest destruction and the carnage of COVID-19.

But he still has the die-hard backing of his "Bibles, bullets and beef" base-Evangelical Christians, security hardliners and the powerful agribusiness sector. It was a good night for Brazil's far-right.



'We're going to keep fighting until final victory'

## Yemen's fate hangs in balance as truce collapses

**DUBAI:** The United Nations envoy scrambled to revive Yemen's six-month truce after a missed deadline raised fears of a return to war and prompted rebel threats against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates late Sunday. Special envoy Hans Grundberg pledged "relentless efforts" to reinvigorate the truce, which lapsed on Sunday after bringing a sharp reduction in clashes since it came into force in April.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels have been fighting a Saudi-led pro-government coalition since 2015 in a war that has left hundreds of thousands dead and created

the world's worst humanitarian crisis, according to the UN. Grundberg's plan to extend the truce, which was initially set to last two months and was renewed twice, to six months and to expand it to new areas of agreement was rejected by the Houthis.

His proposal included paying civil servants' salaries, opening routes into the rebel-blockaded city of Ta'ez, expanding commercial flights from the rebel-held capital Sanaa and allowing more fuel ships into the port of Hodeida, also controlled by the Houthis.

It also contained commitments to release detainees, resume an "inclusive" political process and tackle economic issues including public services. But the northern-based Houthis, who seized the capital Sanaa in 2014 and control large swathes of the Arabian peninsula's poorest country, said the proposal "does not live up to the demands of the Yemeni people

and does not establish the peace process".

"The Yemeni people will not be deceived by false promises," the Supreme Political Council said, demanding revenues from Yemen's oil and gas resources, according to the Houthis' Yemen News Agency.

As well as fighting on the ground, hostilities have been marked by coalition bombing raids and rebel drone-and-missile attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, a major partner in the anti-Houthi alliance.

Three oil workers were killed in a Houthi attack on Abu Dhabi in January, and an assault in March left black smoke billowing near Jeddah's Formula One track during official practice sessions. The Houthis' military spokesman Yahya Saree warned oil companies in Saudi Arabia and the UAE "to organise their situation and leave", in a tweet late on Sunday. —AFP

## Iran blames US, Zionist entity for protests

**TEHRAN:** Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday accused arch-enemies the United States and Zionist entity of fomenting the wave of nationwide unrest sparked by outrage over the death of Mahsa Amini.

"I say clearly that these riots and the insecurity were engineered by America and the occupying, false Zionist regime, as well as their paid agents, with the help of some traitorous Iranians abroad," the supreme leader said. Amini, 22, was pronounced dead on September 16, days after the notorious morality police detained the

Kurdish Iranian for allegedly breaching rules forcing women to wear hijab headscarves and modest clothes.

Anger over Amini's death has sparked the biggest wave of protests to rock the Islamic republic in almost three years, which saw security forces in Tehran crack down on hundreds of university students overnight. In his first public comments since Amini's death, 83-year-old Khamenei stressed that police must "stand up to criminals" and added that "whoever attacks the police leaves the people defenceless against criminals, thugs, thieves".

"The death of the young woman broke our hearts," said Khamenei. "But what is not normal is that some people, without proof or an investigation, have made the streets dangerous, burned the Quran, removed hijabs from veiled women and set fire to mosques and cars".

### 'Incredible courage'

Concern grew about a crackdown overnight on students at Tehran's prestigious Sharif University of Technology where, local media reported, riot police carrying steel pellet guns used tear gas and paintball guns against hundreds of students.

"Woman, life, liberty" the students shouted, as well as "students prefer death to humiliation", Mehr news agency reported. Iran's science minister, Mohammad Ali Zolfaghol, came to speak to the students in a bid to calm the situation, the report said.

Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights posted videos apparently showing police on motorcycles chasing students running through an underground car park and taking away detainees whose heads were covered in black cloth bags. —AFP

**CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

**RECALL INFORMATION**

**Model:**

E-Class (213 platform)

E-Class Coupe/Convertible (238 platform)

CLS (257 platform)

AMG GT 4-door Coupe (290 platform) with 4MATIC

Mercedes-Benz Cars  
Model year: 2017 - 2023

**RECALL REASON**

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain E-Class (213 platform), E-Class Coupe/Convertible (238 platform), CLS (257 platform) and AMG GT 4-door (290 platform) model with all-wheel drive, the transmission wiring harness might not be routed according to specifications. In this case, the mechanical load on the single-wire seal of the transmission wiring harness could lead to a separation in the seal of the electrical connector. As a result, water from the roadway or environment could penetrate the connector. The presence of water could hereby create a creeping short circuit if the vehicle is parked. As a result, the short circuit could lead to thermal overload for a longer period of time.

**REMEDY**

As a precautionary measure, the Mercedes-Benz service organization will arrange for the connector coupling of the transmission wiring harness in the affected vehicles to be checked and, if necessary, reworked. The required work will certainly be carried out free of charge.

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Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 9 Street  
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 13 Street  
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre for Passenger Cars - Al Ahmadi - 29 Street.

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46 and 47) of no. (39/2015) issuing the executive by laws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection.

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International

Zionist forces shoot dead two Palestinians in West Bank raid

Youths patrol streets demanding businesses close for the day

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: Zionist forces shot dead two Palestinians during an operation Monday targeting alleged militants near Ramallah, raising the year's mounting death toll in the occupied West Bank.

Zionist forces have been conducting near daily raids in the Palestinian territory since March, with Palestinian fatalities reaching levels not seen since in years. The latest deaths were in the central West Bank, at the Jazalone refugee camp near Ramallah, where the army said it was pursuing "an individual suspected of terror activity".

During the operation, Zionist troops killed 19-year-old Basel Basbous and Khaled Anbar, 20, according to the Palestinian health ministry. Raafat Habash, 19, was seriously injured, the ministry said. The army confirmed it had "neutralised" two people who had "attempted to carry out a ramming attack against (Zionist) soldiers" with a vehicle.

In Ramallah, seat of the Palestinian Authority, a general strike was called in response to the unrest and shut down much of the city, with youths patrolling the streets demanding businesses close for the day. Amid the unrelenting army raids, Zionist entity's comptroller general Matanyahu Englman issued what he called an "urgent report" on Sunday,

warning that the pace of the military activity mandated new resource planning.

"The Zionist Defense Forces are carrying out an important operation in the West Bank," he said, adding it was clear that "it's an operation that could take a long time". Following "a surprise visit" to army bases, Englman urged military brass to take "immediate" action "to improve the logistic infrastructure for combat soldiers and reservists in the West Bank," raising specific alarm about inadequate food rations.

Mounting toll

The army said Monday's operation included raids in several West Bank locations, with 16 people arrested overnight. Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank this year are on track to rival a deadly 2015 phase, when the Zionist entity responded to a flurry of stabbings carried out by so-called lone wolf attackers.

According to a tally by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 84 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank by Zionist army fire from January 1 until September 20. An AFP tally from September 21 until Monday counts an additional 10 Palestinian deaths.

The circumstances surrounding fatal shootings in the West Bank are often disputed, but a substantial



SALEM, Palestinian Territories: Zionist security forces search for suspects in the village of Salem, east of Nablus, on October 2, 2022, following a reported shooting attack at Zionist vehicles near the settlement of Allon Moreh in the occupied West Bank. —AFP

number of Palestinians killed in the territory were fighters claimed by armed groups, including many who were firing on Zionist troops.

A Zionist soldier was slightly injured late

Sunday in a shooting attack near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, the army said. Zionist has occupied the West Bank since the Six-Day War of 1967. —AFP

Lebanon mulls response to US maritime proposal

BEIRUT, Lebanon: Lebanon leaders are holding a meeting Monday to discuss a US proposal to demarcate the maritime border with Zionist entity — a step that could allow both countries to explore offshore resources.

Lebanon said it had received Saturday a written "offer" from US envoy Amos Hochstein, who is mediating talks between the two enemy states, containing a proposal to demarcate the maritime border with Zionist entity.

The offer was not made public, but it raised hopes that a deal would soon emerge after years of negotiations, as cash-strapped Lebanon eyes potential gas resources in the maritime border area. The US ambassador to Lebanon handed the offer to President Michel Aoun. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati, who represent Lebanon's three major sects.

Lebanon and the Zionist entity are officially at war and their land border is patrolled by the United Nations. Aoun will meet Berri and Mikati at 3pm local time (1200 GMT) to discuss Lebanon's "official

response to the offer", according to the National News Agency.

A technical team that includes army representatives will meet at 1pm (1000 GMT) at the presidential palace. Al-Akhbar, a newspaper close to Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement, said Monday that the meeting will tackle Lebanon's position on the proposal, and that Beirut will send an official response to the United States within 48 hours.

The most recent proposal was greeted by both Zionist entity and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group, which considers Zionist entity its arch-enemy. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had repeatedly threatened Zionist entity with attacks if it proceeds with extraction in disputed areas before a deal is reached, but welcomed Saturday's developments as "a very important step".

Zionist entity also praised the US proposal, with Prime Minister Yair Lapid saying that the bid "strengthens Zionist entity's security and Zionist's economy". The US-mediated negotiations resumed at a faster pace in early June after Zionist entity moved a production vessel near the Karish offshore field, which is partly claimed by Lebanon.

Lebanon and Zionist entity reopened negotiations on their maritime border in 2020, but the process was stalled by Lebanon's demand that the map used by the UN in the talks be modified. —AFP

Tehran says nuclear deal still possible

TEHRAN: It is still possible to revive Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, the foreign ministry said Monday, despite long-stalled talks over the 2015 accord. "There is still a possibility and a chance to resume the implementation of the nuclear deal," ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said at his weekly news conference.

"Efforts are underway with the European coordinator and other mediators, including the foreign ministries of neighbouring countries, to exchange messages to reach an agreement," he added. Kanani's remarks come amid on-off talks that have been underway since April 2021 to revive the deal that gave Iran much-needed sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

The landmark Vienna deal has been in tatters since then US president Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018 and Iran later backed away from its own commitments. "Messages between Iran and the United States have been exchanged in New York through the European coordinator (Enrique Mora) and other top officials," Kanani said.

"If the other side, particularly the US government, shows political will, it is possible that a deal will be concluded in a short period," he added. In a rare concession, Iran allowed a detained Iranian-American to leave the country and released his son from detention,



TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani speaks during a press conference in the capital Tehran on October 3, 2022. —AFP

the United Nations confirmed Saturday. Tehran later said that, following the prisoner release, it was awaiting the unfreezing of about \$7 billion in funds held abroad, but Washington denied the two issues were linked. The European Union had submitted in August a final draft of the text for the agreement, but there remain key sticking points between Tehran and Washington as well as the UN nuclear watchdog. —AFP

Crown Prince begins traditional...

Continued from Page 1

A majority of new MPs have publicly declared they will vote for Saadoun, an 87-year-old veteran leader and former three-time speaker, as the next speaker. MPs however still differ on the deputy speaker and are likely to meet informally in the coming days to coordinate ahead of the opening session. MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf said on Monday he will submit on the opening day a draft law calling for a general pardon of all political prisoners and dissidents. MP Abdullah Fahhad had also said he will submit a similar bill.

Meanwhile, the criminal court released on Monday newly-elected MP Hamed Al-Bathali from jail to allow him to take the oath in the National Assembly. Bathali and MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa were both elected while in jail. The criminal court delayed Bathali's case until Dec 1 and asked the Assembly to lift his immunity so he could be tried on charges that he took part in outlawed tribal primary elections.

But the court of cassation refused a request by Khalifa's lawyers to release him to be able to attend the Assembly's opening session. Khalifa and several men of his tribe had been sentenced to two years in jail by the criminal court for taking part in tribal primary elections. The verdict was upheld by the court of appeals and he challenged it before the court of cassation, whose rulings are final. The cassation court ordered him detained until it will issue its verdict on Oct 10, just one day before the Assembly's opening session.

Neanderthal DNA sequencer wins...

Continued from Page 1

Paabo is the son of Sune Bergstrom, a Swede who won the 1982 Nobel Medicine Prize for discovering prostaglandins - biochemical compounds that influence blood pressure, body temperature, allergic reactions and other physiological phenomena. In his 2014 memoir "Neanderthal Man: In Search of Lost Genomes", Paabo wrote that he was the result of a secret extramarital affair. He later told The Guardian that Bergstrom's "official" family knew nothing of his or his mother's existence, the Estonian chemist Karin Paabo, until after Bergstrom's death in 2005. Paabo is married to primatologist Linda Vigilant, who also works at the Max Planck Institute.

Homo sapiens are known to have first appeared in Africa around 300,000 years ago. Our closest known relatives, Neanderthals, developed outside Africa and populated Europe and Western Asia from around 400,000 to 30,000 years ago, when they became extinct. That means that about 70,000 years ago, groups of Homo sapiens and Neanderthals coexisted in large parts of Eurasia for tens of thousands of years.

In order to study the relationship between present-day humans and extinct Neanderthals, DNA needed to be sequenced from archaic specimens with only trace amounts of DNA left after thousands of years. In 1990, Paabo managed to sequence a bit of mitochondrial DNA from a 40,000-year-old piece of bone. "For the first time, we had access to a sequence from an extinct relative", the Nobel jury said.

Comparisons with contemporary humans and chimpanzees showed that Neanderthals were genetically distinct. Paabo then "accomplished the seemingly impossible", the Nobel committee said, when he published the first Neanderthal genome sequence in 2010. It showed that the most recent common ancestor of Neanderthals and Homo sapiens lived around 800,000 years ago.

Paabo and his team were able to show that DNA sequences from Neanderthals were more similar to those from contemporary humans originating from Europe or Asia than those from Africa. "This means that Neanderthals and Homo sapiens interbred during their millennia of coexistence," the Nobel jury said. In modern day humans with European or Asian descent, around one to four percent of the genome originates

from Neanderthals. In 2008, Paabo and his team went on to sequence a 40,000-year-old bone fragment found in the Denisova cave in southern Siberia. It contained exceptionally well-preserved DNA. "The results caused a sensation - the DNA sequence was unique when compared to all known sequences from Neanderthals and present-day humans." Paabo had discovered a previously unknown hominin, which was given the name Denisova. Comparisons showed the gene flow had also occurred between Denisova and Homo sapiens. As a result of Paabo's research, we now know that when Homo sapiens migrated out of Africa, at least two extinct hominin populations inhabited Eurasia - Neanderthals lived in western Eurasia, whereas Denisovans populated the eastern parts of the continent. — AFP

Nobel Prize for Medicine 2022 infographic detailing the discovery of Neanderthal DNA and the sequencing of the Denisova genome.

UAE opens economy ministry in ...

Continued from Page 1

and engage with the Generation Z that is going to come," he added.

The UAE, which has a history of bold projects including the 830-m Burj Khalifa, hopes the metaverse can add \$4 billion to annual GDP and 40,000 jobs to its workforce by 2030. In its bid to become one of the world's top-10 metaverse economies, Dubai wants to attract 1,000 companies specializing in blockchain and related technologies, helped by eased visa rules for freelancers, entrepreneurs and creatives.

As the coronavirus pandemic pushed more people into the online world, "COVID really accelerated" the trend, Marri added. "We thought the metaverse is a phase technology" that might take 10 to 20 years to emerge," he said. "COVID-19 really immersed us so fast and expedited the use of the metaverse."

Unlike the UAE's oil-rich capital, Abu Dhabi, crude represents just five percent of Dubai's economy which has pivoted towards business, tourism, real estate and new technologies. The UAE has already

introduced a law governing virtual assets and a regulatory body for cryptocurrencies, while welcoming major crypto exchange platforms. One of the UAE's early private-sector metaverse projects is called 2117, named after the dream of Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid to colonize Mars a century from now.

Metaverse users can now buy tickets to join a virtual shuttle carrying settlers to the red planet. "A lot of us won't live long enough to see this mission with our own eyes," said Amin Al-Zarouni, founder of the Bedu start-up behind the virtual Mars trip. "We'll try to replicate this experience in the metaverse."

Until now, use of the metaverse is niche and even its architects say widespread adoption is years away. How it will develop is unknown. According to Meta, which owns Facebook and other social media titans, Analysis Group research has shown that the metaverse could add \$360 billion to GDP in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey in 10 years, if it follows the growth pattern of mobile technology.

"We also know that when policy supports innovation, it accelerates the adoption of new technologies," the company said, when asked about Dubai's prospects of becoming a metaverse hub. "If we look at the context of Dubai, there's already a clear strategy and goals to accelerate metaverse adoption and investments in the building blocks of the metaverse." — AFP

## International

# West African bloc flies envoys to Burkina Faso after latest coup

## Burkina's latest bout of turmoil coincided with a surge of violent protests against France

**OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso:** Envoys from the West African bloc ECOWAS were heading to Burkina Faso on Monday after the jihadist-torn Sahel state underwent its second military coup in less than nine months. The streets of the capital Ouagadougou were quiet after a two-day showdown between military rivals jousting for power and a spurt of violent anti-French protests. The country's latest self-proclaimed leader is a 34-year-old captain, Ibrahim Traore, who seized the helm from Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, in power since January.

Religious and community mediators said Damiba on Sunday had agreed to step down, two days after Traore declared he had been forced out. Regional diplomats said he had fled to Togo. ECOWAS—the Economic Community of West African States—issued a statement welcoming “a peaceful settlement of their differences” and announced it would dispatch a delegation to Ouagadougou on Monday. The team is headed by Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister Suzi Carla Barbosa and includes former Niger president Mahamadou Issoufou, the bloc's mediator on Burkina Faso. Burkina is struggling with a seven-year-old jihadist campaign that has claimed thousands of lives, forced nearly two million people to flee their homes and left more than a third of the country outside government control.

Anger within the army at failures to roll back the bloody insurgency prompted Damiba's coup against the elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kabore, on January 24. Appointing himself transitional president, Damiba vowed to make security the country's top priority—but after a brief lull, attacks revived, claiming hundreds of lives.

The mounting toll was cited by Traore as justification for the latest coup. Damiba on Sunday set “seven conditions” for stepping down, the religious and community leaders said. These included security guarantees for him and his allies in the military; and that the pledge he had given to ECOWAS for a return to civilian rule within two years be respected. Speaking on the French radio station RFI on Monday, Traore spelled out that he would uphold the July 2024 timeline for restoring civilian rule. This could even happen “before that date” if conditions were right, Traore said.

He said that he would simply carry out “day-to-day business” until a new civilian or military transitional president was appointed. The appointment would be made by a national forum gathering political and social representatives, the pro-Traore faction in the military said on Sunday. Traore told RFI that this meeting would take place “well before the end of the year.” Analysts said that his position, if maintained, would be likely to satisfy ECOWAS, which has suffered five coups in three of its 15 members since August 2020.

### Anti-French protests

Burkina's latest bout of turmoil coincided with a surge of violent protests against France, the former colonial power and ally in Burkina's struggle against the jihadists. Pro-Traore officers accused Damiba of having taken refuge at a French military base in order to plot a “counter-offensive”—charges he and France denied. On Sunday, security forces fired tear gas from inside the French embassy in Ouagadougou to disperse angry protesters, and the French Institute, which promotes French culture, was also attacked.

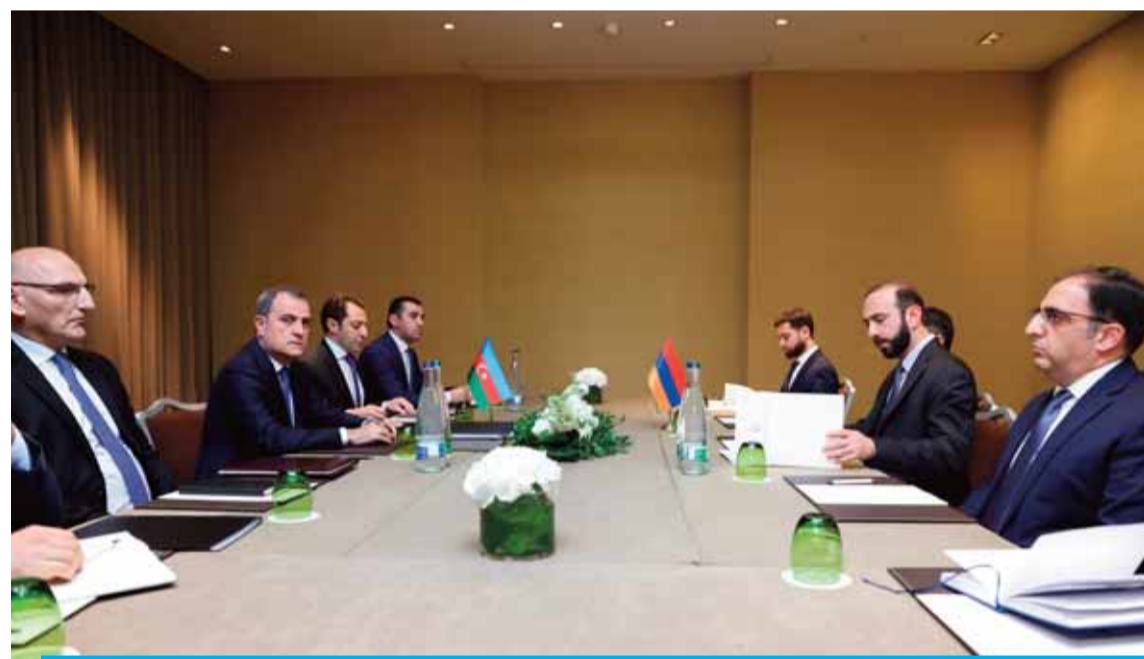
The French foreign ministry said the attack was car-



**OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso Army vehicles are seen in Ouagadougou, on October 3, 2022. Burkina Faso's junta leader agreed to step down on Sunday, religious and community leaders said, two days after army officers announced his ouster in a coup that sparked internal unrest and international condemnation. — AFP

ried out by “hostile demonstrators manipulated by a disinformation campaign against us”. Traore on Monday condemned what he called “acts of violence and vandalism” against those buildings and urged “calm and restraint.” Damiba's claimed ouster on Friday was announced just hours after a protest rally that also demanded the end of France's military presence in the Sahel and closer military cooperation with Russia. Some of the protestors carried Russian flags. Russian

paramilitaries are supporting regimes in Mali and Central African Republic—sidelining France, those countries' traditional backer. But Russian troops have also been tarred with accusations of massacres and other abuses. On Monday, the Kremlin spokesman said Russia wanted the situation in Burkina “to normalise as soon as possible, for complete order to be ensured in the country and for a return to the framework of legitimacy as soon as possible.” — AFP



**GENEVA, Switzerland:** Handout picture released in Geneva on October 2, 2022 by Armenian Foreign Ministry shows Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan (2nd R) and Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov (2nd L) and their respective delegation posing ahead of talks on a peace treaty. — AFP

## Armenia, Azerbaijan FM's hold peace talks

**BAKU:** The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan have held talks in Geneva on a future peace treaty, officials in Baku and Yerevan said Monday, following recent deadly clashes between the arch foes. Last month, at least 286 people were killed from both sides before a US-brokered truce ended the worst clashes since the Caucasus neighbours' 2020 war.

Baku and Yerevan fought two wars—in 2020 and in the 1990s—over the contested region of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave of Azerbaijan. Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov met on Sunday in Geneva to begin “drafting the text of the peace treaty,” the foreign ministry in Baku said Monday.

It said the talks followed up the EU-mediated meeting on August 31 in Brussels between Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Azerbaijan called for “full withdrawal of the Armenian armed units from the territories of

Azerbaijan, the opening of transport and communication lines,” the ministry said in a statement. Armenia's foreign ministry said “The parties exchanged ideas on the peace treaty, ensuring the rights and security guarantees of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.” It reaffirmed its demands of Azerbaijani troops’ “withdrawal from the sovereign territory of Armenia,” release of POWs and “the introduction of international mechanisms for controlling the situation on the border.”

The two foreign ministers last met for talks mediated by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on September 20 in New York. The six-week war in 2020 claimed the lives of more than 6,500 troops from both sides and ended with a Russian-brokered ceasefire.

Under the deal, Armenia ceded swathes of territory it had controlled for decades, and Moscow deployed about 2,000 Russian peacekeepers to oversee the fragile truce. With Moscow increasingly isolated on the world stage following its February invasion of Ukraine, the United States and the European Union have taken a leading role in mediating the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalisation process.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, ethnic Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan. The ensuing conflict claimed around 30,000 lives. — AFP

Shiites as heretics, has carried out several deadly attacks in the same area targeting girls, schools and mosques.

Education is a flashpoint issue in Afghanistan, with the Taliban blocking many girls from returning to secondary education, while IS also stands against the education of women and girls. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan last year brought an end to a two-decade war against a Western-backed government, leading to a significant reduction in violence, but security has begun to deteriorate in recent months.

Friday's attack has triggered sporadic women-led protests in Kabul and some other cities. Around 50 women chanted, “Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite”, as they marched on Saturday in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood where the attack happened.

The rallies have been dispersed by Taliban forces often firing shots into the air and beating protesters. Afghanistan's Hazaras have regularly faced attacks in the majority Sunni Muslim country. They have been persecuted for decades, targeted by the Taliban during their insurgency against the former US-backed government as well as by IS.

In May last year, before the Taliban's return to power, at least 85 people—mainly girls—were killed and about 300 were wounded when three bombs exploded near their school in Dasht-e-Barchi. Again, no group claimed responsibility, but a year earlier IS claimed a suicide attack on an educational centre in the same area that killed 24. — AFP

## Top Al-Shabaab leader killed in joint operation

**MOGADISHU, Somalia:** The Somali government announced on Monday a top Al-Shabaab militant, who had a \$3.0-million US bounty on his head, had been killed in a joint air strike in southern Somalia. The drone strike on October 1, launched by the army and international security partners, killed Abdullahi Yare near the coastal town of Haramka, the ministry of information said in a statement dated Sunday but posted online on Monday.

“This leader... was the head preacher of the group and one of the most notorious members of the Shabaab group,” it said. “He was former head of the Shura council and the group's director for finances,” the ministry said, referring to a powerful consultation body within Al-Shabaab.

A co-founder of the Al-Qaeda-linked group, Yare was believed to be next in line to take over the leadership of the movement from its ailing chief Ahmed Diriye, according to the ministry. “His elimination is like a thorn removed from Somalia as a nation,” the ministry said.

Yare was one of seven leaders named by the United States on its most-wanted list in 2012. Washington offered three million dollars for his capture. The announcement of the strike comes weeks after Somalia's recently elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud vowed to stage all-out war on the jihadists, following a string of deadly attacks. They include a 30-hour hotel siege in the capital, Mogadishu, that killed 21 people.

Mohamud last month urged citizens to stay away from areas controlled by Al-Shabaab as he vowed to ratchet up offensives against the militants. US forces have in the past partnered with African Union soldiers and Somali troops in counterterrorism operations, and have conducted frequent raids and drone strikes on Al-Shabaab training camps throughout Somalia.

Last month, the US military said it had killed 27 jihadist fighters in an air strike near Bulbarde, the main town on the road linking Mogadishu to Beledweyne, a key city on the border with Ethiopia. It said the air strike was carried out “at the request” of the Somali government.

Al-Shabaab, which espouses a strict version of sharia or Islamic law, has waged a bloody insurrection against the Mogadishu government for 15 years and remains a potent force despite an African Union operation against the group.

Its fighters were ousted from the capital in 2011 but continue to stage attacks on military, government and civilian targets. The group last week claimed responsibility for a bomb blast that killed a top Somali police officer near the Al-Shabaab-controlled village of Bursa, some 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, nine people, including senior regional officials, were killed in twin car bombings claimed by the Islamist group Al-Shabaab in central Somalia on Monday, police said. “The initial information we have received confirms the death of nine people” including a state minister and a commissioner, said Mohamed Moalim Ali, a local police commander.

At least 10 others were injured in “suicide attacks” when two cars loaded with explosives were detonated about five minutes apart outside district headquarters in the city of Beledweyne, he added. The health minister of Hirshabelle state—where Beledweyne is located—and a deputy district commissioner were among the dead, police said.—AFP



**JODHPUR, India:** India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh sits in a locally-made light combat helicopter 'Prachand' during its induction ceremony at the air base in Jodhpur on October 3, 2022. — AFP

## India unveils high-altitude helicopters

**JODHPUR, India:** India unveiled on Monday its first batch of locally-made attack helicopters, designed primarily for use in high-altitude areas like the Himalayas where its troops clashed with China in 2020. The Light Combat Helicopters are seen as another milestone in Indian efforts to reduce dependence on Russia, its main source of arms, and other suppliers.

The choppers made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) “will be a big boost to the Indian Air Force's combat prowess”, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said at Jodhpur air base in western India.

“It is a momentous occasion, a matter of great pride, and a result of two decades of diligent research and development,” Singh said. Officials said that the aircraft had been tested at altitudes up to 16,000 feet (4,875 metres) above sea level. India has been seeking to build up its domestic defence industry, unveiling its first locally-made aircraft carrier last month. This drive has been given added impetus by worries about future supplies of Russian spare parts following the invasion of Ukraine in February.

While remaining a close ally of Russia—it has refused to condemn the invasion—India also shares Western concerns about growing Chinese assertiveness. Relations between the world's two most-populous nations plunged after a hand-to-hand battle on their disputed Himalayan border left 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead in 2020. The two Asian giants, who fought a full-scale war in 1962, mobilised tens of thousands of soldiers in the region, although they announced a partial withdrawal on September 8. — AFP

## Death toll rises in Afghanistan classroom attack

**KABUL:** Forty-six girls and young women were among those killed in a suicide bombing on an Afghan education centre last week, the UN said Monday as it announced the total death toll had risen to 53. A suicide bomber blew himself up on Friday next to women at a gender-segregated study hall packed with hundreds of students sitting a practice test for university admissions. The attack happened in a Kabul neighbourhood home to the historically oppressed Shiite Muslim Hazara community, which has been subjected to some of the worst violence in the country's recent history.

“Our human rights team continues documenting the crime: verifying facts & establishing reliable data to counter denial & revisionism,” the United Nations assistance mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) tweeted.

It raised the death toll from 43 to 53, adding that a further 110 had been wounded. Afghanistan's Taliban authorities, which have often tried to play down attacks challenging their regime, have said 25 people were killed and 33 others wounded.

No group has so far claimed responsibility, but the jihadist Islamic State group (IS), which considers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

# Business

## Crude jumps as OPEC+ tipped to make big cut in oil output

### Brent may hit \$100; OPEC+ may take one million bpd out of market

LONDON: Major oil-producing nations led by Saudi Arabia and Russia are expected to make this week their biggest output cut since the start of the COVID pandemic in efforts to buttress prices.

Oil prices jumped Monday on expectations of an OPEC+ output cut. The main US oil contract, WTI, jumped five percent on Monday as investors hoped that OPEC+ nations would make a big production cut at their meeting this week. Around 1230 GMT the price of a barrel of WTI oil was up 5.0 percent at \$83.48, while the price of Brent oil was 4.5 percent higher at \$88.95 per barrel. Energy prices soared after Russia invaded Ukraine earlier this year, pushing inflation to decades-high levels that have put pressure on economies across the world.

But crude prices have fallen in recent months on concerns over demand amid a slowdown in the global economy. The 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Riyadh, and their 10 allies headed by Moscow will hold on Wednesday their first in-person meeting at the group's headquarters in Vienna since March 2020.

Collectively known as OPEC+, the alliance drastically slashed output by almost 10 million barrels per day in April 2020 to reverse a massive drop in crude prices caused by COVID lockdowns. OPEC+ began to raise production last year after the market improved—output returned to pre-pandemic levels this year, but only on paper as some members struggled to meet their quotas. The group agreed last month on a slight cut of 100,000 bpd from October, the first in more than a year.

#### One million cut

Analysts now expect OPEC+ to decide to take one million bpd out of the market from November at

Wednesday's meeting. "There's been plenty of rumours about how the alliance will respond to the deteriorating economic outlook and lower prices," said Craig Erlam, analyst at trading platform OANDA. "A sizeable cut now looks on the cards, the question is whether it will be large enough to offset the demand destruction caused by the impending economic downturn," he added.

After soaring close to \$140 per barrel in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, oil prices have dropped below the \$90 mark.

According to the UBS bank, a cut of at least 500,000 bpd would be necessary to stop the price plunge. In anticipation of Wednesday's meeting, oil prices jumped more than four percent on Monday, with Brent North Sea crude, the international benchmark, reaching \$88.55 — still far from its March peak.

#### Ignoring the West

Stephen Brennock, an analyst with PVM Energy, said OPEC+ would "want to reassert its influence" when the group meets this week. "After all, the producer group has lost control over the oil market in recent weeks," he said. It remains to be seen how the United States and other major oil consumers will react to any OPEC+ decision to slash output.

Consumer countries have pushed for OPEC+ to open taps more widely to bring down prices—calls which the group has largely ignored.

"OPEC will not be making any friends among Western leaders, especially petroleum importers whose economies and currencies are ravaged by higher oil prices due to a deterioration in the trade balance," said Stephen Innes, an analyst with SPI Asset Management, ahead of Wednesday's meeting. "A further uptick in trading activity coupled with tightening



LONDON: The 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Riyadh, and their 10 allies headed by Moscow will hold on Wednesday their first in-person meeting at the group's headquarters in Vienna since March 2020.

near-term oil fundamentals could well push oil prices back to \$100/bbl," Brennock said in a research note. "Those of a bullish disposition have endured a summer of pain, but a winter of hope and expectation is on the horizon," he added. Echoing this call of a return to \$100 a barrel, analysts at Goldman Sachs see Brent reaching triple digits over the next three months, before climbing to \$105 over a six-month horizon.

Observers have cast doubt how much more OPEC+

could possibly be pumping with some of its members struggling to meet quotas. Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB research group, predicted it would be "very easy for the group to implement cuts given that most members are stretched to the limit of what they can produce". He said Saudi Arabia was currently producing 11 million barrels per day. "It hasn't maintained such a high production more than twice in history and then only for 1-2 months," he said. —AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Delegates pass an image of Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng on the second day of the annual Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, central England, on October 3, 2022. —AFP

## Truss govt in major U-turn over tax cut for wealthy after uproar

LONDON: Britain's under-fire Conservative government on Monday announced a dramatic U-turn on a controversial tax cut for high-earners, part of a debt-driven economic package that has bombed with the markets, electorate and much of the ruling party. The abrupt reversal by Prime Minister Liz Truss and finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng raised questions about their right-wing policy agenda less than a month after taking power and a day after both vowed to stay the course.

"We get it, and we have listened," the pair tweeted almost simultaneously, as they revealed the 45 percent top rate of income tax would remain. But their contentious plans still comprise axing a cap on bankers' bonuses and reversing a planned rise in corporation tax, as well as a recent hike in national insurance contributions.

At the same time, they have refused to rule out cuts to spending and benefits amid Britain's worst cost-of-living crisis in generations. The perceived unfairness of the package has ignited a political storm as the Tories gather for their annual conference in Birmingham.

On the markets, the intention to pay for the tax cuts with billions more in extra borrowing had sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar and UK government bond yields soaring.

The pound rebounded Monday as they partially reversed course, with Kwarteng arguing in a series of broadcast interviews that the top rate tax cut had become a "massive distraction". "We've decided not to proceed with that because it was drowning out the elements of an excellent plan," he insisted, pointing to a popular if costly scheme to cap energy bills.

Asked if he had considered resigning, Kwarteng told the BBC: "Not at all."

#### 'Insensitive'

The finance chief was hastily rewriting his speech later Monday at the Tory conference, when he had been due to say: "We must stay the course". On Sunday, Truss had admitted communication errors in how the September 23 economic package had been presented, but agreed she was "absolutely committed" to abolishing the top tax rate. Within 24 hours, the 47-year-old prime minister-only in the role since September 6 — had performed one of most striking government U-turns in recent memory.

Truss told the BBC she had not discussed axing the high-earners' tax band with her cabinet, who only seemed to learn of the reversal along with the public on Monday. She also appeared to distance herself from the move by claiming "it was a decision that the chancellor made", but her spokesman downplayed the comments. "The prime minister was clear that... fiscal events are the responsibility of the chancellor—that's all she was setting clear," he told reporters Monday.

Out of a total tax package worth £45 billion (\$50 billion), the top rate cut would have cost some £2 billion—relatively small, but outsized for its political impact. Tory MPs who backed former finance minister Rishi Sunak—Truss's rival in the recent Tory leadership race—had threatened to vote it down, raising the prospect of a major battle in the House of Commons.

Grant Shapps, who was refused a cabinet job by Truss, welcomed her scrapping the tax cut, which he told BBC radio had been planned with "grossly insensitive timing".

With the U-turn, the stakes have soared for Truss as she prepares to close the party conference with a speech Wednesday. A raft of polls have found Truss and her economic package deeply unpopular, alongside plummeting ratings for the Tories.

Some surveys showed Labour with mammoth leads of up to 33 points—its biggest since the heyday of its former prime minister Tony Blair in the late 1990s. Labour's finance spokeswoman Rachel Reeves said the climbdown "comes too late for the families who will pay higher mortgages and higher prices for years to come" following the recent market turmoil. —AFP

## Turkey's inflation rate hits fresh 24-year high

ISTANBUL: Turkish inflation jumped to a new 24-year high exceeding 83 percent in September, official data showed Monday, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan presses for more interest rate cuts despite surging prices. Turkey's monetary policymakers are bucking the global trend of central banks raising interest rates to combat inflation, as high borrowing rates cool down the economy and prices.

But Erdogan, who has focused on growth ahead of a general election in June, has repeatedly railed against higher rates, calling them his "biggest enemy".

The country's central bank has followed his philosophy, lowering its policy rate to 12 percent from 13 percent last month. Erdogan has called for more rate cuts at the bank's next policy meeting on October 20, saying last week that it should be cut to single digits by the end of the year.

The TUIK state statistics agency said Monday that consumer prices rose by 83.45 percent in September on an annual basis, up from 80.2 percent in August. Inflation began to rise worldwide after economies emerged from COVID lockdowns but it worsened this year as Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy and food prices through the roof. "We are going through a period in which the global economic crisis, deepened by energy and commodity price increases triggered by the pandemic and war, has deeply affected all economies," Erdogan said in a televised address on Monday. "We will build the century of Turkey together, hopefully by overcoming the inflation issue," Erdogan said.

#### Lira sinks

In parallel to red-hot prices, Turkey has endured a currency crisis, with the Turkish lira hitting a new record low of 18.56 against the dollar following the latest inflation reading. September inflation was fuelled by transportation prices rising by 117.66 percent, food up more than 90 percent and housing prices climbing by more than 80 percent. Hakan Kara, the former chief economist of the Turkish central bank, said on Twitter that the country has now experienced its sharpest inflation surge since World War II.

He said "breaking the record" was inevitable given the government's unorthodox policies. Liam Peach, senior emerging markets economist at London-based Capital Economics, said a large increase in electricity and gas prices pushed inflation higher in Turkey. "We think inflation will rise a bit further but with President Erdogan calling for further easing the central bank is likely to deliver another interest rate cut this month," he wrote in a note to clients.

#### 'Lost the plot'

Erdogan prioritizes growth and exports over price stability, promising that prices will only start falling in January. "Erdogan has lost the plot on inflation — which is what people care about, more than growth. Voters cannot feel real GDP growth, they see inflation," said emerging market economist Timothy Ash of BlueBay Asset Management in London.

High inflation is one of the pressing issues Erdogan's ruling party needs to tackle as the crisis has seen its approval ratings drop to historic lows in the run up to



ISTANBUL: A money changer counts Turkish lira banknotes at a currency exchange office in Istanbul. —AFP

next year's election. Opposition leaders and many Turks no longer give credit to official government data. A respected monthly study released by independent economists from Turkey's ENAG research institute also showed prices soaring—at a much higher rate than the one reported by the state statistics agency. ENAG said the official annual rate of consumer price increases reached 186.27 percent in September, compared to 181.37 percent in August. —AFP

## US manufacturing growth slows to lowest since 2020

WASHINGTON: US manufacturing growth slowed in September to its weakest pace in more than two years amid a decline in orders, as well as easing price pressures, according to an industry survey released Monday. The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index dropped 1.9 points to 50.9 percent, well below expectations and just barely above the 50-percent threshold indicating expansion.

It was the weakest result since May 2020, ISM said. "The US manufacturing sector continues to expand, but at the lowest rate since the pandemic recovery began," ISM manufacturing survey chair Timothy Fiore said in a statement. After companies surveyed for the past four months have reported "softening new orders rates, the September index reading reflects companies adjusting to potential future lower demand," he said. The new orders index fell sharply, sinking into contraction territory at 47.1 percent, though production edged up slightly, the report said. The prices index also fell, still showing rising prices at 51.7 percent, but posting the lowest reading since June 2020.

Seven of the industries surveyed contracted compared to August, while nine reported growth.

"Concerns of global economic slowdown are growing, and (we are) experiencing some customers pulling back orders," a chemical products firm said. Several others pointed to ongoing supply chain issues hampering output. Factory employment slowed sharply, and while Fiore said there was an uptick in hiring freezes, "Markedly absent from panelists' comments was any large-scale mentioning of layoffs; this indicates companies are confident of near-term demand." —AFP



Business

# Iran traders pay a high price for Mahsa Amini protests

## Jittery customers avoid markets after nightfall

TEHRAN: At a bazaar in north Tehran, merchants are paying a high price since protests erupted across Iran more than two weeks ago over the death in custody of young Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini.

"It was hardly great even before, because of the economic crisis that has hit our country under US sanctions," sighed 53-year-old shopkeeper Mehdi, sitting on a stool at a stall where he sells T-shirts.

"But now with the protests our work has been cut in half," said Mehdi, who like other merchants interviewed cautiously avoided comment on the protest movement itself. "Customers who used to come out in the evenings don't come anymore."

During daylight hours, life goes on as normal in the stores and restaurants of the bazaar in Tajrish, an upmarket district of the Iranian capital. But the covered market is deserted after nightfall, when demonstrators take to the streets. They burn tires or garbage cans, confront the police or shout out anti-government slogans from rooftops and windows, interspersed with chants of "Women, Life, Freedom," which has become a motto of the movement.

Sparkling Iran's biggest wave of popular unrest in years, the death of Amini, 22, was announced on

September 16, three days after her detention by the morality police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. "I have to close the store four or five hours early for security reasons," explained Mehdi. According to Iran's Fars news agency, around 60 people have been killed in clashes with security forces in the night, women-led protests and more than 1,200 arrested. Rights groups based abroad put the death toll at more than 90.

The market in Tajrish, like other bazaars in Iran, normally comes to life in the mornings and then again in the evenings until 10 pm. "After dusk, a different clientele comes out to shop," said a second trader, Behzad, who has been selling caps, socks and trousers for three decades. "There are those who go out in the evening to avoid the daytime heat, others who just want to walk around and then the faithful who go shopping after prayers," he said. "Now, because of the protests, people don't go out after 5 pm, especially women." Behzad explained that police have not ordered shops to close early, but the merchants' union has warned that staying open would be at shopkeepers' own risk. "They will not take any responsibility in case of fire." — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian women shop at the Tajrish traditional bazaar in the capital Tehran on October 2, 2022. — AFP

## UK's under-fire FM vows to 'stay the course'

LONDON: Britain's beleaguered finance minister is set Monday to vow no retreat on the Conservative government's plan to pay for controversial tax cuts with billions more in borrowing.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng will address the ruling Tories' annual conference a day after Prime Minister Liz Truss admitted communication errors in how the plan had been presented on September 23, without conceding the need for any changes. "We must stay the course. I am confident our plan is the right one," Kwarteng will say in his speech to party members gathered in Birmingham, according to the Conservatives.

He will promise "a new economic deal for Britain... backed by an iron-clad commitment to fiscal discipline". Truss and Kwarteng have refused to rule out cuts to spending, including for benefit claimants, in the middle of Britain's worst cost-of-living crisis in generations.

At the same time, their plan comprises cuts in taxes for the richest and lifting a cap on bankers' bonuses. With Truss's administration not even a month old, the right-wing policy blitz has bombed with the electorate, according to polls which show the opposition Labour party opening up a mammoth lead.

Many senior Tories in Birmingham are nervous. Raising borrowing to pay for the £45 billion (\$50 billion) in tax cuts is "not Conservative", former minister Michael Gove told the BBC Sunday, just as Truss left the studio after her own interview.

Gove, ex-prime minister Boris Johnson's right-hand man in the 2016 Brexit campaign, said he was "profoundly" worried and refused to rule out voting against the plan in parliament. Others who, like Gove, backed Rishi Sunak-Truss's rival in the recent Tory leadership race-have also threatened to vote it down, raising the prospect of a major battle in the House of Commons.

Markets had tanked in response to the plan, and the Bank of England last week staged an emergency intervention to bail out embattled pension funds. Truss told the BBC she had not discussed axing high-earners' 45 percent tax rate with her cabinet, and appeared to distance herself from the move by claiming "it was a decision that the chancellor made".

That prompted an immediate rebuke from Johnson loyalist Nadine Dorries, who accused the new prime minister of "throwing (Kwarteng) under a bus on the first day of conference" on Sunday.

The stakes are rising for Truss as she prepares to close the party conference with a keynote speech on Wednesday. One YouGov survey Friday found 51 percent of Britons think she should resign-and 54 percent want Kwarteng to go.

Several other polls in recent days showed a Labour lead of up to 33 points over the Tories-its biggest since the heyday of former Labour prime minister Tony Blair in the late 1990s. — AFP

## EU ministers urge unity after Germany's energy 'bazooka'

BRUSSELS: EU finance ministers on Monday pleaded for unity after Germany announced a 200-billion-euro (\$195 billion) plan to help German households and businesses pay for high energy prices, amid accusations that the EU's biggest economy was acting alone.

Europe is struggling with historically high energy prices as it faces an early autumn cold snap and a coming winter almost certainly to be endured without crucial Russian gas supplies because of the war in Ukraine. Many EU countries have announced national programs to shield consumers from the high prices. But Germany went the furthest on Friday when it announced its mammoth plan, which will see help pouring to Germans for two years.



NEW YORK: Egypt's Minister for Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City. — AFP

Arriving to talk with his eurozone counterparts, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner insisted the spending was "proportionate" to the size of Germany's economy and said his goal was to use as little of the money as possible. But Germany's largesse rankled several EU capitals, some of which feared their industries could take severe blows while Germany's sits protected, deforming the EU's single market.

Outgoing Italian prime minister Mario Draghi has slammed Berlin for its lack of solidarity and coordination with EU partners. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, without directly criticizing Berlin, called on partners to agree a common strategy against the price shock and for countries to refrain from going it alone. "The more this strategy is coordinated, united, the better it is for all of us," he said.

### Risk to 'European unity'

Others pointed to the unprecedented solidarity shown in the Covid-19 crisis in which the 27 EU nations, against all expectations, approved a jointly financed 750-billion-euro recovery plan. "Solidarity is not only on the German shoulders, I think this is something that we have to deliver at European level," said EU economics affairs commissioner Paolo Gentiloni. "We have very good examples from the previous crisis on how solidarity can react to a crisis and also reassure financial markets. I think that this is our goal," he said.

While a COVID-style recovery plan is not in the cards for now, Le Maire said 200 billion euros in loans and 20 billion euros in aid should be devoted to REPowerEU, a program to help countries break their dependence on Russian gas. Bruegel, a highly influential think tank in Brussels, called the German plan a spending "bazooka" that many EU countries were unable to match, creating a potential source of animosity. "If the German gas price brake gives German business a much better chance to survive the crisis than, say, Italian business, economic divergences in the EU could be deepened, and European unity on Russia undermined," it said in a blog. — AFP



BIRMINGHAM, UK: Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng speaks during a television interview on the second day of the annual Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, central England, on October 3, 2022. — AFP

## Calls for more funding as pre-COP27 climate talks open in DR Congo

KINSHASA, DR Congo: Warning "no-one will escape" a worsening crisis, DR Congo led calls on Monday for a surge in funding to brake global heating and fight its impacts at the start of pre-COP27 climate talks in Kinshasa. The haggle comes ahead of COP27 — the UN's 27th summit-level gathering on climate change, which is due to take place in Egypt next month. At opening ceremonies in the DRC's parliament building, Congolese Environment Minister Eve Bazaiba called on countries to respect financial pledges and endorse plans to help compensate climate-inflicted damage.

She added that money to protect carbon-absorbing rain forests-of which the DRC has vast tracts-should be viewed not as aid but as an investment in humanity's future. "Unless a global effort is made ... no-one will escape," Bazaiba warned. "We all breathe the same air". Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry also stressed the need for more money, noting an unfulfilled promise dating back to COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009 — to provide developing countries with \$100 billion dollars a year to fight climate change.

"The picture is not reassuring," he said. Deputy UN Secretary-General Amina Mohammed offered a gloomy update on the battle today. "All indicators on climate are heading in the wrong direction," she said. Current funding for climate adaptation is a "pittance" compared to the likely scale of future needs, she said.

Delegates from over 50 countries are attending the two-day informal talks in Kinshasa, including US climate envoy John Kerry. The event winds up on Wednesday with side discussions. No formal announcements are expected in what is billed as a ground-clearing exercise ahead of the next month's conference, taking place in Sharm el-Sheikh from November 6-18. Greater support from wealthier countries, historically the world's biggest carbon polluters, to their poorer counterparts is expected to dominate the talks. But post-pandemic economic strains and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have cast a pall over the money question. The last UN climate summit, COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, reaffirmed the goal-agreed in Paris in 2015 — of limiting the rise in the Earth's average temperature to well below 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5C.—AFP

## AU launches lecture series on CSR strategy

KUWAIT: Aligning with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, the Australian University (AU) has launched its series of technology-driven seminars. The program targets public and in particular, the youth, to create awareness about recent technology insights and trends. The awareness sessions kicked off with an enriching seminar entitled "Cyber Security" presented by Roland Abi Najem, certified senior trainer and content developer for the International Society for



KUWAIT: Roland Abi Najem speaks during the seminar on 'Cyber Security'.

## Italy's ENI ready to pay guarantee to unblock Russian gas

MILAN: Italian giant Eni said Monday it is ready to provide a 20-million-euro guarantee to restart deliveries of Russian gas through Austria, after a stoppage blamed on regulatory changes.

The gas delivery was suspended Saturday because Russia's Gazprom failed to provide a new-

ly-imposed guarantee to the carrier transporting it from Austria to Italy, Eni's CEO Claudio Descalzi said. "We are seeing if we take over" and provide the 20 million euros, he said, adding that he hoped that "the problem can be resolved this week".

"The stoppage is absolutely not due to geopolitical reasons," Descalzi said on the sidelines of a Rome conference. Speaking about Gazprom, he added that "it is difficult to imagine that a company that wants to pay in rubles can provide guarantees in euros."

Gazprom completely suspended gas deliveries to Eni on Saturday, citing the "impossibility of gas transport through Austria" due to a new regulation that came into force on October 1.—AFP

## Business

# Business confidence wanes among Japan's major manufacturers

## Raging inflation and higher energy prices weigh on business confidence

**TOKYO:** Business confidence fell among Japan's largest manufacturers for the third straight quarter, a closely-watched survey showed Monday, defying analyst expectations for a rise in sentiment.

The Bank of Japan's Tankan survey shows major manufacturers are still much more upbeat than during the gloomiest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. But inflation, including higher energy prices fuelled by the war in Ukraine, has weighed on business confidence this year, analysts say.

The quarterly survey, considered to be the broadest indicator of how Japanese businesses are faring, showed confidence among large manufacturers at plus eight, down slightly from the previous reading of plus nine.

A positive figure means more manufacturers see business conditions as favorable than those that consider them unfavorable. The reading has been falling since April after nearly two years of improving sentiment, which had plunged to minus 34 in June 2020 as COVID-19 restrictions pummeled the economy. "While soaring material and energy prices continued to weigh on business sentiment, an easing supply crunch due to the lifting of Shanghai lockdowns would provide a boost", Tsuyoshi Ueno, senior economist at NLI Research, said ahead of Monday's release.

Among large non-manufacturers, business confidence slightly improved to 14 from a previous reading of 13, the Tankan showed. Inflation in Japan hit a seven-year high of 2.8 percent for items excluding fresh products in August, though the figure is much less steep than in many other countries.

The yen has also hit 24-year lows in recent weeks, prompting an intervention last month by the government, which is also preparing another round of stimulus measures to boost the world's third-

largest economy.

Meanwhile, Tokyo stocks shed earlier losses and ended higher Monday as investors picked up bargains despite continued concerns over monetary tightening in the United States. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 1.07 percent, or 278.58 points, to 26,215.79, while the broader Topix index rose 0.63 percent, or 11.64 points, to 1,847.58.

The dollar was at 145.02 yen, crossing the 145-level at which Japan's government intervened to bolster the currency last month. That was against 144.49 yen in New York on Friday. The Nikkei started under pressure after global shares headed south last week, with the US Federal Reserve continuing its aggressive campaign to hike rates to fight inflation. But by mid-morning, investors started to buy back shares on fears that they might have over-sold them.

"As the domestic index opened the new week by falling further, investors became cautious about excessive selling," Daiwa Securities said in a commentary. Commodity shares benefited as oil futures rose on news that oil producers were considering a production cut, the brokerage said. Investors also picked up shares that have been targets of recent selling, such as semiconductors and automakers, analysts added. Among major shares, Advantest, a major producer of testing kits for semiconductors, surged 4.78 percent to 7,020 yen. Sony Group, which is also known for its sensors along with games, audio equipment and movies, added 2.40 percent to 9,509 yen.

Automaker Toyota jumped 3.49 percent to 1,941.5 yen. Energy developer Inpex added 3.02 percent to 1,400 yen. Japan Petroleum Exploration rose 2.89 percent to 3,565 yen. Shortly before the opening bell, the Bank of Japan's closely watched



**TOKYO:** The Bank of Japan's Tankan survey shows major manufacturers are still much more upbeat than during the gloomiest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tankan survey was released, showing a worse-than-expected reading of plus eight among large manufacturers.

The figure meant confidence among major manufacturers fell for three consecutive quarters, despite market expectations that the lifting of Shanghai lockdowns would boost their sentiment. Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki reiter-

ated Monday that the government was ready to respond to currency volatility, after Tokyo spent around \$19 billion on an intervention to stop the currency slumping in late September. At the time, it denied the intervention was triggered by the dollar breaking through the symbolic 145-yen level, but rather was a response to "excessive fluctuations". —AFP

## KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the Al-Rabeh draw with 30 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the second, third and fourth week of September 2022.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Abdullatif Al-Shuraian, Salem Al-Shaibani, Meshary Al-Mutairi, Saad Al-Dhafiri, Haya Al-Baraheem, Ahmed Al-Ibrahim, Tareq Al-Ameeri, Noufah Al-Ajmi, Khaled Al-Dosari, Fahad Al-Sanfy, Oudah Al-Beshaiti, Hamad Al-Enezi, Abdulrahim Abdulqader, Mohsen Al-Subaie, Abdulaziz Al-Qinai, Asmaa Al-Misbah, Souad Al-Ziadi, Hanadi Al-Shohomi, Ahmad Al-Fadhli, Safinaz Mohammed, Emad Al-Hassan, Rashed Al-Hajri, Marzouqa Al-Enezi, Mariam Al-Matrook, Awatef Al-Shaye, Khawla Al-Subaie, Farhan Al-Rashidi, Fatima Al-Fahad, Abdulaziz Al-Shatti and Khaled Al-Mutairi.

The newly-designed Al-Rabeh campaign launched by KFH in 2022, provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the three months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the three months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of KD 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1kg of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and KD 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year. KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

## Deliveroo provides refreshments to voters on poll day

**KUWAIT:** Deliveroo treated voters to healthy and cold-pressed juice, from IZ Juice, during election day. "In light of election season, we are proud to be doing our part! We are excited to be able to spearhead this initiative and treat voters to their favorite drinks in partnership with IZ Juice," said Seham Al-Husaini, General Manager of Deliveroo Kuwait. "With so many Kuwaitis coming together to cast their votes, we wanted a chance to celebrate the voter turnout. We are proud to be celebrating Election Day with our customers."

## Kalyan Jewellers announces unique Diwali offers

**KUWAIT:** With the advent of India's peak festive season, Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewelry brands, has announced a new offer this season across Kuwait - 'This Diwali with Kalyan' for its patrons across the country. Staying on course with Indian traditional jewelry trends for the festive season, Kalyan Jewellers has announced an "one-of-its-kind" offers for customers to get maximum value on their jewelry purchases, across categories - from gold and diamonds to uncut and

## Europe stocks sink on Credit Suisse fears; oil jumps

**LONDON:** European stocks sank Monday on fears over the health of Swiss bank Credit Suisse, while oil jumped on expectations of an OPEC output cut. Investors are already on edge over worries that rising interest rates, aimed at fighting sky-high inflation, could spark recessions.

The British pound bounced above \$1.12 after the UK scrapped plans to axe its top income tax rate, after a debt-fuelled budget had sent sterling spiraling to a record dollar low one week ago.

"Sentiment is still pretty dicey and Credit Suisse is definitely weighing heavily today on European equities," Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson told AFP. "A globally systemic bank requiring to raise capital would be a major event and could certainly undermine confidence in the banking system."

Shares in Credit Suisse plunged to a new low in Zurich on Monday as the scandal-plagued lender sought to ease concerns about its financial health. Stocks tumbled almost 10 percent to 3.58 Swiss francs (\$3.61) before clawing back ground to 3.65 francs, down more than eight percent.

The Financial Times reported that senior executives sought over the weekend to reassure big clients and investors about the bank's liquidity and capital position due to concerns raised about its financial strength. "The sad reality is that if there is something wrong with Credit Suisse, then we have a major issue as this is a gigantic institute, and the domino effect will be unbearable," said AvaTrade analyst Naseem Aslam.

"We are proud to partner with Deliveroo in treating voters around the country to fresh-pressed juices and drinks. Election Day is always incredibly exciting, and we are happy to be a part of this special day," said Marion at IZ Juice. Voters enjoyed picking from their favorite fresh-pressed juices, immunity shots, iced tea, coffee, and more.

This year, Deliveroo celebrated its third year of business in the Kuwaiti market, delivering hundreds of thousands of meals to hungry customers around the country. Since its launch, Deliveroo has set itself apart with its unbeatable customer service and was recently named the "Best Delivery App" by Service Hero. With exclusive restaurant partners, special offers, and meal deals, Deliveroo is always here to deliver. To keep up with the latest restaurant offers in Kuwait, download the Deliveroo application from the App Store (for iOS devices) and Google Play (for Android devices).



**KUWAIT:** Deliveroo employees offer juice to a voter on election day.

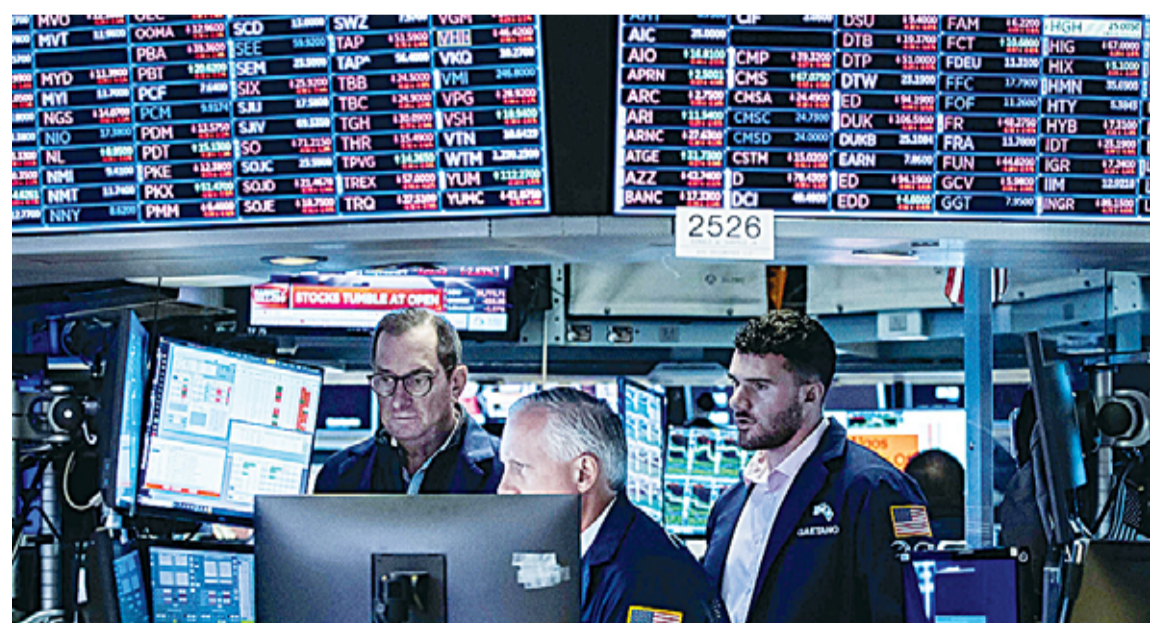
precious stone jewelry.

The new offer allows patrons to get cashback up to KD 10 on every purchase of gold Jewelry worth KD 500. The customers will also be able to get cashback of KD 20 on every purchase of precious/uncut jewels worth KD 500. On purchase of diamond jewelry worth, KD 500 customers will get up to KD 50 cashback.

Talking about the offers, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers said, "We are delighted to announce the launch of our Diwali celebrations with unique offers on our extensive range of jewelry. At Kalyan Jewellers, we understand the emotion and sentiment of our customers linked with their festivals and jewelry, which is why we strive to provide maximum benefits to our patrons on their festive jewelry purchases by providing them great offers."

'This Diwali with Kalyan' offers can be availed by

customers until 20th November 2022 at all Kalyan Jewellers' showrooms across the country. The jewelry retailed at Kalyan Jewellers goes through multiple purity tests and patrons also receive the Kalyan Jewellers 4-Level Assurance Certificate which guarantees purity, free lifetime maintenance of ornaments, detailed product information and transparent exchange and buy-back policies. The certification is part of the brand's commitment towards offering the very best to its loyalists.



**NEW YORK:** Traders work on the New York Stock Exchange.

### Oil spikes before OPEC

Oil briefly leapt by more than four percent as reports said OPEC and its allies are considering a major output cut to stem a price plunge caused by demand worries. That stoked stubborn concerns about soaring inflation, which has been fuelled this year by sky-high energy prices after key producer Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "The rumors of a potential OPEC production cut won't do anything to calm worries about inflation and a recession," said IG analyst Chris Beauchamp.

The 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Riyadh, and their 10 partners led by Moscow will physically meet on Wednesday for the first time since March 2020.

### Sterling gains on U-turn

The pound rallied briefly after UK finance minister

Kwasi Kwarteng made a major U-turn with the scrapping of a controversial plan to axe the top income tax rate.

The cut was part of a controversial mini-budget unveiled by Kwarteng 10 days ago, which had sent sterling spinning to a record low of \$1.0350. UK gilts, or government bonds, remain supported by an emergency Bank of England intervention after yields rocketed following the debt-fuelled budget late last month.

Asian equities mainly fell Monday, with Hong Kong tumbling to its lowest point in more than a decade as fears for China's economy deepens this year's investor rout. The Hang Seng Index shed 0.83 percent, or 143.32 points, to close at 17,079.51. But crucially it crossed below the 17,000 level in the afternoon, touching a nadir not seen since October 2011 and the aftermath of the global financial crash and during the eurozone debt crisis. —AFP

Lifestyle | Features



This photograph taken in the town of Zelenodolsk, southern Ukraine shows the storage of hundreds of bikes, but also children's strollers and wheelchairs, which belong to people who fled from territories occupied by Russian forces in Kherson region amid the Russia invasion of Ukraine. — AFP photos

In Ukraine's south, bicycles wait for their owners' return

Hundreds of abandoned bicycles in a small town near Ukraine's southern front line tell the many stories of their owners, who were forced to flee Russia's invasion. They come in all colors: green, red, black, blue, all stored inside and outside a small warehouse in the town of Zelenodolsk. "We keep them for their owners," says municipal worker Vitaliy Rekhliitsky, so that they can come and collect them at the end of the war.

One bicycle has a knitted saddle cover, another a small pouch attached to the frame, many others are rusty and battered by time and travel. Some have baby seats attached to the back. Among the over 600 bicycles stored there are also pushchairs, wheelchairs, a special needs tricycle and a brown children's bicycle.

Many of them have been stored since early March, when Russia's army gradually took control of the recently-annexed neighboring Kherson region. By that time, Russian forces had stolen most of the cars in the surrounding villages and all that was left were the bicycles, Rekhliitsky recalled. "People fled, sometimes with nothing at all, sometimes with a bag," he told AFP. Some pedaled to freedom on decades-old bikes that looked like they could be from the Soviet era.

'Huge loss'

The exiles were people with limited means. For the elderly, losing the bikes is a "huge loss", said Dmytro Kostenko, who

guards these abandoned vehicles. As Ukraine's forces made progress in their recent counteroffensive, recapturing nearby villages, more bicycles have been brought back by the soldiers. But in a sign that things might be changing for the better, around fifty owners have returned to collect their property. Every time they come, "I have tears in my eyes," Kostenko told AFP with the sounds of artillery howling in the distance.

parts of town as well as the dozens of uniform low-rise buildings built to accommodate its workers. The nearby hospital had an influx of patients on Thursday morning after Russian forces targeted the plant. Some 19 people were injured, according to regional governor Valentin Reznichenko. "People were just going to work when the Russians fired their Uran (missiles) at them," he said.



Evgeniya Vasilyeva, 84, stands in her garden on the outskirts of the town of Zelenodolsk, southern Ukraine amid the Russia invasion of Ukraine.

"The bombardments have intensified" since the start of the counteroffensive, said the man in his sixties, holding onto his crutches. Located just 15 kilometers from the southern front line, Zelenodolsk is a small town of some 13,000 residents, founded in the 1960s when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. Its name translates as "green valley" from Ukrainian and Russian, a nod to the rich agricultural lands that the town was built on.

The tall chimneys of the Zelenodolsk thermal power plant are visible from some

'Antichrist'

The victims were hit by shrapnel but none were seriously injured, said Dr Svetlana Kravchuk, who treated them in hospital. Many in the city suffer from "chronic stress" from the constant bombing, which in September killed a nine-year-old boy, the doctor added. Over the nights spent hiding in corridors or underground cellars, many "have forgotten what it is to sleep in a bed," she said. The hospital's director Olena Yaroshenko said she feels more "reassured" since the start of the counteroffensive since "we hear more of our people shooting". But in a garden in the outskirts of Zelenodolsk, where a pear tree hangs low under the weight of its fruit and some strawberries still grow, Yevgeniya Vasilyeva mourns the lost calm.

The 84-year-old arrived in Zelenodolsk in 1964, a few years after its founding, and has watched the town grow. She was married to a Russian and often travelled to Russia, where "all kinds of good people live," she said. The deeply religious woman with a colored scarf covering her grey hair, however, doesn't mince words in describing Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling him the "antichrist" and bearer of the "apocalypse". Near her garden that is a snapshot of what the "green valley" was like before the Soviet era, a small house recently lost its roof, swept away in the shelling. — AFP



Photo shows a damaged residential building in the town of Zelenodolsk, southern Ukraine, amid the Russia invasion of Ukraine.

Five things to know about Nobel prizes

Since 1901, the Nobel prizes have been awarded to men, women and organizations for work that has led to great advances for mankind, in line with the wishes of inventor Alfred Nobel. The winners of this year's prizes will be announced daily from Monday, October 3 through October 10. Here are five things to know about the prizes and their creator.

Posthumous awards

Since 1974, the statutes of the Nobel Foundation stipulate that the prize may not be given posthumously. But a person may be awarded if she or he dies between the time of the announcement in October and the formal prize ceremony in December. Before the change, only two people had won a Nobel posthumously. One was Dag Hammarskjold, the Swedish secretary general of the United Nations who died in a plane crash in 1961 but was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later the same year.

And in 1931, the Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded posthumously to another Swede, Erik Axel Karlfeldt. In 2011, the medicine prize committee selected Ralph Steinman of Canada, unaware that he had passed away just three days before the prize announcement. Nevertheless, the foundation decided to give him the award.

A fortune for a Nobel

The Nobel prizes come with a tidy award sum, currently set at 10 million kronor (\$905,000) per discipline, along with an 18-carat gold medal. The 2021 Peace Prize laureate, Russia's Dmitry Muratov, turned his gold disc into a fortune to benefit Ukrainian children displaced by the war. In June, his 196-gram medal - including 150 grams of gold - sold at auction for a whopping \$103.5 million to an anonymous philanthropist. That smashed the previous record for a Nobel medal 21-fold.

A misunderstanding?

On April 12, 1888, Alfred Nobel's elder brother Ludvig died in Cannes, France. But newspaper Le Figaro mixed up the brothers and announced Alfred's death on its front page under a rather inflammatory headline: "A man who can hardly be called a benefactor of humanity died yesterday in Cannes. He is Nobel, inventor of dynamite." Many credit this slight as the inspiration for Nobel's creation of the prizes, pointing to the wording in his will that the awards should go to those who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind".

"But we can only imagine" that this was what happened because the incident is not mentioned in his correspondence, his biographer Ingrid Carlberg told AFP. As for

the visitors who came to offer their condolences at the inventor's Parisian mansion, they were surprised to be greeted by a very much alive Alfred, as reported by Le Figaro the following day.

Climate researcher

A man of many talents, Swedish physicist and chemist Svante Arrhenius won the 1903 Chemistry Prize for his "electrolytic theory of dissociation". But he is now more widely recognized for his other pioneering work: at the end of the 19th century, he was the first to theorize that the combustion of fossil energy - which at the time was primarily coal - emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and leads to global warming. According to his calculations, a dou-



A statue of Alfred Nobel is pictured ahead a press conference to announce the winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in Stockholm, Sweden. — AFP

bling of CO2 emissions would heat the planet by five degrees Celsius; current models suggest a range between 2.6 and 3.9 degrees Celsius. However, completely unaware of just how much fossil fuel the world would go on to consume, Arrhenius underestimated the speed at which this level would be reached, predicting it would take...3,000 years.

New prizes, even richer

With 120 years under their belt and a name associated throughout the world with excellence, the Nobel prizes are considered the creme de la creme of awards. But some critics consider them to be archaic, often honoring discoveries made decades ago and not taking into account newer scientific fields. The Right Livelihood Award was therefore created in 1980 by a German-Swedish philanthropist after the Nobel Foundation refused to create two new prizes for the environment and international development.

Finland created the one-million-euro Millennium Technology Prize in 2002 to recognise the role technology plays in solving global challenges, while the \$1 million Kavli Prizes in Norway have since 2008 honoured discoveries in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. But the richest prize of them all is the most recent one, the Breakthrough Prize created in 2010 by a group of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. Dubbed the "Oscars for Science", they come with a cheque for \$3 million, more than three times the winnings of a Nobel Prize. — AFP



Member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine Anna Wedell explains the research field of the winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine Svante Paabo, during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 3, 2022.

Paris abandons controversial re-landscaping around Eiffel

The Paris mayor's office has abandoned plans for new buildings around the foot of the Eiffel Tower following months of protests from environmentalists and a petition signed by nearly 150,000 people. Under the scheme, around 20 mature trees would have been cut down, while four new buildings housing a cafe, shops, toilets and baggage drop-off were set to be constructed.

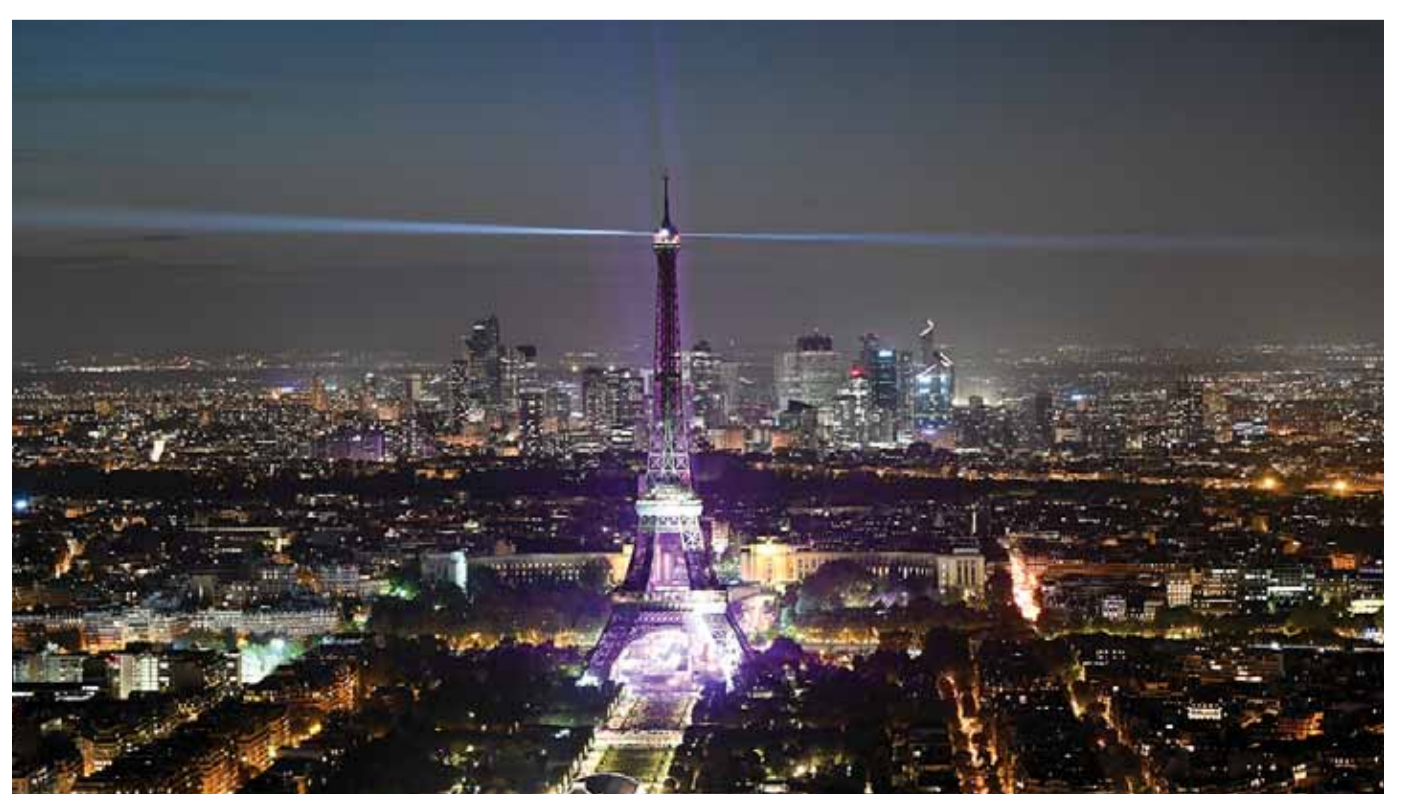
"I am announcing that we are completely cancelling any construction project at the foot of the tower but the re-landscaping is maintained," deputy mayor Emmanuel Gregoire told the Journal du Dimanche. A decision to save the trees had been made in May following protests and objections from local residents. The landscaping is part of a much larger plan to re-organise the space around the famous tourist attraction, which will see roads and public areas planted with grass and shrubs.

"We are not giving into pressure but we would like that the project is not overshadowed by controversy. Let's just say that we are removing some of the friction," Gregoire continued. An area of 54

hectares (133 acres) around the tower, currently crisscrossed by several roads, will be largely turned over to pedestrians and "low-impact transportation" such as bus and bike lanes. City authorities are aiming to finish as much as possible for the start of the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.

An estimated 150,000 people visit the tower site every day during the summer high season, including the 20,000 to 30,000 who climb the tower itself. Overall, seven million people visit the tower each year. Campaigners were delighted that the plans for new buildings had been dropped and the trees saved. "We're satisfied for now but we remain vigilant," said Thomas Brail from the National Surveillance Group for Trees (GNSA), which took part in a coalition of groups opposed to the plans. — AFP

Eiffel Tower illuminated in pink to mark the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer, in Paris. — AFP



## Lifestyle | Features



Photo shows an aerial view of solar panels placed atop a bakery building used to power it, in Gaza City in the Palestinian enclave. — AFP photos

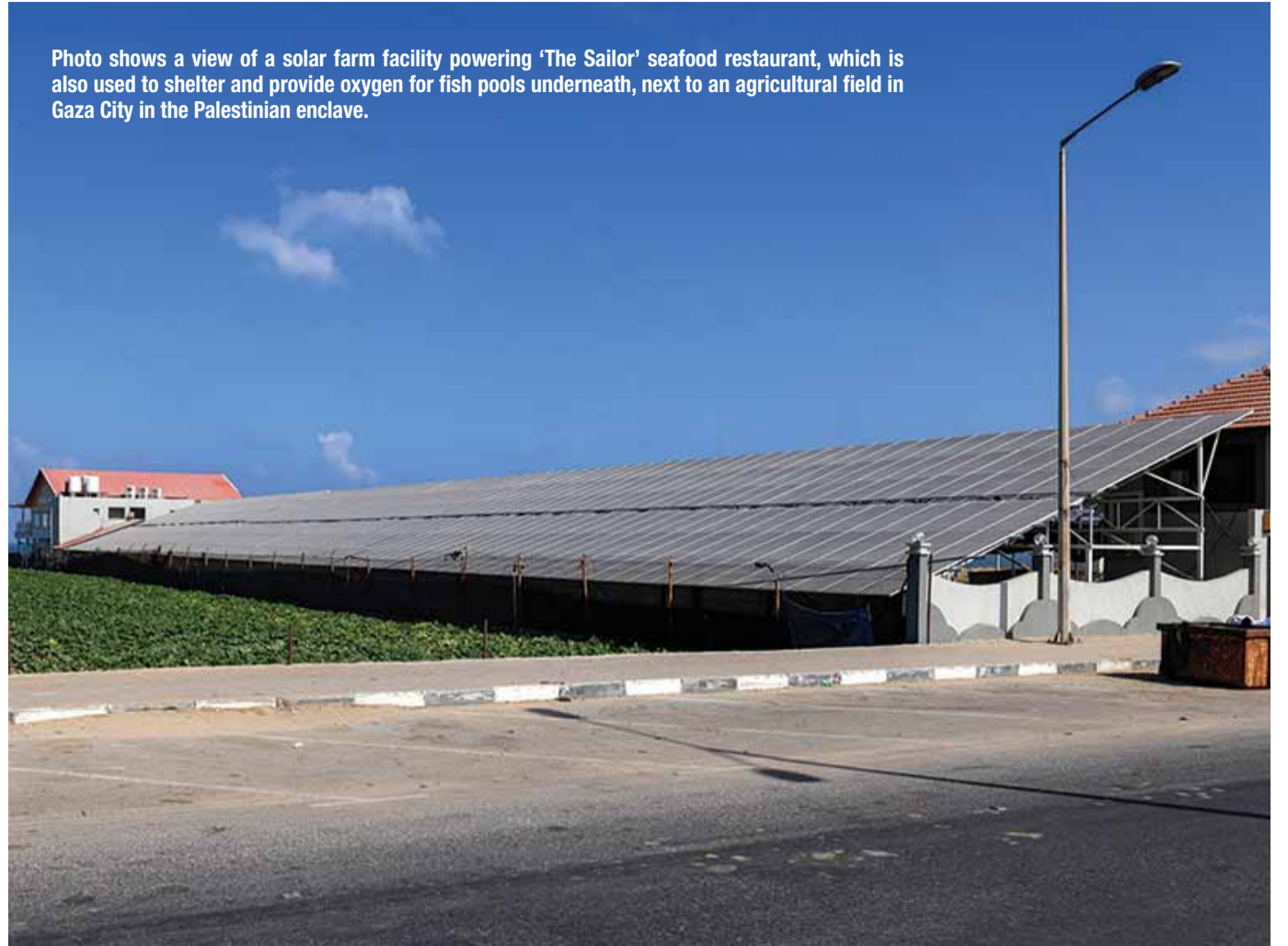


Photo shows a view of a solar farm facility powering 'The Sailor' seafood restaurant, which is also used to shelter and provide oxygen for fish pools underneath, next to an agricultural field in Gaza City in the Palestinian enclave.

## Tired of power cuts, Gaza turns to solar

**P**alestinians living in the blockaded enclave of Gaza have long endured an unstable and costly electricity supply, so Yasser al-Hajj found a different way: Solar power. Looking at the rows of photo-voltaic panels at his beachfront fish farm and seafood restaurant, The Sailor, he said the investment he made six years ago had more than paid off.

"Electricity is the backbone of the project," Hajj said, standing under a blazing Mediterranean sun. "We rely on it to provide oxygen for the fish, as well as to draw and pump water from the sea." The

dozens of solar panels that shade the fish ponds below have brought savings that are now paying to refurbish the business, he said, as laborers loaded sand onto a horse-drawn cart. Hajj said he used to pay 150,000 shekels (\$42,000) per month for electricity, "a huge burden," before solar power slashed his monthly bill to 50,000 shekels.

For most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents, living under Hamas Islamist rule and a 15-year-old blockade, power cuts are a daily fact of life that impact everything from homes to hospital wards. While some Gazans pay for a generator

to kick in when the mains are cut - for around half of each day, according to United Nations data - ever more people are turning to renewables. From the rooftops of Gaza City, solar panels now stretch out into the horizon. Green energy advocates say it is a vision for a global future as the world faces the perils of climate change and rising energy costs.

### Swap to green power

Gaza bakery owner Bishara Shehadeh began the switch to solar this summer, by placing hundreds of gleaming panels on his rooftop. "We have sur-

plus electricity in the day," he said. "We sell it to the electricity company in exchange for providing us with current during the night." Solar energy lights up the bright bulbs illuminating the bustling bakery, but the ovens still run on diesel. "We are working on importing ovens, depending on electrical power, from Zionist entity, to save the cost of diesel," said Shehadeh. Both the bakery and the fish farm have relied partially on foreign donors to kick-start their switch to solar, although their owners are also investing their own cash.

But in a poverty-stricken territory where nearly 80 percent of residents rely on humanitarian assistance, according to the UN, not everyone can afford to install renewable energy. Around a fifth of Gazans have installed solar power in their homes, according to an estimate published in April by the "Energy, Sustainability and Society" journal. Financing options are available for Gazans with some capital, like Shehadeh, who got a four-year loan to fund his bakery project.

### Import restrictions

At a store selling solar power kits, MegaPower, engineer Shehab Hussein said prices start at around \$1,000 and can be paid in installments. Clients included a sewing factory and a drinks producer, which see the mostly Chinese-made technology as "a worthwhile investment", he said. Raya al-Dadah, who heads the University of Birmingham's Sustainable Energy Technology Laboratory, said her family in Gaza has been using simple solar panels that heat water for more than 15 years. "The pipe is super rusty, the glass is broken... and I just had a shower and the water is super hot," she said during a visit to the territory.

But Dadah encountered obstacles

when she tried to import a more sophisticated solar system for a community project in Gaza, where imports are tightly restricted by Zionist entity and Egypt. "Bringing them to the Gaza Strip has proved to be impossible," she said. The advanced set-up includes more efficient panels and equipment that tracks the sun's path. Such technology is being used by Zionist firms such as SolarGik, whose smart control systems factor in weather conditions and can harness up to 20 percent more energy than standard panels, chief executive Gil Kroyzer told AFP.



A view of solar panels placed atop a bakery building used to power it, in Gaza City.

Across the frontier in Gaza, in the absence of such high-tech equipment, Dadah relies on the standard panels to power a women's centre and surrounding homes in the strip's northern Jabalia area. Despite the challenges, Dadah said solar energy remains a "brilliant" option for Gaza, with its copious sunlight: "It is really a very promising energy source, and it's available everywhere". — AFP



An aerial view of solar panels placed atop a bakery building used to power it, in Gaza City in the Palestinian enclave.

## Native American activist and actress Littlefeather dies

**S**acheen Littlefeather, the Native American activist and actress who was booed in 1973 as she refused an Oscar on behalf of Marlon Brando, has died aged 75, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Sunday. The Academy announced her death in a tweet that quoted Littlefeather



as saying: "When I am gone, always be reminded that whenever you stand for your truth, you will be keeping my voice and the voices of our nations and our people alive." Two weeks ago, the Academy held a ceremony at its new Los Angeles museum honoring Littlefeather and publicly apologizing for her treatment at the Oscars ceremony nearly 50 years ago.

Littlefeather, who is of Apache and Yaqui heritage, was booed at the 1973 Academy Awards - the first to be broadcast live around the world - while explaining on Brando's behalf why he would not accept his Best Actor Oscar for "The Godfather." Brando had asked Littlefeather to decline the award for him in an act of protest against the treatment of Native Americans by the film industry. "I went up there, like a proud Indian woman with dignity, with courage, with grace, and with humility," Littlefeather said at the museum event. "I knew that I had to speak the truth. Some people may accept it. And some people may not."

She said Western star John Wayne had to be restrained from physically assaulting her as she left the stage. Littlefeather, a member of the Screen Actors' Guild, subsequently found it difficult to get work in Hollywood, with casting directors warned not to employ her. Asked by reporters ahead of the ceremony how she felt about having to wait so long to hear the word "sorry," Littlefeather was philosophical. "It's never too late for an apology," she said. "It's never too late for forgiveness." — AFP

Sacheen Littlefeather

## Paramount's gruesome 'Smile' tops North America box office

**N**ew psychological horror film "Smile" has Paramount executives beaming after topping the North American box office with an estimated \$22 million in weekend ticket sales, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. The film is the disturbing tale of a therapist (Sosie Bacon, daughter of actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick) whose grasp on reality begins to slip after she witnesses a shocking and gruesome event involving a patient.

"This is an excellent opening, the kind that launches a new horror series," said analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research. Such horror

films, he noted, tend to have low budgets but loyal audiences—two things studios love. Indeed, another psychological horror film, Warner Bros.' "Don't Worry Darling," placed second for the Friday-through-Sunday period, pulling in \$7.3 million. With Olivia Wilde acting and directing a cast that includes Florence Pugh, Chris Pine and pop icon Harry Styles, the film was last weekend's Number One.

In third, also down one spot, was Sony's history-inspired "The Woman King," at \$7 million. Oscar winner Viola Davis stars as the leader of an all-female army of African warriors. Fourth place

went to Universal's new release "Bros," at \$4.8 million. Gross said reviews for the movie—a rare gay romantic comedy from a major Hollywood studio—were "outstanding" thanks to its "knowing and relatable" humor. Billy Eichner co-wrote and stars in the film. And in fifth was the re-release of 20th Century's 2009 blockbuster "Avatar," at \$4.7 million. The studio is hoping the original will help build interest in a high-budget (\$250 million) sequel due in December, "Avatar: The Way of Water." — AFP



Jessie T Usher attends Beyond Fest 2022 for the Los Angeles premiere screening of Paramount Pictures' 'SMILE' at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica, California. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



An Amazigh woman looks after a herd of sheep near the village of Amellagou.

# MOROCCAN NOMADS' WAY OF LIFE THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

In the blistering desert of Morocco, the country's last Berber nomads, the Amazigh, say their ancient lifestyle is under threat as climate change brings ever-more intense droughts. "Everything has changed," said Moha Ouchaali, his wrinkled features framed by a black turban. "I don't recognize myself anymore in the world of today. Even nature is turning

His tribe, the Ait Aissa Izem, has spent centuries roaming the country to find food for their animals, but their way of life is steadily disappearing. According to the last census, just 25,000 people in Morocco were nomadic in 2014, down by two-thirds in just a decade. "We're exhausted," Ouchaali's 45-year-old wife Ida said emotionally. "Before, we man-

"If these people, used to living in extreme conditions, can't resist the intensity of global warming, that means things are bad." The drying up of water resources was "the last nail in the coffin for nomads", he added. In easier times, the Ait Aissa Izem would pass the summer in the relatively cool mountain valley of Imilchil, before heading to the area around regional capital Errachidia for the winter.

"That's ancient history," Ouchaali said, sitting in his tent and taking a sip of sweet Moroccan tea. "Today we go wherever there's a bit of water left, to try to save the animals." Severe water shortages have even pushed some nomads to take the rare step of taking out loans to feed their livestock, their most vital asset. "I've gone into debt to buy food for my animals so they don't starve to death," said Ahmed Assni, 37, sitting by a tiny, almost dried-out stream near Amellagou.

Saeed Ouhada said the difficulties had pushed him to find accommodation for his wife and children in Amellagou, while he stays with his parents in a camp on the edge of the town. "Being a nomad isn't what it used to be," he said. "I'll keep at it because I have to. My parents are old but they refuse to live in a town." Driss Skounti, elected to represent nomads in the region, said the area used to have around 460 tents. Today, they don't even add up to a tenth of that number.

### 'Tired of fighting'

Some Moroccan nomads have given up their ancient lifestyle altogether and not just because of the ever-worsening climate. "I was tired of fighting," said Haddou Oudach, 67, who settled permanently in Er-Rich in 2010. "We've

become outcasts from society. I can't even imagine what nomads are going through today." Moha Haddachi, the head of an association for the Ait Aissa Izem nomads, said social and economic changes were making a nomadic lifestyle ever-more difficult. The scarcity of pastures due to land privatization and agricultural investment also contributes to the difficulties, he said. "Agricultural investors now dominate the spaces where nomads used to graze their herds."

Nomads also face hostility from some villagers, angered by those camping in their region despite officially belonging to other provinces. A law was passed in 2019 to delineate where nomads and sedentary farmers could graze their animals, but "nobody applies it", Haddachi said. Former nomad Oudach is despondent about "this era of selfishness where everyone thinks only of themselves." "It wasn't always like this, we used to be welcomed everywhere we went," he said.

Embarking on a life of nomadism offers little to young people. Houda Ouchaali, 19, says she can't stand watching her parents "suffering and battling just to survive". "The new generation wants to turn the page on nomadism," she said. She now lives with an uncle in Er-Rich and is looking for professional training to allow her to "build a future" and escape the "stigmatising gaze that city people often have for nomads". Driss Skounti said he had little hope for the future of nomadism. "Nomadic life has an identity and a tradition steeped in history," he said, "but is doomed to disappear within 10 years." — AFP



An Amazigh woman poses for a picture in her tent near the village of Amellagou.



Amazigh man Moha Ouchaali sits in his tent near the village of Amellagou where Morocco's last nomads reside.

aged to live decently, but all these droughts, more and more intense, make our lives complicated. Without water we can't do anything." Ouchaali, an Amazigh man in his 50s, has set up an encampment near a dry riverbed in barren hills about 280 kilometers east of Marrakesh. Amid the rocky, arid landscape near the village of Amellagou, he and his family have pitched two black woollen tents, lined with old animal fodder bags and fabric scraps. One is for sleeping and hosting guests, the other serves as a kitchen. "Water has become hard to find. Temperatures are going up and the drought is so harsh, but we can't do much," said Ouchaali.

### 'Last nail in coffin'

This year has seen Morocco's worst drought in four decades. Rainfall is set to decline by 11 percent and average temperatures set to rise by 1.3 percent by 2050, according to forecasts from the Ministry of Agriculture. "Nomads have always been seen as a barometer of climate change," said anthropologist Ahmed Skounti.



Amazigh women do daily chores in tents near the village of Amellagou where Morocco's last nomads reside. In the blistering desert of Morocco, the country's last nomads say their ancient lifestyle has become impossible to sustain as climate change brings ever more intense droughts. — AFP photos



Amazigh woman Ida Ouchaali poses for a picture with her son next to a herd of sheep near the village of Amellagou where Morocco's last nomads reside.

## 'Ulysses' European tour seeks modern touch for Joyce's epic novel

A festival dedicated to James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" is touring 18 European cities, with artists and writers linking the work to contemporary issues such as immigration. "Ulysses", published in 1922, counts among the 20th century's key novels, and its centenary has already sparked much celebration in Joyce's native Ireland. But Liam Browne, co-artistic curator of "Ulysses European Odyssey", said the tour is to go beyond the kind of literary fandom seen at home. "What interested us was Joyce as a

European figure, rather than an Irish figure," he told AFP on the margins of the tour event in Marseille on the southern French coast. "In his imagination he was engaging with Dublin to write his novels but actually his day-to-day existence was in these European cities," Browne said. The crude language and sexual content in "Ulysses" meant there was no chance of it getting published in conservative 1920s Ireland or anywhere else in the English-speaking world.

It became the target of an obscenity trial in the United States, and was banned in Britain for more than a decade. In the end, it was published in Paris by American poet Sylvia Plath, owner of the "Shakespeare and Company" bookshop which is still a gathering point for aspiring writers today. The novel tells the story of a single day in the life of Dubliner Leopold Bloom, while Joyce links the day's events to Homer's "Odyssey". Scholars are still busy tracing the subtle connections.

### Difficult to read

The book has a reputation for being difficult to understand, with the New York Times predicting in its 1922 review that "not ten men or women out of a hundred can read 'Ulysses' through". Fans the world over still celebrate "Bloomsday" in honor of Joyce every year on June 16. One of the aims of the European tour - involving actors, directors, writers, musicians, photographers and even food experts - is to connect the novel with today's burning topics.

"We wanted a multi-art response and we wanted the art engaging with society and social issues," Browne said. "Nationalism, exile, sexuality and the place of women in society." Joyce, who grew up in Dublin, later lived in Paris, Trieste in Italy, and Zurich in Switzerland, where he died. "We believed that the book would not have become what it was without Joyce's exile in Europe," said co-artistic curator Sean Doran. "We are fascinated about this concept about home," he said.

Marseille, he said, was "perfect to explore that subject, people here are coming from everywhere in the Mediterranean". An Anglo-Irish artist duo based in Marseille, Myles Quin and Gethan Dick, picked immigration and exile for their performance piece at the weekend, featuring recent arrivals from Afghanistan, Sudan, Algeria, Guinea and Syria in their depiction of the trauma of attempting to cross the Mediterranean in search for a better life.

"It seemed impossible to talk about them without making them actors in the performance," said Sophie Cattani, co-founder of local arts collective "Idi ! eldi". Other venues for the tour, which is sponsored by the EU, include Athens, Budapest, Berlin and Istanbul. Dublin will be its penultimate stop in 2024. The tour ends in Derry, Northern Ireland, with female artists from the other venues joining in the festival's finale. — AFP

## Never-before-seen Beatles footage released in Japan

Beatles fans have hailed the release of never-before-seen footage showing the Fab Four on tour in Japan, following a fierce court battle over the 35-minute video. The silent black-and-white footage of the British band's only visit to the country in 1966 was recorded by police as a security measure. It shows the musicians descending from a plane in matching kimonos and performing to a rapturous crowd at the Budokan arena in Tokyo, as well as behind-the-scenes police operations.

The footage has a noticeable quirk, however: the faces of everyone except the Beatles - from crying admirers to officers facing off with right-wingers protesting the tour - have been pixelated for privacy reasons. This had been a key sticking point for fans and freedom-of-information advocates, who fought a long and winding battle demanding that the footage remain uncensored.

They took their case all the way to Japan's Supreme Court, arguing that the video was a "historical document" and pleading for authorities to simply let it be. However, the top court rejected the case in 2018, and the footage was released late last month after four painstaking years of pixelation work, said Satoshi Shinkai, head of the civic group that fought the legal battle with authorities. "The film has come to light for the first time ever... I'm sure Beatles scholars and fans across the world will pay close attention to it," Shinkai, himself a Beatles fan, told AFP on Monday.

The Beatles remain hugely popular in Japan but toured the country only once, playing five concerts, and were trailed by legions of screaming fans. Police provided the heavily edited clips to Shinkai's group, which campaigns for freer information disclosure and has posted the footage publicly on YouTube. The group had argued that it was almost impossible to identify people in the footage more than 50 years on. — AFP



Kim Kardashian

## Kim Kardashian pays \$1.26m for unlawful crypto promo

US reality star Kim Kardashian has agreed to pay a \$1.26 million fine after unlawfully pushing a cryptocurrency on Instagram without revealing that she was paid to do so, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced Monday. The agency accused Kardashian, who has 331 million followers on Instagram - making her one of the top ten most followed people on the global social network - of failing to disclose that she was paid \$250,000 to post about EMAX tokens, the crypto asset security being offered by EthereumMax.

The fine includes a penalty of \$1 million plus \$260,000, representing the amount Kardashian paid plus interest, the SEC said in a statement. She also agreed not to promote any crypto asset securities for three years. "This case is a reminder that, when celebrities or influencers endorse investment opportunities, including crypto asset securities, it doesn't mean that those investment products are right for all investors," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler in the statement. "We encourage investors to consider an investment's potential risks and opportunities in light of their own financial goals."

Reality-star-turned entrepreneur Kardashian came to fame with the US reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," which tracked the lives of her family members in Los Angeles. The 41-year-old has steadily built her business empire in recent years - most visibly with her apparel and beauty brands - and has a net worth of \$1.8 billion, according to Forbes. She announced last month that she was branching into a new business arena with the launch of a private equity firm SKKY Partners. Other celebrities have been nabbed in the past by US authorities for illegally promoting cryptocurrencies, including boxer Floyd Mayweather, rap star DJ Khaled, actor Steven Seagal and rapper TI. — AFP

## Sports

# England's Hull holds off Ko, Lin to win LPGA Volunteers Classic

## Thitikul grabs 4th; Jutanugarn shares 5th with Knight

## News in brief

### India bans javelin thrower

**NEW DELHI:** Indian anti-doping authorities have suspended Tokyo Olympic javelin thrower Shivpal Singh for four years after he tested positive for a banned drug. Shivpal, India's second best javelin athlete after Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, was tested out of competition in September last year. Shivpal, who finished 27th in javelin qualifying at last summer's pandemic-delayed Games, tested positive for methandienone, a performance-enhancing steroid. The 27-year-old's ban by India's anti-doping disciplinary panel comes into effect from his provisional suspension in October last year. It ends in October 2025, the panel said. Shivpal threw a personal best of 86.23m to win silver at the Asian championships in Doha in 2019. He adds to the growing list of Indian athletes to be suspended for doping this year, including Tokyo Olympic discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur.

### Heat and Herro seal deal

**MIAMI:** Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro, last season's NBA Sixth Man of the Year, has signed a four-year contract extension, the team announced Sunday. Multiple reports said the deal was worth an average of \$30 million per season with performance incentives over the life of the contract that could make it worth as much as \$130 million. "Tyler is an impact multi-faceted player and we are excited to have him signed for the next five years," Heat president Pat Riley said. "His improvement every year since we drafted him has led to this day. We believe he will continue to get better." The 22-year-old American was taken 13th overall by Miami in the 2019 NBA Draft. The Heat reached the NBA Finals in his rookie season, losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2020 title showdown, but were ousted in the first round of the 2021 playoffs and fell to Boston in a seventh-game showdown in this year's Eastern Conference finals.

### L AFC clinch best mark

**LOS ANGELES:** Denis Bouanga scored the winning goal five minutes into stoppage time Sunday to give Los Angeles FC a 2-1 victory at Portland and clinch Major League Soccer's regular-season crown. The 27-year-old winger for Gabon's national team, who played for Saint-Etienne in France until joining LAFC in August, netted the decider to give the team a second Supporters' Shield in four seasons. Mexican striker Carlos Vela, LAFC's captain, opened the scoring in the 51st minute but the host Timbers had equalized in the 81st on Colombian Dairon Asprilla's goal. LAFC improved to 21-8 with four drawn for 67 points, 12 ahead of second-place Austin for the Western Conference lead and three points ahead of Eastern Conference leader Philadelphia, 18-5 with 10 drawn, with the season ending next Sunday. With the victory, LAFC clinches the top seed, a first-round bye and home-field advantage in the upcoming playoffs as well as a berth in the 2023 CONCACAF Champions League.

### 'Racist' Atalanta chants

**BERGAMO:** Fiorentina demanded government intervention after their owner Rocco Comisso was targeted with chants they branded "racist" before Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Atalanta. In a statement, Fiorentina's general manager Joe Barone said that Atalanta fans racially abused Comisso, with Italian media reporting chants mocking his southern Italian origins. Comisso was born in Calabria on Italy's toe but while still a child moved to New York City, where he eventually became an American citizen and a wealthy media magnate. "Today we were witness to a shameful episode, not from an individual but from an entire stand," said Barone, also an Italian-American. "We fought racism in America and today in Italy we have an unacceptable situation. Not only does the league have to intervene but also CONI (Italy's Olympic committee) and the government. "We're disgusted and we expect severe punishment."

### Samp sack coach Giampaolo

**MILAN:** Sampdoria have sacked coach Marco Giampaolo after Sunday's 3-0 humbling at the hands of promoted Monza left them rock bottom of Serie A. In a statement Samp said that Giampaolo had been "relieved of his duties as first team coach", a run of four straight defeats doing for the 55-year-old former AC Milan and Torino coach. Samp are winless in their eight league fixtures and four points behind Bologna, who sit just outside the relegation zone ahead of their match at Juventus later on Sunday. The club's vice-president Antonio Romei had already confirmed that Giampaolo was to be fired and that they were working on finding a successor. Giampaolo's predecessor Roberto D'Aversa is one of the candidates in line to take over again, as is veteran Claudio Ranieri.

### Struggling Wolves sack Lage

**LONDON:** Wolves manager Bruno Lage was sacked on Sunday after his club plunged into the Premier League relegation zone 24 hours earlier. Wolves have won only once in eight Premier League games this season and Saturday's 2-0 defeat at fellow strugglers West Ham left them third-bottom of the table. "Bruno is an excellent coach, a hard-working and dedicated manager, and a warm, wise and honest man," Wolves chairman Jeff Shi said. "He and his staff have been a pleasure to work with throughout their time at Wolves, so it is with much sadness that we have had to make what has been a difficult decision." Wolves are the lowest scorers in the top flight, with just three goals, prompting their fans to taunt Lage with chants of "you don't know what you're doing" during the West Ham loss. Wolves had lost nine of their last 15 Premier League matches under Lage, who won the Primeira Liga title in his first season in charge of Benfica in 2019. — From AFP

**WASHINGTON:** England's Charley Hull captured her second career LPGA title on Sunday, holding off New Zealand's Lydia Ko and China's Lin Xiyu to win the Volunteers of America Classic. Hull, whose only other LPGA triumph came at the 2016 Tour Championship, fired a seven-under par 64 to finish 72 holes on 18-under 266 at Old American Golf Club at The Colony, Texas.

That was good enough to edge Lin by one stroke and Ko by two to snap a six-year LPGA win drought that Hull said had been a long wait. "I feel very proud of myself," Hull said. "I had come close a few times since but I've put in some good work this year." Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul was fourth on 272. Her compatriot Moriya Jutanugarn shared fifth with American Cheyenne Knight on 273.

Hull said she feels like better things are coming after her breakthrough. "My game is there. It was just my confidence and now I'm confident," Hull said. "I felt really good. I felt like I was really in control of my round, especially coming in. "I could have made some more birdies and I hit good putts and they just rolled over the edge." Lin sank a 25-foot eagle putt at the par-5

17th to momentarily match Hull for the lead, but the 26-year-old Englishwoman answered moments later with a six-foot downhill birdie putt to reclaim the lead on 18-under.

At the 18th, Ko lipped out from 12 feet for birdie while Lin and Hull, in the next and final group, gave themselves birdie chances as well. Hull missed from 18 feet and tapped in for par, leaving Lin a 14-footer to force a play-off, but the putt faded left and Hull had the triumph. "It was quite brilliant, actually, I found it quite exciting," Hull said. "When 'Janet' (Lin) made eagle on 17, I enjoyed that. It made me want to birdie the last. I hit a good putt. I missed. But it was great fun."

Lin, a 26-year-old from Guangzhou, matched her best LPGA finish, a runner-up effort in March in Thailand. Ko, a 25-year-old Seoul-born star, is a two-time major champion who captured her 17th career LPGA title in January at the LPGA at Boca Rio. She hasn't won twice in a season since claiming four titles in the 2016 campaign. Ko opened and closed the front nine with back-to-back birdies to reach 14-under, grabbing a share of the lead with 54-hole co-leaders Hull and Lin.



TEXAS: Charley Hull of England poses for a photo with the trophy after winning The Ascendant LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America on October 02, 2022 in The Colony, Texas. —AFP

Hull surged early with four birdies in the first seven holes only to make a bogey at eight while Lin opened with a birdie and added others at the par-5 sixth and par-4 10th. Hull leaped ahead with three birdies in a row at the 12th, par-5 13th and 14th to reach

17-under, seizing a three-stroke edge with four holes remaining. Lin stumbled with a bogey at the par-3 11th but answered with a birdie at 13. Ko birdied the 15th and 17th and Lin birdied the par-3 16th to set up the closing drama. —AFP



## Kuwait Table Tennis player wins bronze

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Disabled Table Tennis player Yaqoub Al-Khalifa won the third place and the

bronze medal the Wheel Chair Category in Greece's Paralympic Table Tennis Championship. Kuwait's champion qualified for the semi-final of the championship in which more than 50 players from 30 countries participated. Chairman of the Paralympic Table Tennis committee Duajj Al-Hajiri lauded the achievement of player Al-Khalifa.

## Hughes secures PGA Sanderson Farms title

**WASHINGTON:** Canada's Mackenzie Hughes sank an eight-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole Sunday to defeat Austria's Sepp Straka and win the PGA Sanderson Farms Championship. The 31-year-old from Hamilton captured his second career PGA crown after he and Straka both finished 72 holes on 17-under par 271 at The Country Club of Jackson in Mississippi.

"Words can't describe it," Hughes said. "I've been working so hard, putting in some hours. It just feels so good. "It's the coolest feeling in the world. Winning happens so infrequently that when we do get to win it's super special." World number 82 Hughes won his only prior PGA title at the 2016 RSM Classic, winning a five-man playoff that week with a par on the third extra hole. "Definitely it feels a little sweeter than the first one," Hughes said. "I was just fighting like hell to stay in it. Somehow I was able to pull through."

Ending a six-year title drought was a thrill. "This is the stuff that makes you feel alive," Hughes said. "It's a feeling you crave and a feeling you want more of-it will keep me working hard." Hughes made two great par saves at 18 to give himself the chance at the winning putt there. —AFP

## Kuwait's 18th International Juniors Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage and in the presence of President of Arab and Kuwait Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's 18th International Juniors Championship (J5 ALZAHRA) concluded at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Complex with the participation of 18 female players from 8 countries and 38 boys from 15 countries.

The final match was attended by the Chairmen of Tadhamon Club Mubarak Al-Nazal, Khaithan Club Abdallah Al-Otaibi and Secretary General of the Club Hakem Al-Enezi. The results of Championship are as follows: Hugo Soares (from France) won first place in the men's singles while Sajid Koothrat (from India) won second place.

In the junior doubles, Nordal Clausen (from Denmark) and Hugo Soares (from France) won first place while Ahmed Hassain (from Tunisia) and Aryan Nanda (from India) took the second place. As for the girls singles juniors, Renata Garaeva (from Russia) won the first place while second



place went to Dorsa Cheraghi (from Iran).

In the girls doubles, the first position went to Dorsa Cheraghi (from Iran) and Renata Garaeva (from Russia). Second place went to Larissa Brasil (from Brazil) and Jannat Chiripal (from India). This Championship is part of four inter-

national events for juniors organized by Kuwait Tennis Federation at its courts at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex and will continue for the next two weeks. Players will collect juniors ranking points.

## Kuwait hosts Arab Clubs Basketball Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee of the 34th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship, and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Sports Club Bader Al-Osaimi said that all preparations for the championship have been completed. The championship will start on Tuesday and will continue until October 15. Al-Osaimi welcomed all Arab brothers to Kuwait and wished them a pleasant stay and positive participation that will contribute to the success of the championship.

He said that Kuwait Club's team had a training camp in Serbia where they played several friendlies with the best Serbian teams. Jahra team had their training camp in Cairo, while Kazima had their training camp in Bahrain. 16 clubs will participate in the championship. They are arranged for four groups. The first group includes Kuwait, Egypt's Itihad Secondary, Ahli Aleppo Syria, Ahly Benghazi Libya. The second group includes Ahly Egypt, Riyadhi Lebanon, Gharrafa Qatar, Mina Yemen. The third group has Ahli Bahrain, Bashaer Oman, Kazima and Al-Sadd Qatar. The fourth group include Jahra, Beirut Lebanon, Wad Bufarik Algeria and Dijla University Iraq.



Bader Al-Osaimi



Sports

# Stadium disaster tarnishes Indonesia sports ambitions

## 'Fans died in players' arms,' says coach at football tragedy

SINGAPORE: Indonesia's hopes of hosting world sports events in future will depend on the credibility of its investigation into the weekend's football stadium disaster and safety reforms, analysts have warned. The tragedy on Saturday in Malang left 125 people dead and more than 300 injured after police fired tear gas in a packed stadium to quell a pitch invasion by fans, triggering a stampede.

It was one of the deadliest disasters in the history of football. Analysts said that while there have been similar tragedies in other countries-although rarely on such a scale-it will undoubtedly affect Indonesia's reputation when it comes to hosting big international competitions. It could not have come at a worse time-Indonesia has bid to replace China as hosts for next year's Asian Cup football and a decision is due in two weeks.

The archipelago country of about 270 million people will also host the FIFA U-20 World Cup in May. There have been calls online for Indonesia to be stripped of that right. Indonesia, which defied warnings about poor preparations to stage the Asian Games in 2018, has also expressed an interest in hosting an Olympics for the first time in 2036. "It certainly tarnishes the reputation of the country and tarnishes the reputation of football there. They can't escape that," Los Angeles-based crowd management expert Paul Wertheimer told AFP.

"But it is what they do now that will determine whether the reputation sticks or not-whether they can learn from

this tragedy and produce standards of care that will impress the world," said Wertheimer, who heads the consultancy Crowd Management Strategies. "The first thing I thought was: why was tear gas being used?" he added, also highlighting overcrowding and failure in crowd management as among the possible missteps. FIFA, football's world governing body, prohibits the use of crowd control gas by police or stewards at pitch-side. "I think everything has to be reassessed," Wertheimer said, adding there also needs to be retraining of personnel on managing crowds as well as "an educational component that focuses on the fans and the public, what their roles and responsibilities are for the safety of themselves and everyone else". Indonesia has formed a task force to investigate the tragic events at Kanjuruhan stadium, where 32 children were among the dead.

### 'Huge wake-up call'

Mustafa Izzuddin, a visiting professor of international relations at the Islamic University of Indonesia, said global scrutiny will not just be on football. It will be on Indonesia's ability as a whole to host future sporting events and even on its ambitions to become a key player in world diplomacy.

The Southeast Asian nation has struggled to shed a reputation for generally lax safety standards-its airlines were previously banned in the West because of safety issues. "The stampede, tragic as it may be, is a huge wake-up call for Indonesia to look at all these security measures for all

the sporting events that they are going to be hosting from this point forward," Izzuddin said. "It's a critical time for Indonesia to ensure that any investigation is credible and that punishments are meted out," he added. "More importantly, Indonesia must provide the necessary assurance to the wider football community that it is serious about curbing football violence."

Having watched football matches in Indonesia, Izzuddin noted that violence often happens in places far from urban centers, making it necessary for provincial officials to play a "pivotal role" in ensuring safety. Wertheimer said that Indonesia can salvage its reputation at home and abroad with the right response. "Will they respond with a thorough investigation that leads to substantive changes that protects the public going forward?" he asked.

### In arms players

Chilean football coach Javier Roca on Sunday said "fans died in the arms of players" and claimed tear gas-firing police fatally "over-stepped" the mark in the Indonesian football tragedy which claimed at least 125 lives. The disaster happened when fans of Arema FC stormed the pitch at the Kanjuruhan stadium after their team lost 3-2 to bitter rivals, Persebaya Surabaya. Police said 323 people were also injured in what is one of the world's deadliest sporting stadium disasters. "The most terrible thing was when victims came to be treated by the team doctor. About 20 people

arrived and four died. Fans died in the arms of players," Arema coach Roca told Spanish broadcaster Cadena Ser.

"I'm mentally shattered. I feel a heavy burden, even a heavy responsibility," Police, who described the unrest as "riots", said they tried to force the thousands of fans to return to the stands from the pitch and fired tear gas after two officers were killed. Many of the victims were trampled or choked to death, according to police. The stadium holds 42,000 people and authorities said it was a sell-out. Police said 3,000 people stormed the pitch.

The 45-year-old Roca, who has spent a large part of his career in Indonesia, described how the full extent of the tragedy unfolded in the immediate aftermath of the game on Saturday night. "After the match, I went to the dressing room, and some players stayed on the pitch. Returning from the press conference, I saw the tragedy," he added. "The boys passed by with victims in their arms. Results dictate us and determine what happens in the end. If we were drawing, it wouldn't have happened."

Roca accused police of over-reacting and that the stadium was woefully under-prepared. "It was proved that the stadium was not ready, they didn't expect such chaos. Nothing like this had ever happened at the stadium, and it fell apart because of the number of people who wanted to escape," added Roca. "I think the police overstepped their mark, even though I wasn't out there and didn't experience the outcome. —AFP

## Juve ease pressure; Atalanta keep pace with leaders Napoli

MILAN: Juventus swept aside Bologna 3-0 on Sunday to ease their recent troubles as Atalanta continued their dream start to the Serie A season with a 1-0 win over Fiorentina which kept them level on points with leaders Napoli. A routine third league win of the season against dismal opposition will stave off questions about coach Massimiliano Allegri's future until at least next weekend, when they travel to champions AC Milan. They are seventh, seven points behind the leading duo of Napoli and Atalanta thanks to Filip Kostic's first goal for the club midway through the first half and two more after the break from strike pairing Dusan Vlahovic and Arkadiusz Milik.

"We hadn't won a game for a month, when we got back to the dressing room we almost couldn't believe it," said Allegri to DAZN. "We have to take it one step at a time, hopefully we can close the gap like we did last season." Before facing Milan they host Maccabi Haifa on Wednesday with a win over the Israelis essential for their hopes of reaching the Champions League's knockout rounds.

Fans of Italy's biggest club are not filling the Allianz Stadium in Turin and they will not be won over by a home win over Bologna, who are one point above the relegation zone and have shown no signs of improvement since replacing Sinisa Mihajlovic with Thiago Motta earlier this month. However Juve did at least have a goal threat, and will be cheered both by Vlahovic scoring his first league goal since August and the continued good form of Milik, who lashed in his fourth goal in seven matches since



TURIN: Juventus' Polish forward Arkadiusz Milik (left) challenges Bologna's Polish goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski (right) during the Italian Serie A football match on October 2, 2022. —AFP

arriving from Marseille.

It was a one-way end to an eventful day in which Maria Sole Ferrieri Caputi made history as the first woman to referee a game in Italy's top flight, Sassuolo's 5-0 thumping of Salernitana. Sampdoria sacked coach Marco Giampaolo following their 3-0 humiliation at the hands of Monza-who leapt out of the drop zone-and Fiorentina demanded government action over offensive chants directed at their owner Rocco Comisso by Atalanta fans.

### Atalanta keep pace

While Fiorentina raged at fans mocking Comisso's southern Italian origins, unbeaten Atalanta celebrated thanks to Ademola Lookman, who tapped in the winner from Luis Muriel's cross in the 59th minute in Bergamo. Gian Piero Gasperini's side

team from upward to downward," Jamal said.

He said Ferrari needs to start changing their upper management first, then the team as a whole. "The Red Bull, an energy drink team, is faster than any car in F1 by taking 60 employees from the Mercedes team, which makes 50 percent of Red Bull's employees previous employees of the Mercedes team. The pride and arrogance of Ferrari are what made the team fail in Formula One," Jamal said.

"My prediction for Ferrari is that they will not be a midfield team anymore. Instead, they will be in the lower team like in the 2019 season. In fact, Ferrari only entered Formula One to sell their cars. Ferrari pays less and has more sponsorships than any other team in F1. If you don't act like the other teams, you won't succeed," he noted.

Hamad Marafie, General Manager of Kuwait International Motorsports club, said Ferrari had a wonderful and promising start at the beginning of the season for multiple reasons. One of the most obvious reasons was Charles Leclerc's hunger and motivation from his longest driver's contract with Ferrari, in addition to the fastest car on the grid.

He explained to Kuwait Times that Carlos Sainz's superb performance in Bahrain gave Ferrari great hope they would dominate this season, especially with two Red Bulls out from the first race and the seven-time world champion coming in third place. "With much hope, very promising cars and most importantly two amazing drivers, it is almost certain that this season belonged to them.

trail Napoli on goal difference and are three points ahead of both third-placed Lazio — 4-0 winners over Spezia earlier on Sunday-and AC Milan. "I'm just happy to do it in front of our home fans today. When I scored the stadium was rocking so I was very pleased," Lookman told DAZN.

It was a fifth clean sheet in eight league matches for Atalanta, who are less flamboyant than they have been in recent years but now have a solidity which has made them extremely hard to beat. There were a few nervy moments against Fiorentina, who are 11th after their third defeat of the campaign, after failing to capitalise on good opportunities after taking the lead. Joakim Maehle should have made it two in the 67th minute when he fluffed a one-on-one with Pietro Terracciano, and shortly afterwards Lookman was denied a brace by superb defending from Lucas Martinez Quarta. —AFP

## Swiatek maintains healthy lead atop WTA rankings

PARIS: Pole Iga Swiatek retained her comfortable advantage as world number one as Anett Kontaveit moved to third thanks to a runners-up on finish last weekend, the WTA announced on Monday. US Open champion Swiatek, 21, will feature for the first time since this month's Grand Slam win at Flushing Meadows by playing at Ostrava this week. Swiatek has also clinched the French Open this year and still has almost double the points as Tunisian Ons Jabeur, who she beat in the final in New York, in second.

Estonian Kontaveit switches positions with Spaniard Paula Badosa despite losing Sunday's Tallinn Open final. Russian Veronika Kudermetova, who is banned from competing under the name and flag of her country after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine, climbs to a career-best 12th spot despite not playing since September 24.

Mayar Sherif jumps from 74th to 49th after becoming the first woman from Egypt to claim a WTA Tour title with victory in Parma on Saturday. Sherif overcame Greek Maria Sakkari, who retains her sixth place. The season-ending WTA Finals will be held between October 31-November 7 in Texas with the top eight players qualifying. As well as the tournament in the Czech Republic there is an event in Monastir, Tunisia, this week. —AFP

## Why Ferrari strategy is bad this season

By Noor Al-Hai

KUWAIT: Formula One is one of the most prestigious motor racing competitions. Ferrari, a luxury brand known for its incredible speed and dignified ostentatiousness, has two young drivers with the best-designed F1 car. However, it seems that Ferrari isn't always making the best decisions for their drivers, especially during the race, when each second that passes affects the drivers' standing in the race.

There are many reasons why Ferrari might not win the championship this year. Car reviewer Abdulrazzaq Jamal, who is a successful Kuwaiti content creator and Formula One expert, told Kuwait Times that the Ferrari strategy is laughable and it is very hard for them to win, because the Red Bull car is way faster than the Ferrari car.

"Charles Leclerc is an amazing driver - if only he had the Red Bull car, nobody would come close, but Leclerc is not as fast and aggressive as Max Verstappen. To be able to win the championship, Ferrari needs to start from scratch. Removing Mattia Binotto, team principal of Ferrari, is not the solution. They must start changing the



Abdulrazzaq Jamal



Hamad Marafie (right)

Unfortunately, the Red Bulls jumped back in the game with qualifying times and race results in the second race. After the fifth race, Ferrari began losing hope, especially in Monaco, when Ferrari's strategies started to seem out. The last two races showed us fans that Formula One is a true team-based sport," Marafie said. "Even if you have the fastest cars on the grid as well as two phenomenal drivers, you will not win the championship or a race without a great strategy. The 2022 season looks promising for Red Bull in terms of both the driver and constructor's championship. So far, Red Bull deserves it," he stressed.

Marafie said while Ferrari had a very good start, it appears that it will have a disappointing and tiring end to

the season. "The future is uncertain, but we hope that something will change in Ferrari or that the Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto builds a strategy or sets a plan for the upcoming seasons' comeback. On the other hand, Red Bull is thriving and the season is theirs.

Nevertheless, another issue for next season is Sir Lewis Hamilton - he is coming for the eighth championship, in addition to all other hungry drivers. Overall, Formula One is a very interesting, fun, competitive and controversial sport. Hopefully, it will continue to be as good as it currently is. I also hope that they will reconsider relinquishing the money cap rule and that Lewis will win his eighth," he affirmed.

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Adaliya	22517144
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Khalidiya	24848075
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Kaifan	24849807
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Shamiya	24848913
Chest Hospital	24849400	Shuwaikh	24814507
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Adan Hospital	23940620	Nuzha	22526804
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Qadsiya	22515088
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Dasmah	22532265
		Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
		Shaab	22518752
		Qiba	22459381
		Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
		Mirqab	22456536
		Sharq	22465401
		Salmiya	25746401

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733

### 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). (C#2413)

Mohamed Aslam Abdul Rajack Jaheer Hussain with DOB 05-09-1995, S/O of Abdul Rajack Abdul Wahid Jaheer Hussain residing in Melachavathi, Thillaividangain, Killai, 608102, Tamil Nadu, India has changed the name to Mohammed Aslam. (C#2414) — 3/10/2022

### Announcement

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons for General Trading & Contracting Co. would like to attract the attention of its customers who have given their devices for repair at the Al-Yousifi Service Center located in Ardiya Industrial Area until 31/8/2022, and did not yet come and collect their devices till this date, to urgently contact Al-Yousifi Service Center on 1809809 in order to collect their devices within a period of only 2 weeks from the date of this Ad. The company will not be responsible under any matter in the future for these devices after the mentioned grace period is over.



Al-Yousifi Service Center  
1809809

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988



TAMPA: Jody Fortson #88 of the Kansas City Chiefs dives into the endzone for a touchdown against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the third quarter on October 02, 2022. —AFP

## Chiefs thump Buccaneers as Eagles stay unbeaten in NFL

### Jones lifts New York Giants over Chicago

WASHINGTON: Patrick Mahomes threw for 249 yards and three touchdowns Sunday to spark the Kansas City Chiefs over the Tom Brady-led Tampa Bay Buccaneers 41-31 in an early season showdown of NFL title contenders. The rematch of Super Bowl 55 from February 2021, where Brady won his record seventh Super Bowl crown in the same stadium, was in the Chiefs' hands from the opening kickoff, when Kansas City recovered a fumble to set up a touchdown on the way to a 14-3 lead after the first quarter and 28-17 halftime edge. "We wanted to win, not only for that but to get our season on track," Mahomes said. "To come down here in this stadium and win a game, it was special."

Mahomes, who cracked the 20,000 career yards mark in the contest, completed 23 of 37 passes overall and dominated the first half, throwing for 141 yards and two touchdowns, one a wild 2-yard flip to Clyde Edwards-Helaire after evading several defenders. Brady completed 38 of 51 passes for 367 yards and three touchdowns, two of them

Mike Evans, who made eight receptions for 103 yards. Philadelphia's Miles Sanders ran 27 times for 134 yards and two touchdowns and the Eagles remained the NFL's only unbeaten team by beating visiting Jacksonville 29-21.

Josh Allen threw for one touchdown and ran for another to lead Buffalo to a 23-20 victory at Baltimore, the Bills improving to 3-1. Allen connected with Isaiah McKenzie on a 4-yard touchdown throw in the second quarter and scored on an 11-yard run in the third as the Bills equalized at 20-20. The Ravens had a chance at a 19-yard field goal to reclaim the lead, but Baltimore coach John Harbaugh went for a fourth-down play and Lamar Jackson threw an interception. "I felt like it gave us the best chance to win," Harbaugh said.

Buffalo then marched 77 yards to set up a 21-yard Tyler Bass field goal on the final play for the victory. But the news wasn't all good for Buffalo as McKenzie was removed from the game with a concussion. Aaron Rodgers completed 21-of-35 passes for 251 yards and two touch-

downs, the second of them his 500th career TD pass, to lead the host Green Bay Packers over New England 27-24. Mason Crosby kicked the winning field goal as time expired in overtime, lifting Green Bay to 3-1.

#### Vikings win in London

New Orleans kicker Wil Lutz missed a 61-yard field goal attempt as time expired to give the Minnesota Vikings a 28-25 victory over the Saints in London. Lutz had connected from 60 yards to tie the game but Minnesota's Greg Joseph made a 47-yard field goal with 24 seconds remaining. Lutz's final kick hit the left upright and the crossbar before staying out. Daniel Jones ran for two touchdowns to lead the New York Giants over Chicago 20-12 while Justin Herbert threw for two touchdowns and Austin Ekeler ran for two in the Los Angeles Chargers' 34-24 triumph at winless Houston.

Derrick Henry ran for 114 yards and a touchdown while Ryan Tannehill tossed two touchdown passes as

Tennessee won 24-17 at Indianapolis. Geno Smith threw for 320 yards and two touchdowns and Rashaad Penny ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns to lead Seattle's 48-45 triumph at Detroit. Cooper Rush threw for 223 yards and two touchdowns to spark the Dallas Cowboys over visiting Washington 25-10. South Korean-born kicker Younghoe Koo kicked three field goals, the last a 45-yarder with 2:28 remaining to give Atlanta a 23-20 victory over Cleveland.

Breece Hall scored on a two-yard touchdown run with 18 seconds remaining as the New York Jets won 24-20 at Pittsburgh, where a spectator died after a fall from an escalator following the contest. Josh Jacobs ran 28 times for 144 yards and two touchdowns to power the host Las Vegas Raiders to their first victory, downing Denver 32-23. Arizona defensive end JJ Watt played in the Cardinals' 26-16 victory at Carolina following his heart being shocked back into rhythm on Thursday after suffering atrial fibrillation. —AFP

### Madrid drop first points; Benzema misses penalty

MADRID: Karim Benzema missed a penalty for Real Madrid as they finally blinked in the La Liga title race, dropping their first points of the season in a 1-1 draw with Osasuna on Sunday. Elsewhere Real Sociedad won 5-3 at Girona and high-flying Real Betis fell to a 1-0 defeat at Celta Vigo. After Barcelona beat Real Mallorca on Saturday, Madrid knew they had to win to stay top but were frustrated by Jagoba Arrasate's well-organised side at the Santiago Bernabeu. Benzema, on his return to the side after injury, won a spot-kick but then fired it against the crossbar, and also had a goal disallowed for offside as Madrid tried to force a way through.

Vinicius Junior broke the deadlock just before half-time with a cross that snuck all the way into the far corner, but Kike Garcia's well-taken header early in the second period earned Osasuna a point. "What we were missing was scoring that penalty, normally Karim scores them," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told DAZN. "He had no problem playing the 90 minutes. It's been a month since he's played, he has to get his best form back. He did his part, he had the chance from the penalty. It's an accident, sometimes it happens."

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez told the club's fans at an assembly on Sunday morning that a European Super League project was essential, but Osasuna showed domestic football can still offer a significant challenge. Benzema made his first appearance since September 6, while Andriy Lunin and Dani Ceballos started in place of injured duo Thibaut Courtois and Luka Modric.

Madrid probed promisingly down the flanks, while at the other end Abde Ezzalzouli, on loan at Osasuna from Barcelona, crashed a shot into the side netting on a bright display. Madrid opened the scoring in fortuitous fashion, with Vinicius whipping in a low cross which caught out goalkeeper Sergio Herrera and crept in at the far post. Osasuna complained that Benzema and Antonio Rudiger were offside and interfering with play, but their protests were dismissed.

The visitors were level five minutes into the second half, when Kike Garcia brilliantly looped a backwards header over Lunin. The goal meant Madrid had failed to keep a clean sheet in any of the first seven league games. "We were quite solid at the back," insisted Ancelotti. "We conceded a goal from a deep cross, it was quite



MADRID: Osasuna's Spanish defender David Garcia (right) fouls Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema during the Spanish League football match on October 2, 2022. —AFP

strange. The team was balanced, the objective is always to be strong to avoid conceding."

#### No way through

Turning up the heat, Benzema drew a stunning save from Herrera, although he was offside, then neatly slipped through Rodrigo Goes, who fired over. The French striker won a penalty when he was shoved over by David Garcia, who was sent off, but hit the crossbar with his effort. Moments later Benzema had the ball in the net, but it was disallowed for offside.

The draw means Barcelona lead Madrid on goal difference after seven games, with both teams on 19 points and unbeaten. It is the first time the Catalans lead the league at the end of a fixture round since June 2020. "We have to celebrate, they had won all their games and we came back from a goal down, the team did great work and played a great game," said Arrasate.

"If Madrid's players weren't offside then the goalkeeper's position would have been different (for the opening goal)." Earlier Real Sociedad, seventh, came out on top after an eight-goal thriller at Montilivi. Norwegian striker Alexander Sorloth hit a first-half brace for the visitors either side of goals for Girona's Rodrigo Riquelme and Arnau Martinez. Valentin Castellanos put Girona ahead but Brais Mendez and Martin Zubimendi struck in the space of six minutes to restore the Basque side's lead.

Takefusa Kubo made the game safe for La Real late on. Real Betis fell to a narrow defeat at Celta Vigo, playing most of the game with 10 men after Luiz Felipe's 20th-minute red card. Gabriel Veiga slammed home in the opening stages from distance for the hosts at Balaídos and they moved 10th while Betis remained fourth. Espanyol and Valencia shared a thrilling 2-2 draw which saw both sides reduced to 10 men after red cards for Martin Braithwaite and Marcos Andre respectively. —AFP

### Qatar enjoy rare respite from WCup isolation camp

DOHA: Qatar's World Cup squad trained on home territory for the first time in four months Sunday as they seek to overcome some nervy displays in preparatory matches. Hundreds of fans, mainly migrant workers, turned out to see the players make their rare appearance in a Doha stadium after being kept under wraps at camps in Spain and Austria. Qatar, which has spent billions of dollars on new stadiums for the first World Cup in an Arab country, is desperate to see the side get past the first round group against Netherlands, Senegal and Ecuador.

But the national team, who will make their World Cup debut against Ecuador on November 20, lost 3-0 to Croatia's under 23 team, 2-0 to Canada and this week drew 2-2 with Chile in their last three games. "We are fully aware of the need to develop certain tactical and technical aspects that didn't unfold as we wanted," said coach Felix Sanchez. "And we are working to correct the errors that were apparent," added Sanchez, who will take the team back into more weeks of isolation on Wednesday when they head back to his native Spain.

The players remained upbeat despite the disappointing results and being kept away from their

Qatari homes. "I think we needed this long period without the pressure that we feel here, I think all the players are ready," said midfielder Assim Madibo, who has more than 35 caps. Madibo also acknowledged that there were "details" to correct but believed the camps were a success. "We played a lot of games and a lot of training sessions, we boosted our body fitness," he said.

"We miss our families. I miss my family but we are happy to be back," said French-born defensive midfielder Karim Boudiaf, who has more than 110 appearances to his name. Boudiaf acknowledged the battle that Qatar will face in Group A. "We know that the World Cup is a very difficult competition. Our group is also tough. "We have Senegal, Holland and Ecuador and they are very difficult teams. But we are a good team and anything is possible in football." All said it had been a boost to play in front of a home crowd after the empty stadiums in Europe for most of their recent games.

"Today in the open training session we saw the fans supporting us and that's proof that they motivate us to give double our capacity," said Madibo. While Qatar has faced criticism abroad for its labor rights record and the environmental fallout from the tournament, their fans are committed to the cause. Rappael Kamasa said Qatar deserved its place hosting the landmark tournament. "It's been hosted in Europe, it's been hosted in South America, it's been hosted in Africa, it's been hosted almost everywhere and an Arab country hosting it is a good thing," said Kamasa as he watched the training session. —AFP



DOHA: Photo shows a view of the gym at the dusitD2 Salwa Doha, which will serve as a base camp for the Costa Rica national football team during the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup. —AFP