

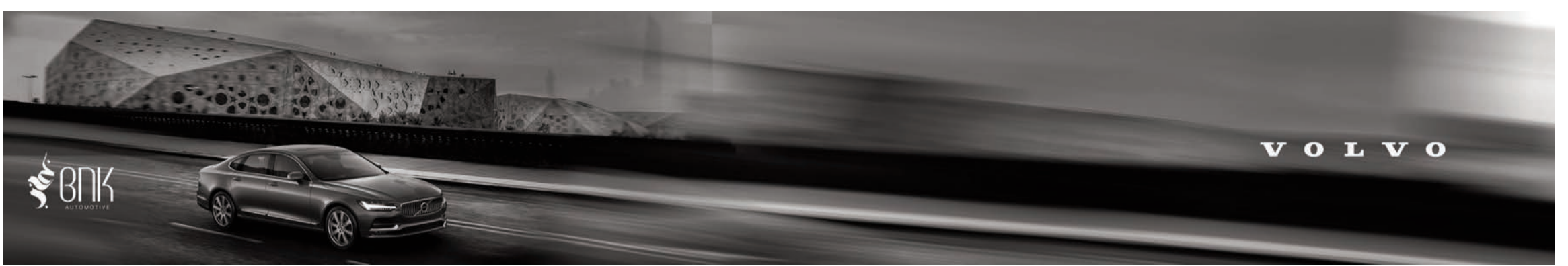


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Crown Prince meets former premiers before naming PM

Several losing candidates to challenge election results



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets caretaker Prime Minister HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah (left) and former premiers HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) and HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah (right) on Oct 4, 2022. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah continued on Tuesday political consultations in order to name a prime minister following the elections, by meeting with the caretaker premier and three ex-premier ministers. He met HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah and HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and spoke on phone with HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. HH the Crown Prince also met with caretaker Prime Minister HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, who was appointed in July.

On Monday, HH the Crown Prince met former Assembly speakers Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Ahmad Al-Saadoun, the veteran former three-time speaker

who won a seat in the Assembly. He is expected to be elected to lead the Assembly over the next four years. Following the consultations, HH the Crown Prince will issue a decree naming the next prime minister, who is highly expected to be Sheikh Ahmad, hailed by the opposition as a reformist.

Meanwhile, several candidates who lost the election after achieving good results announced their

intention to challenge the election results, citing errors in the counting of votes. Former MP Ahmad Al-Azemi said that he has conclusive evidence that he won the 10th place in the fifth constituency, which guarantees him the last seat in the district, although official results show him in 11th position, trailing by some 260 votes.

Continued on Page 6

News in brief

New rules for social media ads

KUWAIT: The ministry of information announced the electronic ads committee is putting together regulations for publishing ads on social media. Ministry spokesman Anwar Murad explained the regulations include that the advertiser should state that the material posted is an ad and must mention the name of the product and service offered, in addition to the name of the provider. Furthermore, the ad must not contain false or misleading information or advertise any counterfeit products. — KUNA

EU imposes single charger

STRASBOURG: The EU parliament on Tuesday passed a new law requiring USB-C to be the single charger standard for all new smartphones, tablets and cameras from late 2024. The measure, which EU lawmakers adopted with a vote 602 in favor, 13 against, will - in Europe at least - push Apple to drop its outdated Lightning port on its iPhones for the USB-C one already used by many of its competitors. Makers of laptops will have extra time, from early 2026, to also follow suit. — AFP (See Page 8)

Musk offers to close Twitter buyout

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk has offered to push through with his buyout of Twitter at the original agreed price, reports said Tuesday, prompting a surge in the share price of the social network that triggered a suspension of trading. US media said the world's richest man had sent a letter to Twitter vowing to honor the original buyout price of \$54.20 a share — a U-turn on his effort to terminate the deal that saw Twitter take Musk to court in a case due to be heard later this month. — AFP

Mousa launches renovation of Darwaza square

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works, Minister of Electricity and Water and Renewable Energy Ali Al-Mousa announced the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) has started renovation work at the Darwaza Abdul Razzaq intersection in Kuwait City and the surrounding area, which have been closed since November 2020.

“Based on the commissioning by the Cabinet for PART to carry out maintenance works, we coordinated with concerned authorities to obtain the necessary approvals,” Mousa said during the launch of the project. “We have started work under the supervision of a great team of Kuwaiti male and female engineers,” he said, adding the intersection is scheduled to reopen after 90 days.

Mousa explained the work includes inspection, tests and concrete works for the tunnel body, and removal, renewal and maintenance of all layers of insulation and separators and changing the anchor platforms.



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Mousa takes a selfie with Kuwaiti engineers at Darwaza Abdul Razzaq on Oct 4, 2022.

Saudi megacity to host Asian Winter Games

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia was chosen Tuesday to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at an under-construction \$500 billion futuristic desert megacity that planners say will feature a year-round winter sports complex. “The deserts and mountains of Saudi Arabia will soon be a playground for winter sports,” the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said in a statement on the decision made during its general assembly meeting in Phnom Penh.

The Saudi bid was “unanimously approved”, the statement said, noting that the megacity known as NEOM will be the first West Asian city to host

the event. The Asian Winter Games are slated to take place in Trojena, an area of NEOM “where winter temperatures drop below zero Celsius and year-round temperatures are generally 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the region”, according to the project’s website. Set to be completed in 2026, Trojena will include year-round skiing, a manmade freshwater lake, chalets, mansions and ultra-luxury hotels, the website says.

Among those on the successful Saudi bid team for the Asian Winter Games was alpine skier Fayik Abdi, who acknowledged in a statement distributed by the OCA that, as a child, “I never believed I would ski in my homeland”. The Asian Winter Games include competitions for skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and figure skating - 47 events in all, 28 on snow and 19 on ice, the OCA said. — AFP (See Page 16)

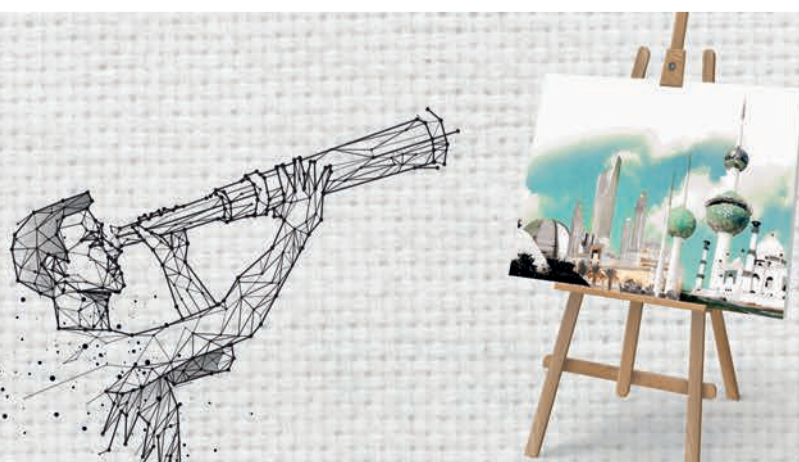
Trio win Nobel for quantum science work

STOCKHOLM: A trio of physicists on Tuesday won the Nobel Prize for discoveries in the field of quantum mechanics that have paved the way for quantum computers, networks and secure encrypted communication. Alain Aspect of France, John Clauser of the United States and Austria’s Anton Zeilinger were honored for “groundbreaking experiments using entangled quantum states, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated”, the committee said. Their results “have cleared the way for new technology based upon quantum information”.

“It has become increasingly clear that a new kind of quantum technology is emerging,” Anders Irbäck, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, said in a statement. Aspect, a professor at the Paris-Saclay University, said the international makeup of the group was an important signal in the face of rising nationalism around the world, which he urged the scientific community to stand against. “It’s important that scientists keep their international community at a time when ... nationalism is taking over in many countries,” Aspect said in a phone interview with the Nobel Foundation published on YouTube.

Albert Einstein and two other physicists first brought up the idea of quantum entanglement in 1935, in a thought experiment that became known as the EPR paradox. It involved two or more particles that

Continued on Page 6



Vienna OPEC meeting to decide market balance

KUWAIT: Dr Mohammad Al-Fares, Minister of Oil, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, said that, during their meeting in Vienna, OPEC and other oil producing countries would examine crude oil market conditions, to take suitable decisions to ensure a smooth oil flow into the market. Speaking to KUNA just before his departure to Vienna, for the meeting that would see the participation of OPEC countries as well as the Joint Committee for Observing Oil Production, the minister said that the scheduled regular meetings would review developments in the international oil markets, before taking a decision to maintain a balance between crude supply and demand. Al-Fares also indicated that the key crude producers would take

a decision meant to stabilize the crude oil flow into the markets, adding that the decision taken in the previous meeting proved to be beneficial for the market during the 2020-21 period.

The Kuwaiti delegation due to participate in the Vienna meeting include the Kuwait Governor at OPEC, Mohammad Al-Shatti and the national representative of the organization, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. — KUNA



Dr Mohammad Al-Fares

Municipality council head encourages field visits



KUWAIT: Abdullah Al-Mehri, Head of the municipality council said that in response to the requests put forth by the recycling companies, the municipality has important duties to discharge towards recycling garbage and making the country a clean place to live in. The statement was made following his visits to several garbage sites where he was also accompanied by members from the environment panel. During

their visit, the team studied how garbage was being recycled and the types of garbage taken in at each individual site.

Speaking about his visit, Al-Mehri said that more field visits would be conducted to understand the extent of the garbage problem in-person following which, the subsequent decisions taken would be reflected in the regulations and policies made to correct the problem.

Social affairs ministry conducts workshop



KUWAIT: The charitable society department in the social affairs ministry has announced the start of a workshop on Tuesday to train employees to digitally monitor financial aid contributions. The work-

shop was also attended by Salem Al-Rashidi, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development, Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi, Head of Charitable Societies and Engr Mohammed Abu Al-Hassan.



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George presents a memento to Captain Sarvpreet Singh on Tuesday.



KUWAIT: Officials of the Kuwait Naval Forces, Border Guards, Indian naval officials and Indian Embassy officials during the reception of the ship at Shuwaikh port on Tuesday.

Three Indian naval ships arrive in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Three Indian naval ships arrived at Shuwaikh Port for a training exchange visit on Tuesday. The arrival of the ships INS TIR and INS Sujatha, the first Training Squadron of Indian Navy, along with the Indian Coast guard ship Sarathi at Kuwait port, heralds a new chapter in the bilateral defense ties between Kuwait and India. The visit of the Indian ships takes place following a similar visit by Indian naval ship INS TEG in July 2022.

On their arrival at the Al-Shuwaikh port in Kuwait, the ships were given a warm welcome by officials of the Kuwait Naval Forces, Border Guards and Indian Embassy officials. Indian school children were also present to welcome the ships.

The ships during their four-day stay at the port will be following all laid down COVID-19 protocols, according to a press note issued by the Indian Embassy on Tuesday.

INS TIR, meaning arrow, is the first dedicated cadet training ship to be built by Mazgaon Dock

Limited, Mumbai and was commissioned on 21 February 1986. INS TIR is the senior ship of the 1st Training Squadron of the Southern Naval Command and is equipped with all modern training amenities. Over the years, the Ship has trained more than 4000 officers including those from friendly foreign countries, visited 29 countries and has been a beacon of furthering Maritime diplomacy and foreign cooperation.

INS Sujatha is an indigenously-built Sukanya class offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy commissioned on 03 November 1993. The ship undertakes fleet support operations, humanitarian assistance missions, offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance and escort duties. A cadet training ship for the past nine years, the officer cadets are exposed to practical aspects of navigation and seamanship onboard this ship before moving on to complex assignments. With a motto of 'alert ahead always,' the ship will remain as the cradle of naval leadership in the years to come.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarathi' (meaning charioteer), is the third in the series of six offshore patrol vessels designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited. Commissioned on 09 September 2016, this 105m ship is fitted with the most advanced state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.



Kuwait Customs seizes 23,000 alcohol bottles

KUWAIT: In a joint raid conducted by the Kuwait Customs and the anti-drug department of the interior ministry, two storages containing 23,000 alcohol bottles and worth around KD 1.5 million were seized.

Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah, Acting Interior Minister and Fahad Al-Shuraian, Minister of Commerce and Industry, made a visit to the site where the illegal goods were seized, under the authority of the northern port management. The goods were dispatched from an Asian country.

The acting interior minister thanked the Customs department for their thorough inspection and continuous monitoring of all smuggling attempts carried out across air, land and sea ports.



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Local

Walk it out: Why walking is a popular exercise in Kuwait

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: People walk for several reasons, such as reducing the level of stress they might have from being overburdened with work, to remain fit, or just to enjoy the day. Kuwait Times met several walkers and asked them about the reason they practice this sport.

Ahmad Hassan said he usually walks two to three times a week by the seaside, and would like to make it a regular habit. "I mostly prefer walking over going to the gym because it gives me more flexibility to practice sport whenever I have free time. In addition, practicing sport in open air is much better than being in a closed place," he said. "For those over 40, for example, there are some types of sports that are not suitable, such as heavy training at sports clubs. Meanwhile, walking is one of the safest sports that can be practiced despite the hot weather we suffer from in the country," Hassan added.

"I started walking three years ago and prefer it because I can take advantage of short free times, while other sports have to be scheduled and need time to prepare. Walking is easier and quicker," Asmaa Ali said. "Meanwhile, due to the hot weather that we have here in Kuwait, instead of going outside, I walk in malls, which gives me the same results, which is clearing my mind and maintaining a

healthy lifestyle."

Yasmin Abdullah stressed many people in Kuwait practice walking because it is a way to enjoy their day after work, and is a better and healthier way to spend their time. "I started to change my lifestyle and go for walks, especially with this better weather, because it has great benefits for the body and mental health, and removes the daily stress we face at work," she said, adding she does not prefer going to the malls in the hot weather and goes to gyms instead.

Yasser Ahmad told Kuwait Times he practices walking three times a week, depending on work pressure. "I think it is one of the best sports due to the higher metabolism it results in, especially when walking briskly and not just randomly," he said. He pointed out that this type of sport encourages people to practice it because it is not hard and does not induce laziness. Going to sports clubs requires training hard, and goes don't have enough free time, he added.

"I practice walking to increase the burn rate in my body, as the lifestyle in Kuwait does not include walking a lot as people mostly use cars. So our weekly schedule should have some sports in it. If a person has free time in his day and the will to commit, they should go to the gym and do heavy training to build a better body and reach a higher metabolism," Mohammad Saeed said.



"During the COVID pandemic, I started walking, and found it a great experience that improved my mental health and mood. Despite the situation back then, it was great to find people walking most of their time," said Amal Al-Mullah. "The main problem that we face now is that we don't have enough time to walk as our work schedule is full. But during the pandemic, we had enough time to do lots of things

that we wanted to, and one of them was walking." Mullah stressed the importance of sports to reduce stress, adding walking, especially by the seaside, gives lungs clean air that benefit mental health and the body. "Going to the gym also has several benefits, but it forces me to go there daily due to the money you pay for the membership, which you will lose if you skip days," she added.

Health minister inaugurates Ophthalmology department

KUWAIT: Dr Khalid Al-Saeed, Health Minister, inaugurated the ophthalmology department at the new Jahra Hospital. He said that the opening of the new wing was to be seen as a step towards the decentralization of different health services within the framework of the Ministry, to adopt a comprehensive and integrated model which would provide better and accessible medical facilities for citizens.

Meanwhile, Dr Uhoud Khaleefa, Head of the Ophthalmology Department, Jahra Hospital said that the aim of a new department was to provide outstanding health services to the general public using state-of-the-art diagnosing equipment.

"The services at the department are integrated across all the Ophthalmology specialty clinics with seven rooms to cater to cornea, cataract, glaucoma, retina, eye socket, children's eyes and squint problems," she said.

"The department also has two rooms for laser treatments to cure diabetic retina and glaucoma problems as well as two major surgery and one minor surgery room to cater to emergencies."



KUWAIT: Dr Khalid Al-Saeed, Health Minister, inaugurates the ophthalmology department at the new Jahra Hospital, in the presence of the hospital officials.



Kuwait FM receives Indian ambassador



KUWAIT: Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Sibi George, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday, Sibi George, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, in a meeting to mark the end

of the envoy's tenure in Kuwait. During the meeting, Al-Sabah praised the ambassador's contribution to enhance ties between the two countries. — KUNA

MoFA expresses concern over Russia-Ukraine crisis

KUWAIT: Kuwait is following with profound concern the latest developments of the Russian-

Ukrainian conflict, relating to the annexation of Ukrainian territories to Russia, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said in a statement on Monday. Kuwait underscores the need of respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial safety within the UN-recognized borders and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international law, regulating the relations among states and peaceful settlement of disputes, the statement added. — KUNA

Kuwait celebrates World Teachers' Day

KUWAIT: Kuwait celebrates World Teachers' Day to honor teachers and their noble mission in contributing and building a better future. The theme for World Teachers' Day 2022 is, 'the transformation of education begins with teachers,' which reflects on the role of teachers, in creating a more aware and intellectual generation. Head of Kuwait Teachers Society (KTS), Hamad Al-Houli said to KUNA, on Tuesday, that World Teachers' Day falls annually on Oct 5 and sheds light on the role played by teachers in shaping a better future for the next generation in various fields.

Al-Houli stated that on this occasion, KTS is keen to present a letter of appreciation and gratitude to teachers through a nationwide celebration, adding that United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) set the date. In a similar statement, Dr Mohammad Abdul Majid said that, "Teacher's Day is observed to celebrate the accomplishments achieved in building the minds of the future generation and is a gratitude for their efforts towards the positive development of students". He explained that the effective teacher has the ability to build relationships with students, communicate with them and listen to them to enhance their confidence in themselves, to express their ideas and urge them to cooperate and work together to achieve their goals.



Abdullah Al-Otaibi



Dr Mohammad Abdul Majid



Hamad Al-Houli

He pointed out that a great responsibility falls on the teacher's shoulders and is seen in the good psychological, social and educational interaction with the students to prepare them for their future goals." Meanwhile, Abdullah Al-Otaibi said that, "Education is an indispensable pillar in people's lives and a foundation for everything". He stated that, "Kuwaiti teachers, during the pandemic, fulfilled their tasks and responsibilities and contributed to the continuation of the education process through online mediums". — KUNA

Kuwait, Years From Now
Student Art Competition 2022

We are excited to welcome each and every youngster to our Student Art Competition 2022. We hope everyone is ready to showcase and create beautiful artworks of Kuwait in the future. We're searching for great art – so get your paintbrushes, color pencils and markers ready. Let your talent flow and start painting. Good luck to our young artists!

- The competition is open to students aged 6-18 years under the categories of 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years, 15-18 years and special abilities students.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (government and private).
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools and individuals interested in participating in this competition are welcome.
- You can use any drawing sheet, but of A3 size.
- All artworks must be hand drawn and not computer generated.
- All paintings should be submitted by email at art@kuwaittimes.com in PDF format only.
- Kuwait Times reserves the right to retain the drawings for future use.
- Participants should include on the bottom of the artworks the following: Name, age, email address, phone number and school in legible font.

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News in brief



KUWAIT: Dr. Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Ambassador Awadh Al-Kareem Blah Mousa. — KUNA

Kuwaiti FM receives
Sudan's new envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Dr. Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, received on Tuesday Ambassador Awadh Al-Kareem Blah Mousa, who presented his credentials as Sudanese envoy to the country. Al-Sabah wished the ambassador success in the new position and for the bilateral ties to be enhanced further. —KUNA

Jail sentence for
citizenship forgery

KUWAIT: The criminal court in Kuwait has ordered a seven-year jail sentence for a Kuwaiti and a Saudi national for creating false ID and documents for the former's children, claiming them to be Saudi citizens, so as to avail the benefits offered to Saudi nationals.

KFF finds the body
of drowned person

KUWAIT: The public relations department at the KFF has announced that they have found the body of a man near Shuwaikh port on Tuesday. The body is thought to belong to a missing person who had committed suicide by jumping into the sea from the Jaber Causeway Bridge. "A fisherman had alerted the central command that an unknown body was seen floating on the sea and boats were directed to the site from the Shuwaikh center. The body is now transferred to the Salmiya station for identification," sources at KFF confirmed.

PM congratulates Lesotho
on national day celebrations

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has sent a cable on Tuesday to the King of Lesotho, Letsie III, congratulating him on the national day of his country. — KUNA

IWG celebrates 'The
Beauty of Korea'

KUWAIT: The International Women's Group (IWG) in Kuwait and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, co-organized a cultural event about Korea, which was titled 'The Beauty of Korea,' on Sunday, Oct 2, at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Ghada Shawky, president of the IWG and wife of the Ambassador of the Egypt, began her speech by expressing her happiness that the season begins with 'Korea Day', adding that the International Women's Group is fortunate to celebrate it, as one of its main goals "is to work on rapprochement and integration between cultures" and that Korea is a country with a long history dating back 7000 years. Shawky said that the Korean people are proud of their unique traditional culture and rapid economic success achieved in a short period of time.

She also added that on a social level, the Korean people show great respect for their elders, parents and family and believe in sincerity, diligence, humbleness and hard work. She said that she appreciated that they followed certain rules of behavior while meeting, eating, praying and even celebrating their festivals.

Shawky highlighted the richness of the Korean cuisine, the spread of K-drama and K-pop in the world, in addition to the high-quality Korean industries and popular skin care products manufactured in the country. She also made it clear that it is important to strive to know a country from the perspective of its people. "Without knowing the unique perspective of the Korean people, our understanding of Korean culture can become shallow at best and stereotypical at worst. That is why organizing these events is very important," she said.

Shawky also congratulated, on behalf of the IWG, His Highness the Amir of the country, Sheikh

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kazma Sporting Club wins volleyball super cup competition 2022-23. — KUNA

Are we losing our
lives to road rage?

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Hours spent in traffic may harm a person's mental health and might cause road rage. When a driver's level of stress, anxiety or hostility rises, the individual may use their vehicle in an aggressive fashion that places their own life in danger and society at risk. Most people in Kuwait may suffer from road rage, according to consultant psychologist Abdullah Al-Hamadi. Overcrowding of roads and highways is one reason people resort to road rage, where human nature reacts defensively when we feel that our personal space has been invaded.

Hamadi said people should pay attention to each breath as it goes in and out to maintain a normal breathing rhythm, as it relaxes the body, which is also simple enough to do behind the wheel, advising people to avoid peak traffic times.

Since Sunday, heavy traffic jams have been reported as schools reopened to full capacity. "Facing school-related traffic congestion, overcrowding and blocking of streets at or near schools can be stressful, and we cannot deny that even calm people can turn to anger to express how frustrated they are," Huda Adel, a 29-year-old bank employee, told Kuwait Times.

Adel said the timing of her work made it hard to avoid traffic jams in the mornings. "Efforts must be made by the government. The most obvious cause of traffic congestion around schools is vehicles, and the biggest source of those vehicles is parents dropping off and picking up their children. So the number of children taken to school in private vehicles must be reduced. This is the best environmentally-friendly solution," she said.

Abdullah Khattab, a 31-year-old teacher, said obligating schools to provide buses is the best solution, not only for traffic jams, but also the environment. "All parents will approve of this idea. Having

one bus with 40 students is better than having 40 vehicles on the road. Another solution, which is not suitable for summer though, is to increase physical activity among children and adults. We see many children and adults going to school and work in developed countries by bike. Why shouldn't we adopt this idea?" he asked.

MP Abdullah Fahhad called in a tweet for the implementation of the flexible hours system and a change in some school hours in order to resolve the traffic crisis, saying the traffic crisis needs urgent and sustainable solutions related to the structure of Kuwait's roads. Drivers who are more likely to experience road rage take more risks, have more hostile and aggressive thoughts, and have more anxiety and impulsiveness.

Mohammad Al-Ansari, 20, a university student, told Kuwait Times that Kuwaitis have some anger management issues. He said Kuwaitis must acquire and practice calming skills for their own wellbeing and to make their life better and easier, no matter how hard life is. "Let's not forget practicing a sport that will reduce anger and frustration. In the end, being impatient will reflect on our lives - in order to not be in trouble, the best way is taking everything easy."

Essa Al-Ali, 31, an employee, said it's hard to find a person with patience these days. "Lack of patience and composure is prevalent among modern human societies, where the primary reason is lifestyle. A healthy and balanced lifestyle should be adopted; otherwise, impatience is the last drop of rage in the glass before it spills over," he said.

Fatma Al-Enzi, 20, a university student, told Kuwait Times that whenever she is on the road, she asks herself, "Why the rush?" She also discovered that impatient and angry people amid crowds make patient people like herself more annoyed and tense. "We all know how to drive, but not all of us can control our tension, and this causes accidents and



trouble among people in traffic jams. People should take control of themselves. Why don't we learn to respect the road and the laws? These are all solutions to avoid problems, but we lack awareness. Solutions must be applied to avoid annoyance, tension and nervousness we experience daily. One must learn patience and control their emotions to avoid accidents and problems," she pointed out.

Khaled Al-Obaidan, 25, said some ministries reject or delay paperwork deliberately, which leads to impatience and frustration. "Government institutions are behind the attitude of many on the roads, because many will be asked to get another paper from home or somewhere else, so they go back and forth on the road again and again." He said many places are far from each other. "The distance causes the impatience. The ministries are far from each other and we have a limited time in which we can finish our work."

According to him, Kuwait also suffers from a lack of parking lots, so the individual has to waste time finding a spot after reaching their destination. "There are also many traffic lights. When I drive within the speed limit of 60 kph, I will stop at two stoplights, but when I speed up to 120 kph, I will stop at only one stoplight," Obaidan remarked.

Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on the occasion of the second anniversary of His Highness' assumption of power in the country. She also congratulated the Kuwaiti people on the success of the democratic National Assembly elections, wishing Kuwait further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, may God preserve on him.

Meanwhile, Chung Byung-ha, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea delivered the welcome speech, where he extended his gratitude to the president and board members of the IWG for co-hosting the event. He also expressed his pleasure in introducing some aspects of Korean culture including the 'Hanbok' - Korea's traditional dress, which symbolizes the beauty of the past and reflects an essential part of Korea's traditional way of life. He also hoped that the special presentation of modern-day Korean beauty tips, under the umbrella term of 'K-beauty', by a Korean medical doctor would allow participants to have a chance to get a glimpse of skincare products made in Korea.

During the event, a short film about Korea titled 'Find the hidden K-DNA-5 Perspectives on Korea' was also shown. The film focused on various aspects of life in Korea such as the city, music, food and so on. Following the video, an aesthetic plastic surgeon, Dr Junghyun Kim, who is currently practicing in Seoul Derma Clinic in Kuwait and his wife Dr Sunhee Hur, provided participants with K-beauty tips along with useful medical information about crucial daily skincare routine. The event included a presentation of Korea's traditional dress, 'Hanbok', which features its delicate patterns in a variety of colors. Some members of the Korean-Kuwaiti Diwaniya, the Korean culture lovers' gathering in Kuwait, were also given an opportunity to try on the Hanbok. At the end of the event, Ghada Shawky presented the Korean ambassador and his wife with an honorary shield and thanked him for his speech and for organizing this special day.



Ghada Shawky presents Ambassador Chung Byung-ha and his wife with an honorary shield for hosting the event.



KUWAIT: Chung Byung-Ha, Ambassador of Korea with his spouse and members of the International Women's Group.



Xi decade reshapes China's military, and the region

Lebanese man storms bank to demand money for son in Ukraine

Page 6

Page 7



PANMUNJOM: UNC (United Nations Command) soldier (in green) and South Korean soldiers (in black) stand guard in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the truce village of Panmunjom on October 4, 2022. North Korea fired a mid-range ballistic missile on October 4, which flew over Japan, Seoul and Tokyo said, a significant escalation as Pyongyang ramps up its record-breaking weapons-testing blitz. —AFP

N Korea fires ballistic missile over Japan

Japan, US hold joint drill after North Korea missile

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years Tuesday, prompting Tokyo to activate its missile alert system and issue a rare warning for people to take shelter. The latest launch—which the United States branded “reckless and dangerous”—comes in a record year of sanctions-busting weapons tests by North Korea, which recently revised its laws to declare itself an “irreversible” nuclear power.

The last time Pyongyang fired a missile over Japan was in 2017, at the height of a period of “fire and fury” when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traded insults with US president Donald Trump. South Korea said the intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) flew some 4,500 kilometres (2,800 miles) — possibly a new distance record for North Korea tests, which are usually conducted on a lofted trajectory to avoid flying over neighbouring countries.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol called the launch a “provocation” that violated UN regulations, and vowed a “stern response”, in a statement issued by his office. Later Tuesday, South Korean and US fighter jets carried out a “precision bombing drill” in response, Seoul’s military said, with South Korean F-15Ks dropping joint direct attack munitions (JDAMs) at a target in the Yellow Sea.

The drills aimed to demonstrate the allies’ “capabilities to conduct a precision strike at the origin of provocations”, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. On the same day, eight Japanese and four US fighter jets carried out a joint drill in airspace west of the country’s Kyushu region, according to Japan’s Joint Staff.

The forces “confirmed their readiness and demonstrated domestically and abroad the strong determination of Japan and the United States to deal with any situation”, it said in a statement.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida described Pyongyang’s latest test as “an act of violence”, while European Union head Charles Michel called it “an unjustified aggression”. The US State Department said the “reckless and dangerous launch” posed “an unacceptable threat to the Japanese public”. Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the missile could have been a Hwasong-12.

Pyongyang used Hwasong-12s the last two times it fired missiles over Japan—in August and September 2017 — tweeted Chad O’Carroll of specialist site NK News. Japan activated its missile warning system and urged people in two northern regions of the country to take shelter early Tuesday.

Nuclear message

The Tuesday test is Pyongyang’s fifth missile launch in 10 days and sends a clear message to the United States, Park Won-gon, professor of North Korean Studies at Ewha University in Seoul, told AFP. The missiles “put South Korea, Japan, and Guam within range”, and show that Pyongyang could hit US bases with nukes if war broke out on the Korean peninsula, he said.

“As these are missiles that can carry nuclear warheads, the launch also has a political goal of once again declaring North Korea a de facto nuclear power and showing its complete denuclearisation is impossible,” Park added.

Seoul, Tokyo and Washington have been ramping up joint military drills to counter Pyongyang’s growing threats, staging the first trilateral anti-submarine drills in five years Friday. That came just days after the US and South Korean navies conducted large-scale exercises.

Such drills infuriate North Korea, which sees them as rehearsals for an invasion. US Vice President Kamala Harris visited Seoul last week and toured the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that divides the Korean peninsula, on a trip to underscore her country’s “iron-clad” commitment to South Korea’s defence. About

28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea to help protect it from the North.

Significant escalation

Firing a missile over Japan represented a “significant escalation” by North Korea, said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University. “Pyongyang is still in the middle of a provocation and testing cycle,” he added.

South Korean and US officials have been warning for months that Kim is preparing to conduct another nuclear test, saying last week that this could happen soon after Pyongyang’s key ally China holds a Communist Party congress from October 16.

Pyongyang has tested nuclear weapons six times since 2006, most recently in 2017. “North Korea always starts with a low-level provocation and gradually raises the level to attract media attention from all over the world,” said Go Myong-hyun, a researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

“Their final provocation will probably be a nuclear test,” he said, adding that North Korea had taken the unusual and “very aggressive” step of overflying Japan to attract more attention. “By launching the missile over Japan, they are showing that their nuclear threat is not just targeting South Korea.” —AFP

Biden warns Iran to face ‘costs’ for crackdown

PARIS: The United States will impose “further costs” on Iran for its lethal crackdown on protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, President Joe Biden announced, drawing accusations of “hypocrisy” from Iran on Tuesday.

Amini, 22, was pronounced dead on September 16, days after the notorious morality police detained the Kurdish Iranian for allegedly breaching rules requiring women to wear hijab headscarves and modest clothes.

Anger over her death has sparked the biggest wave of protests to rock Iran in almost three years and a state crackdown that has seen scores of protesters killed and more than 1,000 arrested. “This week, the United States will be imposing further costs on perpetrators of violence against peaceful protesters,” Biden said in a statement. “We will continue holding Iranian officials accountable and supporting the rights of Iranians to protest freely.”

Biden said he was “gravely concerned” about

reports of the intensifying repression of protesters and said Washington stood with “all the citizens of Iran who are inspiring the world with their bravery”. Rights groups voiced deep concern after Iranian riot police used tear gas and paintball guns against hundreds of students at Tehran’s Sharif University of Technology on Sunday night, with video footage showing detainees being taken away with fabric hoods over their heads.

Protests also spread to schools, with video footage shared by Kurdish rights group Hengaw showing schoolgirls demonstrating in two cities in Amini’s native Kurdistan province. “Women, Life, Freedom,” the young female protesters chanted as they marched down the central strip of a busy highway in Marivan in footage that AFP has not independently verified.

The US president gave no indication of what measures he was considering against Iran, which is already under crippling US economic sanctions largely related to its controversial nuclear programme. Iran accused the US leader of “hypocrisy” in invoking human rights to impose fresh punitive measures.

Nuclear talks

“It would have been better for Mr Joe Biden to think a little about the human rights record of

The reported gains into Kherson are a threat to the Kremlin’s claim to have formally integrated the agriculturally rich region with a pre-war population of around one million people into the Russian Federation last week.

According to Russian news agencies and unconfirmed social media reports, unidentified forces have attacked occupying Russian units and officials, while Ukrainian forces have destroyed river bridges, leaving Russian units vulnerable to being trapped.

Some 80 percent of the region is estimated to be under Russian control. “Yes, you can hear explosions at a distance, but they’re infrequent,” Stremousov said in his message.

‘Fierce’ frontline fighting

He called on Kherson’s residents to remain calm after his superior, Vladimir Saldo, conceded in an interview that Ukrainian forces had made a “breakthrough” in the region’s north east, at the village of Ducheany along the Dniepr river. But he claimed the push was short-lived and that Russian forces had pushed back again the advancing Ukrainian forces. Ukrainian officials have so far remained silent about any concrete territorial gains but the head of the presidential administration Andriy Yermak on Tuesday posted emojis of watermelons on social media, hinting at gains in the region famous for the fruit.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an



ANKARA, Turkey: A projection on a wall showing Iranian Mahsa Amini and reading “In Iran and everywhere, women will win”, during a prize ceremony at the Chamber of Architects in Ankara. —AFP

his own country before making humanitarian gestures, although hypocrisy does not need to be thought through,” foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said in an Instagram post, reported by Iranian media.

“The US president should be concerned about the numerous sanctions... against the Iranian nation, the sanctions whose imposition against any nation is a clear example of a crime against humanity,” he added. —AFP



KRAMATORSK: Two boys look at the remains of a missile lodged close to a building’s wall in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, on October 4, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. —AFP

address to the nation Monday evening said that “there are new liberated towns and villages in several regions”. “Fierce fighting continues in many sectors of the frontline,” he added, claiming that “more and more occupiers are trying to escape”.

Western officials have said that as many as 20,000 Russian troops could be at risk of being trapped on the western bank of the Dniepr river, which cuts diagonally through the region and flows into the Black Sea.—AFP

Russian forces under pressure in south Ukraine

KRYVYI RIG, Ukraine: A Kremlin-installed official in the south Ukraine region of Kherson urged residents to remain calm Tuesday as reports were surfacing that Kyiv’s forces were making sweeping gains into Russian-controlled territory.

Moscow this month called up hundreds of thousands of troops to bolster the military in eastern Ukraine where Kyiv’s forces have recently made lightning advances and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu meanwhile put the number at 200,000 as of Tuesday.

Ukraine’s southern region of Kherson was one of the first where Kyiv’s defences collapsed in February after Russian forces invaded but Ukrainian forces recently have accelerated a months-long offensive to recapture it.

“Our artillery and fighter jets are hitting enemy forces that enter the sovereign territory of Russia,” said Kirill Stremousov, the Moscow-appointed deputy head of the Kherson region. “There is no reason to panic,” he added in his message to residents of the Black Sea region on social media.

India loses contact with budget Mars orbiter after 8 years

NEW DELHI: India has lost contact with its Mars orbiter, eight years after the low-cost probe made it the first Asian nation with a spacecraft circling the red planet, its space agency said.

Although “designed for a life-span of six months as a technology demonstrator, the Mars Orbiter Mission has lived for about eight years in the Martian orbit with a gamut of significant scientific results”, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said Monday.

The agency said in a statement that, after an eclipse in April cut off sunlight to the probe, its “propellant must have been exhausted” and that it “attained its end-of-life”. Launched in 2013 before entering Mars’ orbit the following year, the probe made India one of only a handful of nations to circle the Red Planet, including Russia and the United States, as well as the European Union.

It came six years before China launched its Tianwen-1 mission, which includes a rover vehicle on the surface of the planet. India’s launch cost just 4.5 billion rupees (\$73 million), less than a sixth of the \$455 million Mars probe begun shortly afterwards by US space agency NASA.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi later quipped that it cost even less than the 2013 Hollywood space blockbuster “Gravity”, which was reportedly made for about \$100 million. The ISRO said the mission’s achievements included providing an understanding of the composition of several gases in the Martian exosphere.

“The mission will be ever-regarded as a remarkable technological and scientific feat in the history of planetary exploration,” it said. India has been bolstering its space programme in recent years, including a manned mission with Russian backing slated for 2023 or 2024.

In 2019 Modi hailed India as a “space superpower” after it shot down a low-orbiting satellite, a move prompting criticism for the amount of “space junk” created.

The same year India suffered a big setback when it lost contact with an unmanned spacecraft moments before it was due to land on the Moon. Experts say India is able to keep costs low by copying and adapting existing space technology for its own needs, and thanks to an abundance of highly skilled engineers who earn a fraction of their foreign counterparts’ wages. —AFP

International

Spain opens trial into 2013 train crash that killed 80

Spain's worst rail disaster in nearly eight decades

MADRID: Nine years after a high-speed train crash that killed 80 and injured over 140, a major trial opens Wednesday to determine responsibility in Spain's worst rail disaster in nearly eight decades. The accident happened on the evening of July 24, 2013, when a train travelling from Madrid veered off the tracks as it hurtled round a sharp bend on the outskirts of Santiago de Compostela, a city in the northwestern region of Galicia.

It was Spain's deadliest train tragedy since 1944, when hundreds were killed in a collision which also happened on the Madrid-Galicia line. The trial, which is due to run until February 2023 and will hear from 669 witnesses, will take place at a cultural centre in Santiago.

The centre has been transformed into a courtroom to accommodate the large numbers of lawyers and civil parties involved in the hearing. Two people have been charged with responsibility for the accident—the driver, Francisco Garzon, and the former safety director at state rail operator ADIF, Andres Cortabitarte.

Both are facing charges of "homicide due to gross professional negligence". Prosecutors are calling for each to face four years behind bars. And the victims' families are claiming nearly 58 million euros (\$58 million) in damages, court documents show.

Excessive speed

At the time of the crash, the train was travelling at 179 kilometres per hour (110 miles per hour), more than twice the speed limit for that stretch of track, according to its black box data recorders. Among the 80 dead were 68 Spaniards and 12 foreigners.

Investigators said the tragedy resulted from a lapse in attention by the 52-year-old driver, who ended a mobile phone call with the on-board conductor before the train lurched off the rails and applied the emergency brake too late.

The courts initially said excessive speed was "the sole cause of the accident", charging Garzon with reckless homicide and causing injuries. But its finding that state rail operator ADIF bore no criminal liability was later revised following complaints by the victims' families.

The families said ADIF, which is in charge of the tracks, bore some responsibility on grounds there was no automatic braking system near the accident site and there was a lack of warning signs before the bend. As a result, the investigation was reopened in 2016, with prosecutors subsequently charging Cortabitarte for the same crimes.

'We won't stop fighting'

The families hailed the decision but expressed regret that no politician was held to account—notably Ana Pastor, the infrastructure minister at the time, who had pressured Brussels to head-off a report critical of Madrid. "Not only was the train derailed but so was justice over these past nine years," the Alvia 04155 victims' association said in a statement on Facebook.

It denounced the "slowness" in bringing the case to trial and "lies" by certain elected officials. "For years, organs of state have worked to clear those who neglected their responsibility and place all the blame on the driver, the last link in the chain," said the



SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain: File photo shows the Alvia high-speed train the day after it derailed and crashed into a concrete wall, four kilometers before Santiago de Compostela. —AFP

group, which is named after the ill-fated train.

"We will not be silent and we will not stop fighting until justice is served and the truth is known, until responsibility (for the crash) is established and we are

offered an apology for the way we've been treated." A year after the crash, Garzon wrote a letter to the victims' families begging for forgiveness and saying he was "destroyed" by the tragedy. —AFP

Lebanese man storms bank to demand money for son in Ukraine

BEIRUT: A retired Lebanese officer stormed a bank Tuesday demanding a money transfer for his son studying in Ukraine, an advocacy group said, one of at least three bank hold-ups across Lebanon. Banks in the country, mired in an economic crisis for more than two years, partially reopened last week under strict security after a week-long closure following a slew of heists by customers desperate to access their money.

Ali Deeb al-Sahili held hostages at a BLC Bank branch in Chitaura, a town about 45 kilometres (30 miles) east of the capital Beirut, according to the Depositors' Outcry Association, seeking to send money to his son in Ukraine.

The armed pensioner, in his 50s, demanded access to the 24,000 dollars in frozen funds in his account. He was detained, his brother said, and it was unclear whether he had been able to release any of his savings.

Police were not immediately available for comment. Hassan Moughnieh, a member of the depositors' association, said that Sahili had repeatedly pleaded with the bank to be allowed to send 4,430 dollars to his son—who was reportedly evicted after failing to pay rent—to cover his accommodation and tuition fees.

"The bank refused, so he stormed it and held hostages inside," Moughnieh said. Banks started imposing draconian restrictions on withdrawals after Lebanon's economy collapsed in 2019, freezing foreign currency savings.

Following at least seven heists last month, Lebanese lenders hired private security companies to guard their branches, and now only receive depositors by appoint-



TYRE, Lebanon: Members of Lebanon's security forces and emergency services deploy at a bank branch held-up by an angry depositor demanding access to his savings, in the southern city of Tyre, on October 4, 2022. A retired Lebanese officer stormed a bank demanding a money transfer for his son studying in Ukraine. —AFP

ment. Also on Tuesday, an angry depositor held up a bank in the southern city of Tyre, demanding access to his savings, the Depositors' Outcry Association said.

In the northern city of Tripoli, Lebanon's poorest, employees of an electricity company stormed a bank to demand the release of their salaries, the official National News Agency reported. The financial crash widely blamed on government corruption and mismanagement has caused the worst economic crisis in Lebanon's history.

The Lebanese pound has lost more than 95 percent of its value on the black market since 2019 as poverty and unemployment have soared. Banks have been widely accused of operating like a cartel and of spiriting large amounts out of the country for senior Lebanese officials at a time when foreign transfers were already blocked for ordinary citizens. —AFP

Zeilinger, a professor of physics at the University of Vienna, was highlighted for his work on "quantum teleportation, which makes it possible to move a quantum state from one particle to one at a distance", the jury said. "It is not like in the 'Star Trek' films or whatever, transporting something - certainly not the person - over some distance," Zeilinger said. "But the point is, using entanglement you can transfer all the information which is carried by an object over to some other place where the object is reconstituted."

The physicists have been credited with paving the way towards what has been called the "second quantum revolution". "The first quantum revolution allowed us to have transistors, semi conductors, computers and lasers," Mohamed Bourenmane, a professor in quantum information at Stockholm University, told AFP. "But the second revolution, which is based on superposition and entanglement, will allow us in the future to have new devices like quantum computers," he added.

Clauser, Aspect and Zeilinger were also honored together when they received the prestigious Wolf Prize in 2010. The three, who will share the Nobel award sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$901,500), will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on Dec 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of scientist Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes in his last will and testament. —AFP

had given the charts to Hammad, and vowed it will take legal actions.

Former MP Ahmad Al-Hamad, who came in 12th position in the second constituency, also said he found major errors in the counting of votes, adding that calculations he made show he has won a seat. Even former MP Mubarak Al-Ajmi, who came in 48th position in the fifth constituency with just over 800 votes, blamed his bad showing on calculation errors during counting of votes. He said he will challenge the results.

Several other candidates have also said they will challenge the counting process at the constitutional court. The court has already received petitions alleging that two emergency decrees issued before the election violate the constitution, and accordingly the election outcome must be revoked. The constitutional court will set a date for looking into such petitions. Its decisions are final.

Quebec's right-wing incumbent party wins new term

QUEBEC CITY, Canada: Quebec re-elected its right-wing governing party Monday, after a heated campaign in which the party leadership pushed claims that immigration threatened the French-speaking Canadian province's culture.

With 41 percent of the vote and 89 seats in the 125-seat Quebec National Assembly, the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ), a right-wing nationalist party led by current Premier Francois Legault, won by a landslide.

The party, in office for the past four years, had made declarations blaming immigrants in part for the decline of the French language in the province. Final results showed the CAQ, founded in 2011, beat its 2018 results when it won 74 out of 125 seats with just over 37 percent of the vote.

Trailing a distant second was the center-left Liberal Party of Quebec (PLQ), with 22 seats, the worst results for the party that ruled Quebec for nearly 15 years before 2018. "Quebecers have sent a strong message," said Legault after the results came in, promising "to be the premier of all Quebecers" after the divisive campaign.

A multimillionaire ex-businessman, Legault came to power in 2018 promising a "third way." Neither separatist nor federalist, the founder of the country's third-largest airline, Air Transat, pitched to Quebecers a "business" approach to politics that would be coupled with nationalist values.

On Monday night, Legault said education and the economy would be his government's top priorities. "We

must continue to create wealth in Quebec because it gives us the means. We have an exceptional opportunity to make Quebec a leader in green economy." Hundreds of Legault's supporters cheered on at the victory event, holding up blue placards with the party's slogan "Let's continue."

Sharply divided province

The map of results showed a province sharply divided between Montreal, a large multicultural city, and the rest of the region. The governing party has only one MP in the territory of the metropolis, a stronghold of the Liberal party and Quebec Solidaire.

In another notable development, Kateri Champagne Jourdain will be the first Indigenous woman to sit in the Quebec National Assembly. Jourdain, a member of the governing party, told reporters that she was pleased to be "making history" in Quebec.

Even before the announcement of the final results, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was "eager to continue working" with Legault, mentioning the "green economy", "the fight against climate change", and the question of "the labour shortage." Doug Ford, premier of neighboring Ontario, said he was "thrilled" with the result. "Let's keep building deeper ties between our two provinces and strengthen the economic bonds between us that create good-paying jobs," he tweeted.

Quebec's Deputy Premier Genevieve Guilbault celebrated the initial results. "People thought we managed the pandemic well," she said, noting that Covid had overshadowed the party's first term. "They want to give us a chance, a full four-year term to continue," she said.

Earlier in the day, voter Alain Gravel, 55, told AFP his ballot choice was swayed mostly by concerns about the economy and asylum seekers slipping into Canada from the United States—a trend that surged in 2017 during Donald Trump's presidency, sparking an outcry, and peaked this year at more than 23,000 to date. —AFP

Enzymes in worm spit may help ease plastic pollution

PARIS: Enzymes found in the saliva of wax worms can degrade one of the most common forms of plastic waste, according to research published Tuesday that could open up new ways of dealing with plastic pollution. Humans produce some 400 million tons of plastic waste each year despite international drives to reduce single-use plastics and to increase recycling.

Around a third is polyethylene, a tough plastic thanks to its structure, which traditionally requires heating or radiation before it starts to break down. There have been several studies showing that microorganisms can release enzymes that start the degradation process on polyethylene, but the process has until now taken months each time.

But those contained in the saliva of the wax worm moth (*Galleria mellonella*) can act in only a few hours, Tuesday's research showed. Researcher Federica Bertocchini, an avid beekeeper, said she originally stumbled on the idea that this small caterpillar had unusual powers when storing honeycombs a few years ago.

"At the end of the season, usually beekeepers put some empty beehives in a storage room, to put them back in the field in the spring," she told AFP. "One year I did that, and I found my stored honeycombs plagued with wax worms. In fact, that is their habitat," Bertocchini cleaned the honeycombs and put the worms in a plastic bag. When she returned a short time later she found the bag "riddled with holes".

"That raised the question: Is it

trying to figure out precisely how the worms degraded the plastic.

While the study authors stressed that much more research was needed before Tuesday's findings could be implemented at any meaningful scale, there were a number of possible applications. "We can imagine a scenario where these enzymes are used in an aqueous solution, and liters of this solution is poured over piles of collected plastic in a waste management facility," said Bertocchini, who said her team were still trying to figure out precisely how the worms degraded the plastic.

"We can also imagine small amounts that can reach more remote locations, like villages or small islands, where waste facilities are not available." She said that further down the line the solution could be used in individual houses, where each family could degrade their own plastic waste. —AFP

Trio win Nobel for quantum...

Continued from Page 1

existed in an "entangled" state, which means that what happens to one determines what happens to the other. This occurs even if they are far apart, something Einstein dismissed as "spooky action at a distance".

While quantum mechanics have proved the iconic physicist wrong, Aspect said Einstein still played an important role in identifying the issue. "We must give the credit to Einstein to have raised the equation," Aspect said in his Nobel Foundation interview. Aspect and Clauser, a research physicist based in California, were singled out for their developments on the work of John Stewart Bell, who in the 1960s "developed the mathematical inequality that is named after him".

First, Clauser "built an apparatus that emitted two entangled photons at a time", through a filter to test their polarization. "The result was a clear violation of a Bell inequality and agreed with the predictions of quantum mechanics," the jury said. Aspect then closed one loophole that meant the measurement setting did not affect the results after the entangled pair had left its source.

Crown Prince meets former...

Continued from Page 1

Azemi said that he had representatives at the counting centers and whose calculations clearly show he won a seat in the Assembly. He said he will demand the constitutional court recount votes.

Former MP Saadoun Hammad said he obtained the full details of the results from the interior ministry. He said the charts show he came in 10th place rather than 12th as announced by judges in the third constituency. Interior ministry charts are not accepted by courts, which only adopt charts prepared by the judges. The ministry of interior also denied in a statement that it

Plastic-munching grub
Wax worm caterpillar found to be able to breakdown plastic pollution

New study published in Nature Communications October 4, 2022

► The wax moth lays its eggs in beeswax
► Its larvae, wax worms, feed on beeswax
► Researchers noted the worms could eat through plastic waste

They previously tested the effect of applying a mashed up paste of worms on to plastic

Polyethylene
 C_2H_4

The paste was found to breakdown plastic faster than any fungus or bacteria is able to

► Beeswax is a polymer, made with a carbon backbone similar to polyethylene (PE) (which makes up 40% of Europe's plastic)

$C_{15}H_{31}CO_2$
 $C_{20}H_{41}$
(Approximate formula)

Galleria mellonella
Commercially raised as maggots for fish bait and aquarium food

► Latest studies have been identified within the saliva, found capable of breaking down PE into small polymers

Source: Sanliya-Verdes, Colomer Vidal et al. Wax worm saliva and the enzymes therein are key to polyethylene degradation by Galleria mellonella

AFP

International

Xi decade reshapes China's military, and the region

Beijing's military budget has now increased for 27 consecutive years

SYDNEY, Australia: During Xi Jinping's decade-long rule, China has built the world's largest navy, revamped the globe's biggest standing army, and amassed a nuclear and ballistic arsenal to trouble any foe. With China's neighbours now rushing to keep pace, Xi's next five-year term is likely to see a quickening Asia-Pacific arms race. From South Korea developing a blue-water navy to Australia buying nuclear-powered submarines, weapons shopping has surged across the region.

According to figures from the London-based



BEIJING, China: China's President Xi Jinping (C) and Premier Li Keqiang (3rd L) arrive for a reception at the Great Hall of the People on the eve of China's National Day in Beijing. — AFP



Korean War cost almost 200,000 lives

International Institute for Strategic Studies, Asia-Pacific defence spending passed \$1 trillion last year alone. China, the Philippines and Vietnam have roughly doubled spending in the last decade. South Korea, India and Pakistan are not far behind.

Even Japan is proposing record defence budgets and inching towards ending its long-standing "no first strike" policy, citing an "increasingly severe" security environment. "All the key players in the Indo-Pacific region are responding to China's military modernisation, basically as fast as they can," said Malcolm Davis, a former Australian defence official now with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Paper tiger no more

For years, the People's Liberation Army was seen as ill-equipped and ineffective-disparaged by one historian as "the world's largest military museum". It was

kitted out with ageing Soviet-derived weaponry, riddled with corruption and was a predominantly infantry force with a less-than-stellar record in foreign campaigns. The PLA's participation in the Korean War cost almost 200,000 Chinese lives. A 1979 invasion of Vietnam cost tens of thousands more and has been mostly airbrushed from official histories. When Xi became commander-in-chief of the PLA in 2013, some reforms were already under way.

They began in the 1990s, when Jiang Zemin was shocked and awed into action by US military prowess during the Gulf War and the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis. But "it wasn't really until Xi Jinping came in that that effort started translating to capability", strategic consultant Alexander Neill told AFP.

The PLA had then just launched its first aircraft

carrier, the Liaoning—a refurbished Ukrainian ship—and the J-15 multi-role fighter aircraft, based on a Sukhoi prototype. Beijing's military budget has now increased for 27 consecutive years, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

'Only competitor'

Today, China boasts two active aircraft carriers, hundreds of long- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, thousands of warplanes and a navy surpassing even the United States's. After China launched a brief and partial blockade of Taiwan in August, a top US military officer tacitly conceded that preventing the real thing would not be easy, even for Washington. "They have a very large navy, and if they want to bully and put ships around Taiwan, they very much can

do that," Seventh Fleet commander Karl Thomas told US media. Meanwhile, China's nuclear stockpile is increasing exponentially and—according to the Pentagon—can probably now be launched from land, sea and air, echoing the US nuclear triad. According to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, China has about 350 nuclear warheads, double the amount held during the Cold War.

US intelligence predicts that this stockpile may double again to 700 by 2027. New nuclear missile silos are being built in the northwest of the country. Washington has pulled no punches in describing the scale of might and ambition held by the People's Republic of China. "The PRC is the only competitor capable of combining its economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to mount a sustained challenge to a stable and open international system," a Pentagon report last year said. "Beijing seeks to reshape the international order to better align with its authoritarian system and national interests." As much as any hardware, it is this perceived global intent that has spooked China's neighbours.

Xi's 'huge favour'

Many of the big-ticket military projects around the region plainly have deterrence in mind—whether it is thwarting the "little blue men" of Beijing's naval militias or a conventional attack. South Korea plans to develop naval power capable of operating far from coastal waters, which experts say has little to do with the threat from rapidly arming North Korea.

Australia plans to acquire eight nuclear submarines—which can stay underwater for extended periods and launch retaliatory strikes—with British and American help, part of the so-called AUKUS agreement. There is also discussion in Canberra about obtaining hypersonic weapons, longer-range ballistic missiles and even state-of-the-art B-21 stealth bombers, capable of striking anywhere in the world virtually undetected.—AFP

Blackouts hit 130 million in Bangladesh after grid failure

DHAKA: At least 130 million people in Bangladesh were without power on Tuesday afternoon after a grid failure caused widespread blackouts, the government's power utility company said. Bangladesh has suffered a major power crisis in recent months as a result of higher global energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and has imposed regular service cuts to conserve electricity. But it remained unclear what caused Tuesday's unscheduled blackout, which hit more than 80 percent of the country shortly after 2 pm local time (0800 GMT), according to the Power Development Board.

Apart from some locations in Bangladesh's northwest, "the rest of the country is without power", Power Development Board spokesman Shamim Ahsan told AFP. Ahsan said 130 million people or more were without electricity and it remained unclear what had caused the fault. "It is still under investigation," he said, adding that a technical malfunction was the probable cause. Junior technology minister Zunaid Palak said on Facebook that power would be restored by 8 pm in the capital Dhaka, itself home to more than 22 million people.



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Members of Bangladesh security personnel stand guard beside Rohingya refugees rescued from the sea after a Malaysia bound boat sank off the Bangladesh coast in Teknaf on October 4, 2022. — AFP

Three dead after Rohingya refugee boat sinks off Bangladesh

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh: At least three people drowned and nearly 20 others were missing off the Bangladesh coast after a boat carrying Rohingya refugees sank in rough weather on Tuesday, authorities said.

Dire conditions in Bangladesh's refugee camps prompt hundreds each year to pay smugglers for passage out of the country. The fishing trawler left at dawn and was bound for Malaysia before it ran into trouble in the Bay of Bengal, with two coast guard search boats scrambling to rescue survivors.

Police said at least three bodies had washed ashore at the coastal town of Halbania. "We recovered the bodies. They are three young Rohingya women aged between 18 and 20," police inspector Nur Mohammad told AFP.

Coast guard station commander Ashiq Ahmed said the vessel was believed to be carrying around 65 people after stopping at several coastal towns before embarking. "We have rescued 45 people including 41 Rohingya refugees and four Bangladeshis," he told AFP.

"Nearly 20 people are still missing. The rescue operation is still going," he added. The boat sank off the coast of Cox's Bazar district, near the site of sprawling camps that are home to around a million Rohingya refugees.

Most arrived in Bangladesh five years ago after a military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar that is now the subject of a genocide investigation at the UN's top court. — AFP

Energy crisis

Soaring energy prices have wrought havoc on the South Asian nation's electricity grid in recent months, with utilities struggling to source enough diesel and gas to meet demand. A depreciating currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves left Bangladesh unable to import sufficient fossil fuels, forcing it to close diesel plants and leave some gas-fired power stations idle.

The government imposed lengthy power cuts to conserve existing stocks in July, with outages lasting up to 13 hours each day at their peak. Tens of thousands of mosques around the country have been asked to curtail the use of air conditioners to ease pressure on the electricity grid.

The blackouts sparked widespread public anger and helped mobilise large demonstrations on the streets of the capital Dhaka. At least three protesters were killed by security forces during the rallies, partly motivated by rising cost-of-living pressures.

Around 100 others were injured during a police crackdown on one demonstration, according to the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Consumer inflation has hit household budgets hard and the government recently pledged to cap the price of several staple foods, including rice, to quell public discontent.

Bangladesh last witnessed a major unscheduled blackout in November 2014, when around 70 percent of the country went without power for nearly 10 hours. — AFP

Japan expels Russian consul

TOKYO: Japan has ordered a senior Russian official stationed in the country to leave in retaliation for the expulsion of a Japanese diplomat over alleged spying, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. The tit-for-tat move came after Tokyo demanded an apology last week from Moscow for detaining a diplomat based in the eastern city of Vladivostok, accusing Russia of blindfolding and pinning the man down in "unbelievable acts".

On Tuesday, the foreign ministry said in a statement that it would expel a Russian consul in the northern city of Sapporo "as a corresponding measure to Russia's actions". "The Japanese government declared one consul from the Russian consulate general's office in Sapporo persona non grata, and demanded that the person leave Japan in six days, which is to say by October 10," it said in a statement.

The Russian ambassador has been summoned and informed of the decision, the ministry added. Last week, top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsumoto said that Japan denied the espionage allegations and said the official had been "blindfolded, with pressure applied to both his hands and head so he was unable to move while being detained, and then he was questioned in an overbearing way".

Japan "strongly protests these unbelievable acts", he added. Russia considers Japan to be a "hostile" country—a designation it shares with all European



TOKYO, Japan: Russian Ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin leaves the Japanese Foreign Ministry after a meeting with Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori in Tokyo on October 4, 2022. Japan has ordered a senior Russian official stationed in the country to leave in retaliation for the expulsion of a Japanese diplomat over alleged spying. — AFP

Union countries, the United States and its allies, including Britain and Australia.

Tokyo had complex relations with Moscow even before the invasion of Ukraine in February, and has imposed tough sanctions on Russia over the war along with its G7 allies. The two sides have yet to sign a post-World War II peace treaty, with attempts to do so long hampered by a territorial dispute over Russian-controlled islands. — AFP

Mozambique region seeks answers after jihadist attack

PALMA, Mozambique: As jihadist fighters advanced in northern Mozambique, Henriques Laba saw only one route of escape. "We fled into the bush," said Laba, head of the village of Mute. "We ate what we could—monkeys, elephants."

Laba survived a jihadist offensive last year that ultimately was crushed, yet even today leaves the region deeply in shock. In March 2021, fighters affiliated to the Islamic State group attacked the port city of Palma—the jewel in the crown of a gas project that would supposedly shower Cabo Delgado province with good jobs and desperately-needed infrastructure.

Dozens of people were killed and tens of thousands fled their homes, some of them, like Laba, seeking shelter in the countryside and foraging for wild animals. The attack marked a turning point in a five-year Islamist insurgency, prompting the deployment of Rwandan forces and troops from other African countries several months later.

The security forces have since regained control of much of the territory, but Palma's administrative centre is all but in ruins and most Western-led projects to exploit the gas—the largest deposits south of the Sahara—have been placed on indefinite hold.

Illiteracy and jihad

The suffering in poor, remote and still-insecure Cabo Delgado has remained outside most of the world's vision. But among local people, why and how their region became embroiled in an Islamist uprising is a source of anguish and debate.

"Some people think the issue is poverty, while the government blames foreigners who came and beguiled young people," explained Jonas Alvaro Jose, one of the few teachers to have returned to Palma district since the jihadists were ousted last year.

Only two schools are currently open in the area. "It's easier to manipulate and recruit young people for little money if most are left without education and have only their religious beliefs to hold on to," said Jose. Cabo Delgado has the highest illiteracy rate in Mozambique—one of the world's poorest countries. Around two in three people are unable to read or write, according to US development agency USAID.

"No youth from my village has joined the bandits," said Laba. "But they recruit mainly Mozambicans, so I believe what leads them to join their ranks is poverty. I hope the government will take efforts to prevent this happening." The province is the only part of Mozambique with a Muslim majority. The capital, Maputo, is more than 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) away. "The government has significantly increased its budget for the northern provinces, which demonstrates that there is an awareness of the issue," said Mirko Manzonni, the UN's special envoy to Mozambique.

But lack of information on the inner workings of the jihadist group—known locally as al-Shabab, though it has no links to the Somali militants of a similar name—hampers the battle for young minds, he added. "We must weaken their ability to recruit, and this is not only a question of economic opportunities."

Little food, little hope

Violence has subdued in the months since foreign troops were deployed in support of the Mozambican army. But sporadic attacks continue and the jihadists have started to stage incursions further south.

In Olumbi, a village a few dozen kilometres (around 20 miles) from Palma, most houses have been razed to the ground. The settlement is mostly Muslim but the attackers made no distinctions. "What happened to me has also happened to my neighbours," said Najum Nete, a trader who lost his home and several members of his family.

"We lack food and can't make ends meet," said Nete. Humanitarian assistance has been slow in coming, as roads are still under threat from the insurgents. To some, foreign forces are the only lifeline. "If the Rwandans leave, I'm leaving too," said Markito, a local resident who gave only his first name, repeating a refrain often heard across the province. — AFP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022

Business

UK's embattled govt stares at new U-turn on economy

Truss, Kwarteng plan to bring forward a major debt reduction plan

LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss defended her contentious plan to kick-start economic growth through tax cuts, despite expectations Tuesday of a second damaging U-turn. Fresh from a humiliating climbdown on cutting income tax for the richest, Truss and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng were set to bring forward a major debt reduction plan, the Financial Times and others reported.

Its unveiling will come later this month rather than on November 23, and will be accompanied by independent forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in a bid to calm febrile financial markets, the reports said. The government declined to confirm the reports, as Truss and Kwarteng endured another difficult day at the ruling Conservatives' annual conference in Birmingham, central England.

But Mel Stride, the Tory chairman of the powerful Treasury committee in the House of Commons, said: "I have pressed the chancellor very hard on this and to his credit he has listened."

Acting in advance of the Bank of England's next rate-setting meeting on November 3 could "reduce the upward pressure on interest rates to the benefit of millions of people up and down the country", he added. Asked if any more U-turns were coming, Truss was evasive in an interview with LBC radio broadcast Tuesday but recorded on Monday.

"I'm determined to carry on with this growth package," she said, stressing another component of the plan to cap soaring energy bills. "That's what's important, but it's also important that we do listen to people and we bring the country with us."

Get a grip!

Truss refused to rule out cuts to benefits as poorer Britons struggle with the worst cost-of-liv-

ing crisis in generations. "I'm very committed to supporting the most vulnerable," Truss told BBC radio in another pre-recorded interview aired Tuesday.

But she added: "We have to look at these issues in the round. We have to be fiscally responsible." Potential cuts to the welfare budget are shaping up as the next battle with dissident Tory MPs after the aborted tax cut, part of a package that relies on billions more in new borrowing.

Splits have also emerged in the cabinet. Senior minister Penny Mordaunt, one of the candidates Truss beat in the Tory leadership race, said it "makes sense" that welfare should still rise in line with soaring rates of inflation. "That's what I voted for before, and so have a lot of my colleagues," she told Times Radio.

Media coverage of Monday's volte-face was damning, with many commentators arguing Truss's credibility was already in tatters less than a month since she succeeded Boris Johnson.

The Daily Mail newspaper, normally a trenchant voice in support of the new leader's right-wing agenda, headlined its main story: "Get a grip!"

Kwarteng's quips

Coverage of Kwarteng's lackluster speech to the Tory conference on Monday, which had to be rapidly rewritten after the tax plan was ditched, was also damning. There was particular criticism of the finance minister's jocular tone, which he reinforced at an evening reception with the Policy Exchange think-tank.

Market reactions that saw the pound slump to an all-time low against the dollar last week had been "hullabaloo", he said. Policy Exchange, he also told his laughing hosts, was "twice as old as the OBR—that gives you huge authority". Dissident ringleader

known as the Brussels Effect. "Today is a great day for consumers, a great day for our environment," Maltese MEP Alex Agius Saliba, the European Parliament's pointman on the issue, said.

"After more than a decade, the single charger for multiple electronic devices will finally become a reality for Europe and hopefully we can also inspire the rest of the world," he said.

Faster data speed

Apple, the world's second-biggest seller of smartphones after Samsung, already uses USB-C charging ports on its iPads and laptops. But it resisted EU legislation to force a change away from its Lightning ports on its iPhones, saying that was disproportionate and would stifle innovation.

However some users of its latest flagship iPhone models—which can capture extremely high-resolution photos and videos in massive data files—complain that the Lightning cable transfers data at only a bare fraction of the speed USB-C does. The EU law will in two years' time apply to all handheld mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones, headsets, portable speakers, handheld videogame consoles, e-readers, earbuds, keyboards, mice and portable navigation systems.

People buying a device will have the choice of getting one with or without a USB-C charger, to take advantage of the fact they might already have at least one cable at home.

Makers of electronic consumer items in Europe

massive investments in LNG terminals at German ports. Germany was creating these import capacities "not just for Germany but also for many of our neighbors in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and beyond," he said.

'Misunderstanding'

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner also moved to reassure his EU counterparts about Berlin's energy plans at talks in Luxembourg on Tuesday. "There had been a misunderstanding... Our package... is proportionate if you compare the size and the vulnerability of the German economy," Lindner said. "We are using our economic strength to protect ourselves."

Lindner and Scholz both stressed that the 200-billion-euro fund would finance support measures until 2024, "so this is not just over a short period", the chancellor said. Berlin's defense came after two key members of the EU's executive singled out Germany for its plan in a rare rebuke from Brussels to the bloc's most powerful member state. Internal market commissioner Thierry Breton and economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, from France and Italy respectively, said that Berlin's plan "raised questions" on fairness and urged a "European instrument" to help countries.

They added that creating a mechanism similar to the so-called SURE program, which the EU launched during the coronavirus crisis should be looked at.

That provided member states with favorable EU loans to pay for short-time work schemes decimated by pandemic lockdowns. "What we did with this



BIRMINGHAM: Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss (left) and Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng wearing hard hats and hi-vis jackets, visit a construction site for a medical innovation campus in Birmingham, central England, on October 4, 2022. —AFP

Michael Gove kept up criticism of Truss on Tuesday, stressing all Conservative MPs had been elected on Johnson's manifesto of 2019.

It included a pledge to end arbitrary evictions of tenants by private landlords, he noted at a conference fringe event held by the housing charity Shelter. "We've got to keep faith with what Boris wanted, we've got to make sure that manifesto commitment is honored," Gove said, after Truss reneged on a Johnson commitment to ban fracking. But asked by reporters if Truss would survive past the

end of the year, the former minister said: "Yes."

Shelter presented poll findings that suggested private renters who voted Tory in 2019 are deserting the party in droves for Labour and other opposition parties. Conservative seats at risk in the MRP poll included Johnson's own constituency in west London. Wider opinion polls in recent days have shown Labour breaching 50 percent as the Tories slump under Truss, raising the stakes as she prepares to close the Birmingham conference on Wednesday. —AFP

EU imposes single charger for all smartphones

STRASBOURG: The EU parliament on Tuesday passed a new law requiring USB-C to be the single charger standard for all new smartphones, tablets and cameras from late 2024. The measure, which EU lawmakers adopted with a vote 602 in favor, 13 against, will-in Europe at least-push Apple to drop its outdated Lightning port on its iPhones for the USB-C one already used by many of its competitors.

Makers of laptops will have extra time, from early 2026, to also follow suit. EU policymakers say the single charger rule will simplify the life of Europeans, reduce the mountain of obsolete chargers and reduce costs for consumers. It is expected to save at least 200 million euros (\$195 million) per year and cut more than a thousand tons of EU electronic waste every year, the bloc's competition chief Margrethe Vestager said. The EU move is expected to ripple around the world.

The European Union's 27 countries are home to 450 million people who count among the world's wealthiest consumers. Regulatory changes in the bloc often set global industry norms in what is

Scholz defends German energy plan against EU critics

BERLIN: Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday pushed back against European criticism of Germany's 200-billion-euro (\$198-billion) energy fund, saying other countries were also taking steps to shield citizens from historic price shocks. "The measures we are taking are not unique but are also being taken elsewhere and rightly so," Scholz said at a Berlin press conference.

France and key members of the European Commission have voiced concern about a go-it-alone approach by Berlin and are calling for EU-wide solutions to the energy crunch aggravated by war in Ukraine that has seen key supplier Russia turn off the gas taps.

They fear that European countries with high debts cannot afford the largesse demonstrated by Germany, the EU's biggest economy, thus distorting the single market. But Scholz insisted Germany's planned measures, including caps on power prices, were justified to help citizens and businesses cope with sky-high gas and electricity bills. "Prices must come down," he told reporters, speaking alongside Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

Asked whether Germany was displaying a lack of solidarity with its European Union peers, Scholz replied that other countries would benefit from



agreed a single charging norm from dozens on the market a decade ago under a voluntary agreement with the European Commission. But Apple refused to abide by it, and other manufacturers kept their alternative cables going, meaning there are still some six types knocking around. They include old-style USB-A, mini-USB and USB-micro, creating a jumble of cables for consumers.

USB-C ports can charge at up to 100 Watts, transfer data up to 40 gigabits per second, and can serve to hook up to external displays. Apple also offers wireless charging for its latest iPhones—and there is speculation it might do away with charging ports for cables entirely in future models. But currently the wireless charging option offers lower power and data transfer speeds than USB-C. —AFP



BERLIN: Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz (right) and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte chat prior to the start of a German Dutch climate cabinet meeting, at the Chancellery in Berlin, October 4, 2022. —AFP

SURE mechanism during the pandemic was an interesting proposal. It is based on loans. And I think it could be realistic," Gentiloni said.

That program was less ambitious than the historic 750-billion-euro COVID recovery program which saw the EU's 27 member states jointly emit fresh borrowing to save Europe's economy. Lindner, a fiscal conservative, ruled out any program that would resemble the landmark pandemic rescue.

"I don't think joint borrowing will be a solution," he said. In Berlin, Scholz and Rutte also suggested that it was too early to consider new joint borrowings, as they pointed out that the huge funds from the COVID recovery fund had not yet been exhausted. —AFP

Boursa Kuwait stocks surge

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait stocks surged on Tuesday with its General Index rising 204.5 points to close at 7186.53 points, an increase of 2.9 percent. About 295.8 million stocks were traded through 17,434 cash transactions for KD 77.6 million (\$235.12 million).

The Main Market Index has risen 93.07 points to reach 5,377.55 points with an increase of 1.7 percent through trading 174.5 million stocks through 66,727 transactions for KD 15.8 million (\$47.8 million). The Premier Market Index rose 250.9 points to reach 8,048.13 points with an increase of 3.2 percent through trading 121.2 million stocks through 10,807 transactions for KD 61.7 million (\$187 million).

Meanwhile, GCC stock markets rebounded on Tuesday from a series of losses the markets incurred in the previous sessions. Markets in the region are waiting for a possible OPEC+ decision regarding oil production levels. Oil prices continued to rise as traders anticipate the possibility of a production cut among OPEC countries.

The Dubai stock market bounced back after two weeks of losses. Traders moved to make use of a fall in equity prices while international markets recovered to some extent. The Abu Dhabi stock market rose on Tuesday, supported by the performance of oil markets. The main index was able to rebound from a drop and could extend some gains.

The Qatari stock market continued to rebound following the surge in other markets in the region and elsewhere. However, it remains exposed to price corrections as natural gas resumes its decline. The Saudi stock market (Tadawul) extended its gains thanks to the improving oil markets. The main index could stop rising if investors move to secure their gains as OPEC's decision draws closer.

The stock market in Oman recorded some losses after a series of gains as traders moved to secure their gains. The market was also impacted by the negative performance in natural gas markets. The Egyptian stock market was heading higher Tuesday as local investors made use of the lower prices of the stocks. However, it remains exposed to new price corrections as international investors remain cautious. —KUNA and agencies



Business

Australia hikes rates less than forecast, boosting equities

Concerns grow over slowing global economy and surging prices

SYDNEY: Australia raised interest rates less than expected Tuesday, boosting stocks and dragging the local dollar lower, as officials grow concerned about a slowing global economy sparked by rising borrowing costs and surging prices. While the Reserve Bank of Australia's 0.25 percentage point hike took the cash rate to a nine-year high of 2.60 percent, the increase was half what had been forecast as it joins others around the world in trying to rein in runaway inflation.

In a statement the RBA noted it had already increased rates "substantially in a short period of time", though it held its inflation estimate for the year with a peak of 7.75 percent, before dropping to just over four percent in 2023.

"As is the case in most countries, inflation in Australia is too high," the bank said in a statement.

It added that the surge in prices had been driven by "global factors", along with strong spending levels in Australia. The move highlights the tightrope central banks have to walk in trying to bring down inflation while at the same time trying to cushion their economies from a recession, a battle many commentators warn they are losing.

The Federal Reserve and European Central Bank have flagged further hikes at their next meetings, while the United Nations warned that the tightening programs could trigger prolonged stagnation.

Sydney's ASX 200 soared 3.8 percent after the announcement, while the Australian dollar dropped from US\$0.6510 to as low as \$0.6451 though it edged back slightly. City Index Senior Market analyst Matt Simpson said the decision was "telling" after Australia had to "play catch-up with other central banks".

"Already that trajectory is dying down. And as long as medium-term inflation expectations continue to behave, the case for a much higher cash is fading," he said. Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers said the rise and international warnings of economic slowdowns would shape his upcoming budget announcement, which is due in three weeks. "The storm clouds are gathering again in the global economy," he told a news conference in Canberra.

"There's no use pretending that the global situation hasn't deteriorated. There's no use pretending that rising inflation isn't punching a hole in family budgets." — AFP



SYDNEY: Indicator boards are seen as people are reflected in the window of the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in Sydney, Australia. — AFP

Markets surge on interest rate hopes

LONDON: Asian and European stocks rallied Tuesday and the dollar dipped as weak US data sparked hopes the Federal Reserve could ease its interest-rate hiking plans. Frankfurt and Paris equities soared more than three percent in value after similar stellar gains in Tokyo, while London won two percent.

"Weaker-than-expected manufacturing data from the US was taken as a signal that rising interest rates

may be having some effect on cooling demand for goods," said Interactive Investor analyst Richard Hunter.

"This in turn led to hopes of a Federal Reserve pivot, even though the specter of inflation remains firmly at the top of their stated-to-do list." The Fed and other central banks across the world have raised interest rates in efforts to tame runaway inflation, but the monetary tightening has raised fears that it could plunge countries into recession.

Wall Street had enjoyed a bumper start to the fourth quarter on Monday after data showed US manufacturing growth slowed more than expected in September to its weakest in more than two years. The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index dropped 1.9 points to 50.9 percent, just

barely above the 50-percent threshold indicating expansion, as the prices index fell to the lowest in more than two years.

Eurozone manufacturing survey data out Monday showed a contraction on the back of the region's ongoing energy crisis. "The turnaround in risk appetite appears to have been driven by another deterioration in PMI surveys as traders speculate that such weakness could be a precursor to slower monetary tightening," noted OANDA market analyst Craig Erlam.

Asian markets built on the Wall Street surge. Tokyo and Seoul were among the leaders, despite news that North Korea had fired a missile over Japan for the first time since 2017.

Sydney soared 3.8 percent after the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted interest rates by less than expected. Hong Kong and Shanghai were closed for holidays. Investors will focus later this week on Friday's all-important US jobs figures for the latest reading on the health of the world's biggest economy.

Sterling extends gains

Oil also continued to rise on expectations OPEC and other major producers will slash output this week, having become spooked by a plunge in the commodity on recession fears. The 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Riyadh, and their 10 allies headed by Moscow will hold Wednesday their first in-person meeting at the group's headquarters in Vienna since March 2020.

The rally in equities came as the dollar weakened owing to lower expectations for US monetary tightening, with the pound also supported by the UK government's decision to scrap a planned cut in the top rate of income tax. Finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng has dropped the proposal, which was part of a big-borrowing mini-budget that sent shudders through markets. The pound extended gains after breaking back above \$1.13, having last Monday tanked to a record low \$1.0350. — AFP

UK's 'Brexit hard man' says sorry to Ireland

LONDON: A British government minister on Monday apologized for the damage done to diplomatic ties between the UK and Ireland during Brexit negotiations. Steve Baker said he was "sorry that relations between the United Kingdom and Ireland have been soured by the Brexit process", during an interview with Ireland's national broadcaster RTE. The prominent Brexiteer and Eurosceptic, who was appointed a junior minister in the Northern Ireland Office last month, also acknowledged his headline stance during talks over the UK's divorce from the EU had "caused enormous amounts of anxiety". "Some of our actions were not very respectful of Ireland's legitimate interests and I want to put that right," said Baker, who once styled himself as "Brexit hard man Steve Baker".



Steve Baker

"If I have to eat a bit of humble pie in order to restore broken relationships, to get that done, well, I'm happy to eat a bit of humble pie." Baker's comments follow a similar apology he made over relations with Ireland during the Conservative party's annual conference, which has been overshadowed by fallout from an economic agenda unveiled by new Prime Minister Liz Truss less than a month after she succeeded Boris Johnson. The Northern Ireland minister said he had an opportunity to meet Irish leaders at events following the death of Queen Elizabeth II last month and had "felt the ice thawing a bit". Truss's government has looked to set a new tone in dealing with the thorny issue of post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Ireland with both Dublin and Brussels.

'Negotiated solution'

Speaking to Northern Ireland's UTV, the UK prime minister said Baker was "speaking from his personal experience" with his decision to apologize. But she added that her government "absolutely want to find a negotiated solution" on trade in the province and "work with our neighbors in the Republic of Ireland".

As foreign minister, Truss spearheaded legislation to tear up parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol the UK government signed with the EU to govern trade, plunging relations to a new low. The European Commission said on Monday technical-level talks with Britain, which stalled in February, would resume this week. A spokesman said new UK Foreign Minister James Cleverly and the EU's pointman on the issue Maros Sefcovic had a "good conversation" on the protocol, which effectively keeps Northern Ireland within the EU single market to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland.

Speaking later at a reception, Cleverly also said he had every confidence challenges in the relationship with the EU would be overcome. "I have no doubt we will get there because there is no version of the future where the UK is successful, and the EU is not," he said.

"And there is no version of the future where the EU is successful and the UK is not. So we know we are both going to be successful together."

Irish premier Micheal Martin said in response to Baker's apology that he considered the comments "honest". The Taoiseach added in recent discussions with his UK counterpart that both had expressed the "desirability of very good relationships, obviously, between Britain and Ireland and also between the United Kingdom and the European Union". The arrangements are fundamentally opposed by Northern Ireland's pro-UK unionist community which views the border checks it imposes on goods heading to Northern Ireland from mainland Great Britain as a threat to the province's position in the UK. The Democratic Unionist Party has boycotted Northern Ireland's devolved assembly over the protocol, paralyzing its executive since February and in spite of May elections. — AFP



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic display showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Oct 4, 2022. — AFP

US 'broad-based' inflation will take time to drop: Fed

WASHINGTON: While there are some signs that global and domestic inflation pressures are easing, high prices have spread, making it harder to quell quickly, a top US central banker said Monday.

Continued strong demand for goods and for workers will keep pressure on inflation—which has hit the highest in 40 years—New York Federal Reserve Bank President John Williams said.

"This is resulting in broad-based inflation, which will take longer to bring down," he said. Prices soared over the past year in part due to worldwide supply chain snags, creating shortages of key components like computer chips needed for cars and electronics.

Those issues have been exacerbated by zero-COVID policies in China and the Russian invasion of Ukraine that sent food and energy prices surging. Those supply constraints are easing, while rising interest rates are cooling demand, helping to bring down prices of many commodities like lumber, which should lower inflation, Williams said in a speech to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Unfortunately, that's it for the good news on inflation," he said, warning that those factors "will not be enough by themselves to bring inflation back to our two percent objective." The Fed has moved aggressively this year to tamp down demand to help drive prices lower, hiking interest rates five times, for a total of three percentage points. And the central bank has said more increases are coming this year.

"From Main Street to Wall Street ... inflation is the No. 1 concern," Williams said, adding, "our job is not yet done." Even as supply issues improve, "demand for durable goods remains very high — beyond what can be produced and brought to market," while "demand for labor and services is far outstripping available supply." Still, he said he expects the aggressive Fed moves, along with similar steps by other major central banks, will help to restore balance globally. Williams said "the combination of cooling global demand and steady improvements in supply ... should contribute to inflation declining to about three percent next year." The Fed's preferred index showed annual inflation slowed to 6.2 percent in August, from the 7.0 percent peak in June. — AFP

Turkey and Libya sign maritime hydrocarbons deal

TRIPOLI: Turkey's foreign minister signed a deal in Libya's capital Monday allowing for oil and gas exploration in Libya's Mediterranean waters, three years after a maritime border deal that angered European nations. "We've signed a memorandum of understanding on exploration for hydrocarbons in Libya's territorial waters and on Libyan soil, by mixed Turkish-Libyan companies," Mevlut Cavusoglu said at a press conference in Tripoli.

The deal follows an agreement Turkey signed with authorities in Tripoli in 2019, which demarcated the countries' shared maritime borders but sparked anger in Greece and Cyprus. Cavusoglu however stressed on Monday that the new accord was between "two sovereign countries—it's win-win for both, and other countries have no right to interfere".

Najla Al-Mangoush, foreign minister in Libya's Government of National Unity, said the new deal was "important", especially in light of "the Ukrainian crisis and its repercussions" for energy markets.

The deal was rejected by a rival administration in the war-torn country's east. Turkey had signed a controversial security agreement in November 2019 with Libya's UN-recognized government at the time, laying claim to extensive, potentially gas-rich areas of the Mediterranean. The deal came at the height of a year-

long battle between rival governments vying for control of Libya's capital. The arrival of Turkish drones shortly afterwards was seen as crucial in the victory of Tripoli-based forces against those of eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar, backed at the time by Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates.

'Unacceptable'

Cavusoglu was accompanied in Tripoli by a high-level delegation also including Turkey's energy, defense and trade ministers. Turkey continues to play a major role in Libya's west, where rival governments are again struggling for control two years after the end of the last major conflict. Since March, a government appointed by Libya's eastern-based parliament has been attempting to take office in Tripoli, but has so far failed. Both the speaker of parliament and the head of the rival administration rejected Monday's accord.

Speaker Aguila Saleh, who has long argued that the Tripoli-based government's mandate has expired, called the deal "illegal and unacceptable", while the rival government of former interior minister Fathi Bashagha threatened to use the courts to annul it. Athens was fiercely opposed to the 2019 deal between Ankara and Tripoli.

On Monday, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said he had spoken to his counterpart in Egypt, Sameh Shoukry, and that "both challenged the legitimacy" of the deal. Dendias said he would visit Cairo on Sunday for "consultations" on the issue. Libya has been mired in violence for more than a decade since the 2011 toppling of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a NATO-backed uprising. Dozens of armed groups have been struggling for influence, backed by multiple foreign powers. — AFP



TRIPOLI: Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush (R) and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu attend a press conference in the capital Tripoli on October 3, 2022. — AFP

Business

Why crypto's big 'merge' is causing big headaches

Ethereum faces bitter opposition and could get greater scrutiny from regulators

PARIS: The biggest software upgrade in the short history of crypto has fulfilled its promise to wipe out more than 99 percent of the electricity used by the second-biggest cryptocurrency, experts have told AFP. That is no mean feat, given that the Ethereum blockchain was burning through about as much electricity as New Zealand.

Skeptics had expected glitches with the upgrade, known as "the merge", but it ended up being a "rather boring event", according to Alex de Vries of the Free University in Amsterdam. De Vries, whose Digiconomist website models the energy use of Bitcoin and Ethereum, said consumption had indeed plummeted by more than 99 percent on Ethereum. Moritz Platt, a researcher specializing in crypto at King's College London, said the 99 percent estimates were realistic and heralded a positive step towards "cryptocurrency sustainability".

So the Ethereum blockchain, which supports billions of dollars of trading in games, tokens, art and the ether currency, has cleaned up its act.

But there are complications. Ethereum faces bitter opposition from those who lost out from the merge and it could also get greater scrutiny from regulators.

'Astronomical' growth

The old system, known as "proof of work", relied on people and firms to "mine" new coins—an industry worth \$22 million daily before the merge, according to de Vries. The miners used vast power-guzzling computer rigs to compete with each other to solve complex equations, and the winner was awarded the prize of adding entries to the blockchain and generating coins.

The merge wiped out their business model overnight. "Those rigs do not magically turn back

into invested capital," said a crypto-miner known only as "J" who operates between Singapore and Hong Kong. He said it was costing him between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a month to keep his staff and equipment idling while he thinks about his next move.

Plenty of miners have sold off their kit, while others are putting their rigs to work on less profitable blockchains that still use the old system. A miner who uses the name Leon Ravencoin, for example, has been tweeting non-stop about the "astronomical" growth of Ravencoin, one of the currencies to get a boost after the merge. The combined computing power used by these coins is around one-fifth of the pre-merge Ethereum blockchain.

However, de Vries said they generated only about \$500,000 in daily revenue so only the most energy-efficient machines with the lowest energy costs would be able to make a profit. As a result, one-fifth of the computing power would work out far less than one-fifth of the electricity use.

'Designed to be centralized'

Aside from the problem with miners, the new system, known as "proof of stake", has several issues baked in. Anyone willing to stake a large amount of ether can now "validate" new entries on the blockchain. The more you stake, the more chance you have of updating the chain and earning coins.

The system gives an advantage to the biggest players, and just three companies now account for more than half of "validators", according to research by Dune Analytics.

Cryptocurrencies were envisaged as a decentralised alternative to the banks, corporations and governments that failed so spectacularly during



WASHINGTON: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Gary Gensler (right) during a meeting with the Treasury Department's Financial Stability Oversight Council at the US Treasury Department on October 03, 2022 in Washington, DC. —AFP

the global crash of 2008. But crypto-miner J said the new Ethereum was "designed to be more centralized" and suggested it no longer had a real purpose.

Regulators have also begun to pay attention, with US Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Gary Gensler suggesting proof-of-stake looked like a securities market that would fall under his remit.

The disaster scenario for Ethereum would be that enough disgruntled purists switch to one of the gas-guzzling proof-of-work alternatives, with Ethereum Classic being the main one. "There is nothing capping Ethereum Classic prices," said de Vries, meaning that miners could potentially make good profits if the market shifted their way. A rush from the greener blockchain was "theoretically definitely possible", he said. —AFP

German firm RWE to ditch coal power by 2030: CEO

BERLIN: German energy giant RWE brought forward its exit from coal power to 2030 on Tuesday amid fears the country's plans to abandon fossil fuels are wobbling following the energy crisis caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. Russia's curtailing of gas exports to Germany in the wake of the Ukraine war has forced Berlin to make the radical decision to restart mothballed coal power stations, at least temporarily.

"As more coal is needed in the short term, thereby leading to rising carbon dioxide emissions, we will need an earlier coal exit because this is the only way to continue to achieve the country's climate protection goals," RWE chief executive Markus Krebber told a press conference.

"We, as RWE, are making a significant contribution to this—we will end coal-based power generation in 2030," he added, bringing forward the company's plans by eight years.

Germany began winding down its coal-fired power plants a few years ago with a view to eventually ending usage of the fossil fuel. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended plans as Moscow reduced energy exports to Germany in what Berlin believes is retaliation for its support for Kyiv.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has authorized the restart of 27 mothballed plants or those put in reserve to help fill the energy gap until March 2024. Bringing Germany's planned coal exit forward from 2038 to 2030 was one of the central pledges of Scholz's coalition government when it was elected last year. RWE on Saturday said it had signed a purchase agreement for the Clean Energy Business affiliate of New York-based Con Edison, a deal valued at \$6.8 billion that would significantly boost its US renewables portfolio. —AFP

KFH enables non-KFH customers to open new accounts through XTM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a new banking service that enables non-KFH customers to open a bank account in an automated, safe and fast process through XTM devices that are distributed in 10 locations. Non-KFH customers wishing to open a bank account are able to communicate with a customer service agent through an XTM device using an audio-visual connection, enter the required information and then open an account at instant.

Manager ATM and KFHiGo at KFH, Meshal Mandani said that the new service affirms KFH's commitment towards digitalization, maximizing the role of technology to achieve financial inclusion, expanding its customers' portfolio and market share in addition to enhancing the quality and accessibility of KFH services. The new service will allow the Bank to be closer to its current customers and attract potential customers in different areas.

He explained that individuals, of 15 years of age and above who wish to open a bank account at KFH can visit the nearest KFHiGo branch and communicate with a KFH staff through XTM to open an account, noting

HSBC mulls sale of Canada unit

LONDON: HSBC is mulling the sale of its Canadian business, the Asia-focused bank said Tuesday. "We are currently reviewing our strategic options with respect to our wholly owned subsidiary in Canada," the London-based lender said in a statement. "Amongst the options being explored is a potential sale of HSBC Group's 100-percent equity stake in HSBC Bank Canada."

The division is worth around \$9.0 billion, according to the Financial Times. "HSBC Bank Canada is a very strong business and Canada's leading interna-

Changes to waste management could slash emissions

PARIS: Reforms to the way that societies collect and treat their waste could slash global emissions of planet-heating methane, a new report said Monday, noting that simple measures like composting were a climate solution "staring us in the face".

Governments around the world have pledged to reduce emissions of methane (CH₄) — which absorbs 80 times more solar radiation over short periods than carbon dioxide—in their battle to curb global warming. Human-induced sources of the powerful greenhouse gas are largely from livestock and manure handling, which accounts for some 30 percent of anthropogenic methane emissions, followed by the oil and gas sector (19 percent) and landfills (17 percent), according to UN climate experts.

A new report by the organization Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) found that simple tweaks in the waste sector, particularly in urban areas, could slash carbon emissions by the equivalent of the annual emissions of 300 million cars.

The authors looked at "zero waste" strategies, like separating organic materials, composting, recycling non-organic material and overall reductions in discarded products. While reforms would not remove methane emissions from the waste system, the report estimated that policies could reduce overall emissions of methane from human sources by as much as 13 percent globally.

The authors said that a focus on waste reduction

would not only tackle methane, which leaches from landfills as organic matter rots, but could also make a major dent in the carbon pollution from the manufacture, transport and use of goods. "Better waste management is a climate change solution staring us in the face," said report co-author Neil Tangri of GAIA.

"It doesn't require flashy or expensive new technology—it's just about paying more attention to what we produce and consume, and how we deal with it when it is no longer needed." The authors stressed that tackling waste was a key element of reaching the aspirational Paris deal target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The researchers modeled potential emissions reductions from eight cities around the world and found that, on average, they could cut waste sector emissions by almost 84 percent. Methane is responsible for roughly 30 percent of the global rise in temperatures to date.

The powerful greenhouse gas lingers in the atmosphere only a fraction as long as CO₂, but is far more efficient at trapping heat. Levels of the gas are their highest in at least 800,000 years. —AFP

At last year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, more than 100 nations agreed under the Global Methane Pledge to reduce emissions 30 percent by 2030. But several major methane emitters—including China, Russia, Iran and India—failed to sign. "This report demonstrates the huge importance of aligning our waste systems with climate goals," said Janez Potocnik, from the International Resource Panel of the UN Environment Programme. "It highlights the absolute necessity of reducing root sources of waste through changing our production and consumption patterns—using all the tools at our disposal to achieve the deep emissions reductions we need." —AFP

which offers several banking services available 24/7 allowing customers to benefit from different services and complete many transactions.

Among the main services available through XTM devices are: buying 10g gold biscuit and receiving it instantly by self-service (Opening Gold Account is not required), cardless cash withdrawal up to KD 5,000 through a video call with KFH agent using the civil ID, cardless cash deposit up to KD 3,000 per day (150 Notes/ Each transaction) through a video call with KFH agent using the civil ID, cheque deposit by self-service or through a video call with KFH agent, money transfer between own accounts up to KD 10,000 per day by self-service or through a video call with KFH agent, and money transfers to KFH or other banks' beneficiaries.

The XTM device also provides other services such as requesting and printing a cheque book, updating information using the civil ID through a video call with KFH agent, opening investment deposits, creating a Murabaha transaction, as well as requesting credit and prepaid cards.



England—a move that upset some Hong Kong investors. —AFP

US auto sales remain slow in third quarter

WASHINGTON: Automakers saw lackluster US sales in the third quarter, as manufacturers continued to grapple with supply constraints, according to reports from the companies Monday.

The auto sector has been battling a shortage of components with supply problems that initially affected mainly semiconductors later spreading to other parts. Japan's Toyota suffered a seven percent drop in sales in the latest three months, to more than 526,000 units, while FCA-part of the Stellantis group which includes the Fiat and Chrysler brands—saw its sales drop by six percent compared to the same period of 2021.

Jeff Kommor, FCA's US head of sales, said "we continue to deal with challenging industry supply constraints." US automaker Ford, which is expected to announce its sales figures on Tuesday, had previously warned that the company would likely end the quarter with up to 45,000 vehicles stockpiled due to the lack of parts amid the persistent problems in its supply chains.

But the situation appears to be improving at General Motors, which bucked the trend to sell over 555,000 vehicles, marking a 24 percent jump compared to a year earlier. GM retained its spot as top seller in the US market, and said "improved semiconductor supplies, stable production and improvements in dealer inventory" helped it to regain market share.

Hyundai reported a three percent rise in sales, but other brands such as Honda and Nissan suffered large declines. Electric car maker Tesla, which does not detail its US sales, said on Sunday that it delivered 343,830 vehicles worldwide between July and September.

While this was at the low end of analyst expectations, it marked an increase of over 42 percent increase. The outlook for the auto sector has become more uncertain with the economic slowdown and inflation weighing on consumers.

Cox Automotive lowered its forecast for full-year auto sales in the US to 13.7 million last week. But "recent changes in the economic outlook from rising interest rates is beginning to chip away at demand, and the waiting line for new vehicles is likely getting much shorter," said Cox economist Charlie Chesbrough. —AFP



Meshal Mandani

Lifestyle | Features



Austrian designer Andreas Kronthaler (3rd left) flanked by US model Bella Hadid (2nd left) and Russian model Irina Shayk (4th right) acknowledge applause at the end of the Vivienne Westwood Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week in Paris.



US model Bella Hadid presents a creation for Thom Browne during the Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris, on October 3, 2022.



US model Bella Hadid presents a creation for the Victoria Beckham Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show during the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris.— AFP photos

BELLA HADID'S SPRAY ON DRESS: PARIS FASHION WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

From a spray-painted dress on Bella Hadid to a very muddy Kanye West and a surprise cameo by Cher, there were some viral moments at Paris Fashion Week, which concludes on Tuesday. Here are some of the highlights from the spring-summer 2023 womenswear shows.

Spray-canned Bella

The most talked-about dress of the week came out of a nozzle. Coperni stole the show when a scantily-clad Hadid had a white dress sprayed on to her by assistants, live on the runway. It took about 10



US model Bella Hadid presents a creation for Vivienne Westwood during the Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris.

minutes for the "Fabrican" to work its magic. Made from polymers and fibres, it dries instantly into a non-woven fabric when it makes contact with air. Social media went wild, and there were comparisons to the iconic moment in 1999 when Alexander McQueen had a model spray-painted by two robots while rotating on a turntable. Another futuristic accessory was spotted at Hermes, where hollowed-out, carbon-fibre sandals made it look like the models were floating on air—a mixture of technology and archaism," said the brand's shoe designer Pierre Hardy.

Muddy Kanye

Balenciaga has a thing for dirt and trash lately. Having caused a viral sensation with his ultra-expensive trash bags earlier this year, designer Demna decided to go a step further and fill a convention centre with dirt from a peat bog. First out on the runway was Kanye West, who was caked in mud as were many of the other models' clothes. "Putting luxury into the box of polished, exclusive and visually expensive is limited, and pretty old school," the show notes explained.

Trop Cher

Many brands went for big theatrical displays in the hope of drowning out the grim news around the world. Balmain's Olivier Rousteing wowed his audience after his show by walking down the runway with Cher as her hit "Strong Enough" boomed around the stadium. At Rochas, designer Charles de Vilmorin said his show was an explicit "ode to indifference", set in a mock-up of the legendary Folies Bergere nightclub. And Dior staged a "baroque party", with designer Maria Grazia Chiuri saying: "In this heavy historical moment, fashion is the only territory where we can still play." Her new collec-



Austrian designer Andreas Kronthaler (center) kisses US model Bella Hadid (center left) as Russian model Irina Shayk (center right) and others acknowledge applause at the end of the Vivienne Westwood Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris.

tion inspired by 16th-century French queen Catherine de Medici, included corsets and high heels—not the usual thing from the feminist Chiuri, but she told AFP it was "ironic power dressing".

Round and proud

While most models still looked like they could slip through a toilet roll, there were occasional glimpses of different body shapes on the catwalk. Belgian Ester Manas's sultry collection of high-cut dresses and swimsuits were presented mostly by plus-size models, while curvy

US star Ashley Graham paraded in a mini-dress for Balmain. Up-and-coming French designer Victor Weinsanto fully embraced bulges as he wrapped a model in nothing but tight bondage ties. His light-hearted approach also saw him put friends and fellow designers on the catwalk and even encourage his models to smile. "Fashion cannot be a purely elitist field," he told AFP.

Becks in Paris

The biggest hype ahead of fashion week was the Paris debut by former Spice

Girl Victoria Beckham. The 48-year-old has been trying to turn around the commercial fortunes of her label, hiring French managers and now presenting at the most prestigious fashion event. Beckham played it safe, with a traditional but elegant show of office and evening wear that went down well with critics and buyers. And she took a more humble approach by mingling with the guests following the show, rather than staying cordoned-off backstage.— AFP

Apple to release Will Smith film this year despite Oscars slap

Less than a year after Will Smith shocked millions around the world by slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars, his new film "Emancipation" will be released this December, Apple said Monday. The slavery drama was broadly assumed to have been delayed in the wake of Smith's assault on comedian Rock, which drew widespread condemnation and resulted in Smith being banned from attending the Academy Awards ceremony for 10 years.

But Apple made the surprise announcement that the tainted star's latest movie will hit theaters December 2, and begin streaming on Apple TV+ a week later. The timing means Apple will be able to submit "Emancipation" to compete at the Oscars next March, just a year after it made history as the first streamer to win the Oscar for best picture with "CODA."

Smith has kept a relatively low profile

since that night at the Academy Awards, when he won best actor for his performance in "King Richard" just minutes after he had marched on stage and hit Rock for making a joke about his wife. The former "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" star made a public apology shortly after the incident, and released an emotional social media video about the moment in July, offering to meet with Rock "whenever you're ready to talk."

The 54-year-old also resigned his membership with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—although the organization did not revoke his best actor award, and his decade-long ban from attending the ceremony does not prevent him being nominated for Oscars. Smith this weekend attended an advance screening of "Emancipation" hosted with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the US capital Washington. The movie stars Smith as a fugitive from slavery on a harrowing journey north from Louisiana seeking freedom. His character Peter is inspired by the infamous photograph of a slave whose back was mutilated by lashes received on a plantation, and who was dubbed "Whipped Peter."—AFP

Depeche Mode back with new album and tour

British electronic music pioneers Depeche Mode announced a comeback on Tuesday with an upcoming new album and their first tour in more than five years, following the death of founding member Andrew Fletcher. Lead singer Dave Gahan said the new record Memento Mori, due out in March, was inspired both by the pandemic and the loss of Fletcher, who died in May from a tear in his heart artery. Gahan, 60, told reporters in the German capital that the band, after a long absence, was ready to embrace its fans again with a series of big stadium shows also beginning in March, in Sacramento.

"We get to make music and we get to play music for you and hopefully bring a sense of joy and togetherness, you know, in our own small way, in a world that seems to be constantly in some kind of turmoil," he said of their 19th tour. The band, one of Britain's most successful and long-running acts, had tantalised fans last week with a cryptic teaser on Instagram showing only grainy footage of a music mixing console and the words "Berlin 4.10.22". Credited with bringing electronic music into the mainstream, the band last released a studio album, "Spirit", in 2017. "Memento Mori" will be their 15th studio record. Depeche Mode triumphed with a string of hits in the 1980s and early 1990s, at first becoming synonymous with danceable synthpop but then gradually adopting a darker sound.—AFP



US actress Kristen Stewart (center) and Charlotte Casiraghi arrive at the Chanel Spring-Summer 2023 fashion show as part of the Paris Womenswear Fashion Week, in Paris, on October 4, 2022.— AFP

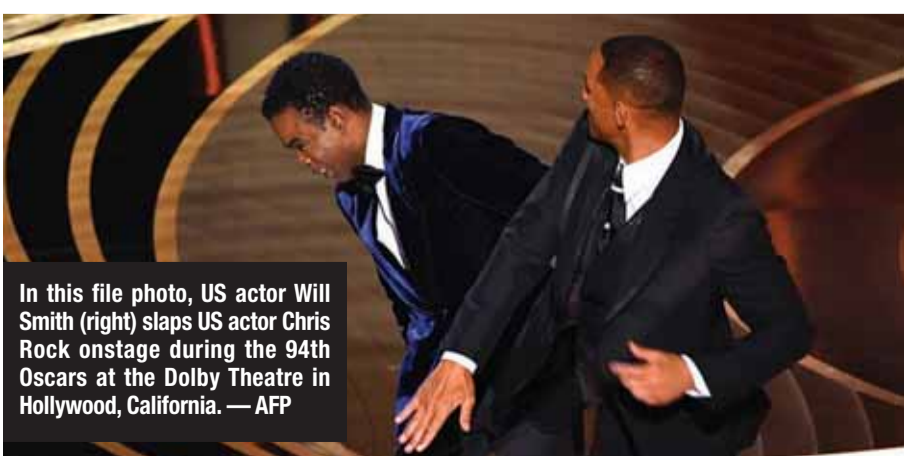
Actor Kristen Stewart stars at Chanel show

Actor Kristen Stewart starred in a cinematic tribute by Chanel on the final day of Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday. The show opened with a short film starring the Stewart in which she exits a Paris cinema after watching the 1961 classic "Last Year at Marienbad".

The house's founder, Gabrielle Chanel—better known as Coco Chanel—made the costumes for the ultra-stylish New Wave film, and some of the looks were recreated on the catwalk, including

the short haircuts and dishevelled boyish vibes, a black evening dress with a big bow across the chest and a long silver dress. Stewart was among the guests in the front row with Naomi Campbell, Halsey and South Korean star Soo Joo Park.

"Of the people around me, (Stewart) is the closest to Gabrielle Chanel," artistic director Virginie Viard wrote in the show notes. "She understands Chanel, the clothing. And with her, it becomes even more modern." The looks for the Spring-Summer 2023 collection were largely monochrome with lots of shining accessories and details, and ended with a selection of little black dresses. The iconic Chanel suit was presented in lots of variations—with skirts, shorts and trousers, adorned with sequins, embroidery or feathers.— AFP



In this file photo, US actor Will Smith (right) slaps US actor Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.— AFP



Tourists with hand-lenses observe the 'miniature forests' formed by moss and lichen at the Omora ethnobotanical park in Navarino Island.



Tourists take pictures at the Omora ethnobotanical park in Navarino Island, Puerto Williams, Magallanes region.

Chile's distant paradise where scientists study climate change

Hidden inside pristine forests in Chile's deep south, known as the end of the world, lie potential early warning signs of climate change. Puerto Williams on Navarino island, which is separated from the South American mainland by the Beagle Channel, is the world's southern-most town. Far from the pollution that blights major urban and industrial centers, it is a paradise that provides unique conditions to study global warming. "There is nowhere else like it," Ricardo Rozzi, director of the Cape Horn International Center for global change studies and bio-cultural conservation in Puerto Williams, told AFP.

It is "a place that is especially sensitive to climate change" as average temperatures do not rise above five degrees Celsius. This cold and windy area is the last inhabited southern frontier before reaching the Antarctic. The ethnobotanical Omora park is home to an immense variety of lichens, mosses and fungi that scientists study by crouching down onto their knees with magnifying glasses. In the crystal clear Robalo river, minuscule organisms act as sentinels of the changes produced by global warming. In

both the park and river, the alarm bells are ringing.

Moss, lichen on the move

At this latitude - 55 degrees south-climate change has an exponential effect on flora that react by seeking out low temperatures, said Rozzi, 61. "The most obvious aspect of climate change is the rising temperatures," he said. "These lichens cannot survive" if a certain threshold is passed. To escape the higher temperatures, they move. "In the case of (mosses) we've noticed that they have moved. Before they were between 50 and 350 (meters above sea level) and now they are between 100 and 400," said Rozzi.

He says Omora has more diversity per square meter of lichens and mosses than anywhere else in the world. They also help to absorb carbon dioxide. Another aspect is the elevational diversity gradient, an ecological pattern in which biodiversity changes with elevation. The 700-meter high Bandera hill's biodiversity changes every 200 meters and there is a mammoth 1.5 degrees Celsius difference in temperature



A tourist takes pictures of the 'miniature forests' formed by moss and lichens at the Omora ethnobotanical park in Navarino Island, Puerto Williams, Magallanes region, 2,400 kilometers south of Santiago. — AFP photos between top and bottom.

"We can see what changes happen in the high mountains and in the area close to the sea in a very short distance, and we can see how the temperature affects the biodiversity that lives in this river," Tamara Contador, 38, a biologist at the

Avoiding 'extermination'

"On a global level, the polar and sub-polar ecosystems are the most affected by climate change, so we are in a place where climate change has a much bigger effect on biodiversity than other places," said Contador. River organisms also form part of the alert system. "The organisms that live here are also indicators of water quality and global environmental change," added Contador.

River organisms move about and have already increased their reproductive cycle, says Rozzi. This confirms there has been a small change to the climate in the area that could have been much greater elsewhere on the planet. "Some insects that have an annual eggs to larvae to adulthood cycle are now having two cycles because the temperature has risen," said Rozzi. By studying these organisms and learning from them "we can avoid crossing the threshold that brings us to the extermination of humanity and other life forms," he added. — AFP

Cape Horn International Center, told AFP. She studies the gradients themselves. If the height difference between gradients rises or falls on the mountain, scientists can determine whether there has been a global change in temperature. They say there has been.

As Iraq concrete jungle swelters, ancient stone houses stay cool

As the sun beats down on Iraq, most people swelter in their concrete homes - but not the inhabitants of one mountain town known for its ancient and cool stone houses. Tracing its roots back 2,700 years, the picturesque Kurdish town of Akre says it is better adapted to the modern-day perils of climate change than other parts of Iraq. "Stone houses are far more resistant" to the rising temperatures and also preserve the town's unique character, said Mayor Baland Reda Zubair.

"Cement radiates heat, raises temperatures and affects the environment," said Zubair of the building material that is allowed only in outlying neighborhoods. Many of Akre's narrow alleyways can only be navigated by donkeys and wind through a historic city centre bathed in the pale yellow and brown hues of the locally quarried stone. Oil-rich Iraq is the world's fifth-most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change, according to the United Nations.

The Kurdistan region where Akre lies suffers from heat and water scarcity like the rest of the country. But while Iraqi authorities have done little to address the challenges, Akre, a city of 100,000 resi-



A partial view shows a stairway in the Kurdish town of Akre, 500 kilometers north of Iraq's capital Baghdad.

dents about 500 kilometers (311 miles) north of Baghdad, believes sticking with the old ways will help it adapt. Since 1991, when Kurdistan gained de facto autonomy from Iraq, it has declared concrete off limits for construction and renovation works in the old city of Akre.

No air-con

An impressive building welcomes those entering the old city. Dating to 1853, it is a remnant of the Ottoman Empire that once ruled the area. "It's an old military barracks," said Jamil Siddik, a 63-year-old engineer who oversees renovation works in the city.

The limestone used for renovation is sourced from the mountains that surround Akre, he explained. For its residents, "limestone is easy to use. It's

cheap and available," Siddik said. It also provides great insulation. "Concrete blocks may only be 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) wide, while the stones are 40 or 60 centimeters wide," he said. Bewar Majeed, 37, lives in the old city. By his doorstep, kittens were playing in the sun, as the temperature reached 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

But inside the house, the rooms are nice and cool thanks to its limestone walls. "I don't need an air conditioner," he said. "I have a small air cooler, which is enough for me, and it's less expensive." The city's policy promoting stone over concrete relies on public financing. For years after 2011, public funds paid for the renovation of 25 old houses and a mosque. In 2014, however, funding was suspended "because of the financial cri-



A man stands on the balcony of a stone building in the Kurdish town of Akre, 500 kilometers north of Iraq's capital Baghdad.

sis", said Mayor Zubair. Now, he added, old city residents may renovate or build with their own money, so long as they avoid concrete, or "eventually cover it with stone".

Tourist draw

On top of the environmental benefits, Akre's conservation efforts aim to preserve its heritage value and attract tourism. According to the regional tourism board, 1.7 million visitors came to Iraqi Kurdistan during the first quarter of 2022, the vast majority of them Iraqis.

The autonomous region has cultivated an image of stability, distancing itself from the violence that has engulfed other parts of Iraq in recent years. Still, Kurdistan hasn't been entirely spared the sounds of battle. Neighboring Turkey

regularly carries out military operations there in its fight against the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been designated a "terrorist" group by Turkey and its Western allies.

In July, artillery bombardment several dozen kilometers away from Akre killed nine civilians, most of them Iraqi holidaymakers. Baghdad blamed Ankara, which denies the Iraqi claim. But Akre's residents shy away from politics. Ali, an ice cream vendor, said tourists who are drawn to the town bring him "joy". "We get Iraqis, Germans and French," he added. "They like our historic city centre." — AFP



A partial view shows houses in the Kurdish town of Akre, 500 kilometers north of Iraq's capital Baghdad. Concrete houses are nearly everywhere in Iraq, but the northern city of Akre likes to do things differently, opting for stone instead, reaping benefits in the fight against climate change. — AFP photos



Men ride on a donkey in the Kurdish town of Akre, 500 kilometers north of Iraq's capital Baghdad.

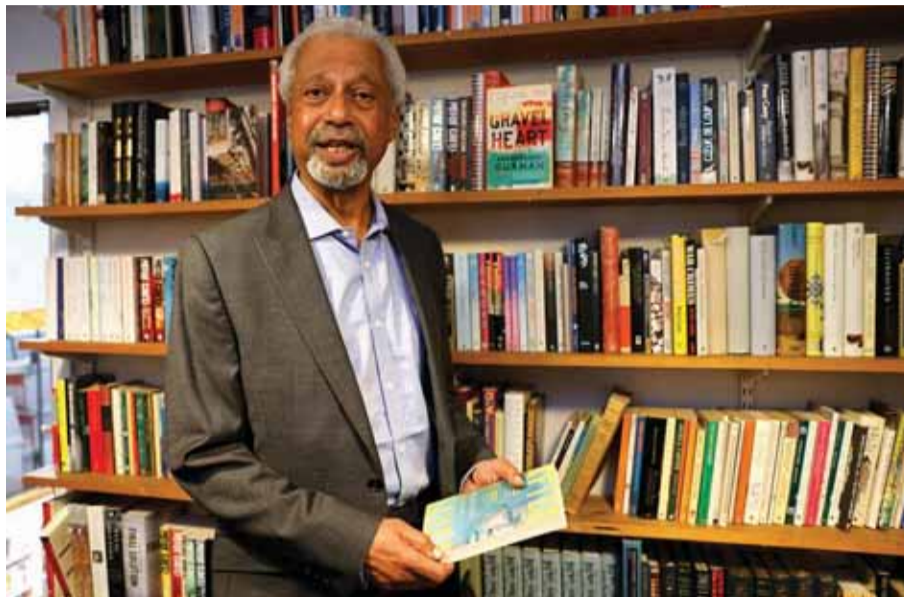
Bestseller or dark horse for 2022 Nobel Literature Prize?

The Swedish Academy will on Thursday announce the 2022 winner of the often-criticized Nobel Literature Prize, with the award committee known for its penchant for spotlighting lesser-known writers over bestselling authors. In the past two years, the 18-member Academy has bestowed the prestigious prize on US poet Louise Glück and Tanzanian author Abdulrazak Gurnah, two writers whose work had not been widely translated and was not known to the broad public or even some publishers.

"After last year, I think it's maybe even a bit harder to guess" who could win this year, admitted Lina Kalnteg, literary critic for public broadcaster Swedish Radio, recalling the "total surprise" in the studio when Gurnah's name was read out last year. "I think we can expect a more well-known name this year, after last year's surprise", said Bjorn Wiman, culture editor at Sweden's newspaper of reference Dagens Nyheter.

The Academy is slowly recovering from a devastating #MeToo scandal that led to the postponement of the 2018 prize, and its controversial decision a year later to honor Austrian author Peter Handke. His pro-Serbian positions extended to backing Serbia's former president Slobodan Milosevic, who was on trial for genocide when he died in 2006. Three years ago, the body promised new criteria would lead to a more global and gender-equal literature prize.

"The Academy is now very conscious of its reputation when it comes to diversity and gender representation, in a totally different way than they were before the 2017-2018 scandal", Wiman told AFP. "A lot of new people have



Zanzibar-born author Abdulrazak Gurnah poses for a photo call prior to attending a press conference, after he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

joined the Academy with new perspectives and other references", he said, noting that it was no longer just made up of "older white men". Since the #MeToo scandal, the Academy has awarded the Nobel to two women-Louise Glück and Olga Tokarczuk of Poland-and one man.

Does that bode well for another woman this year? If so, Joyce Carol Oates of the United States, Annie Ernaux and Maryse Conde of France and Canada's Margaret Atwood could get the nod this year. A prize to Russian author and outspoken Kremlin critic Lyudmila Ulitskaya, often cited as a potential candidate, would also send a strong message after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Bets are on Houellebecq

A prize to Ulitskaya "would spark reactions", Wiman said, noting it would highlight her opposition to the Kremlin but also be considered controversial for promoting Russian culture at a time when Moscow is being lambasted for its war in Ukraine. "This is the kind of complex intellectual debate you really want to see around the Nobel", Wiman said. Unlike many other literary awards, there is no shortlist for the Nobel, and the nominations to the Academy and its deliberations are kept secret for 50 years.

Left to mere speculation, betting sites list the favorite as France's Michel Houellebecq, whose name has made



Books by Tanzanian-born novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah are on display at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm after the author was announced as the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature. — AFP photos

the rounds in Nobel circles for many years. In second spot is British author Salman Rushdie, who was the victim of an attempted murder attack in August. It took the Academy 27 years to finally denounce, in 2016, the Iranian fatwa on "The Satanic Verses" author, a highly controversial silence it attributed to its neutrality and independence.

Other names often cited as possible winners are Kenya's Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Hungary's Laszlo Krasznahorkai and US authors Thomas Pynchon and Don DeLillo. "The great American postmodern novels haven't been honoured yet," Jonas Thente, literary critic at Dagens Nyheter, noted. Yet other favorites include Jon Fosse and Karl Ove

Knausgaard of Norway, who could bring the prize back to Scandinavia more than a decade after it went to Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer.

Maria Hymna Ramnehill, critic at regional daily Goteborgs-Posten, meanwhile said she was hoping the prize would go to French-Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun or Croatia's Dubravka Ugresic. "In different ways, both have a body of work that explores identity in relation to nationalism and to gender," she said. "They talk about their identity in a complex manner that highlights the complicated and hard-to-grasp reality we live in and which can't be explained with simple solutions". — AFP

The mysterious Denisovans

Little is known of the mysterious Denisovans. These distant relatives of the Neanderthals roamed eastern and southern Eurasia but left little trace of their time on Earth. "Hominin Denisova" was discovered by Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, the winner of this year's Nobel prize in medicine.

In 2012, Paabo and his team sequenced the DNA of a remarkably well-preserved fragment of bone, 40,000 years old, found four years earlier in the

Denisova cave in southern Siberia. The result was astounding—they had come across an entirely novel hominin, distinct from Neanderthals and even more from Homo sapiens, aka modern humans. The Denisovans shared a common ancestor with the Neanderthals until their populations diverged 380,000 to 470,000 years ago.

This was much later than the split between modern humans and Neanderthals/Denisovans, which occurred between 550,000 and 760,000 years ago. In the same cave, paleontologists later discovered the fossil of a young girl who was part Neanderthal, part Denisovan, proving that these two archaic species interbred. But while we know the Neanderthals disappeared around 40,000 years ago, we have little idea as to when our other closest evolu-

tionary relative went extinct.

We don't know what the Denisovans looked like either as they left only rare fossilized traces of their time on Earth other than the fragments found in Siberia and a jawbone discovered on the Tibetan Plateau in 2019. The work of Paabo and his team at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig have nonetheless shed some light on our mysterious ancestor. By comparing DNA sequences, they found a "gene flow" between both Denisovan and Neanderthals, and between Denisovans and modern humans.

In other words, before they went extinct, Denisovans also interbred with our species. Up to six percent of Denisovan DNA is still found in present-day humans in Asia-Pacific and southeast Asia-Australian Aborigines, Melanesians and the Negritos of the Philippines—suggesting our far-distant relative roamed over a vast swathe of east and south Eurasia. Neanderthals, by contrast, lived in western Eurasia.

Scientists believe the ancient ancestors of today's Melanesians interbred with Denisovans from southeast Asia, far from the frozen mountains of Siberia and Tibet. Proof that the Denisovans had spread as far as the warm tropics of Asia was lacking until a missing link—a child's tooth at least 130,000 years old—was discovered in a cave in Laos in 2018. One of the biggest remaining mysteries is why modern humans were so successful in their expansion and why the Denisovans and Neanderthals went extinct, after having adapted to a Eurasian environment for several hundred thousand years. — 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. — AFP

Nobel shines light on paleogenetics, study of ancient DNA

While some may have been surprised that the Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to a paleogeneticist Monday, researchers say understanding our distant ancestors helps explain modern human health even when it comes to COVID. New Nobel laureate Svante Paabo is considered the father of both paleogenetics and paleogenomics, which aims to reconstruct the genetic information of long extinct human relatives.

But the prize may have led some to wonder why a pioneer in this field won the Nobel in medicine. For example, what is the medical benefit of knowing that modern humans have an average of around two percent Neanderthal DNA, one of Paabo's great discoveries? For the second year running, the scientists behind mRNA vaccines were among the odds-maker's favorites, with millions around the world being aware of the technology after getting it jabbed into their arms.

But the Nobels, which tend to reward research from decades in the past, chose Paabo. "This revolutionary research in genetics and evolution falls within the range of topics that could and should be recognised by the Physiology or Medicine Nobel Prize," said David Pendlebury, research head at analytics company Clarivate's ISI institute. "It is, however, not an award for a discovery relevant to clinical medicine, which many anticipated this year after a Nobel Prize focusing on physiology last year," he said in a statement.

'Completely justified'

Paleogeneticist Eva-Maria Geigl of the French research agency CNRS said it was "completely justified" to give Paabo a Nobel Prize in medicine. "We must not forget that medicine is the exercise of keeping human beings in good health, so we must first understand biology," she told AFP.

Paabo himself provided an example of this in 2020, when he showed that humans with a particular snippet of Neanderthal DNA have a higher risk of getting more serious symptoms from COVID-19. The research could point towards a potential reason why COVID has often proved deadlier in places like South Asia, where many people have the DNA segment, compared to Africa, where it is far less common. But the research is unlikely to contribute to new Covid treatment or approach.

And it "is only a small, secondary subject" of Paabo's vast amount of research, Geigl said. It does however serve as an example of how paleogenetics weaves together the present with the distant past. "We can understand, for example, what genes have made it possible to adapt in the past, and therefore which are important for our current health," said genetic anthropologist Evelyne Heyer of France's National Museum of Natural History, citing in particular the case of diabetes.

Crisis in the field

But, in a way, it was this unique mix of past and present that plunged the field into crisis in the early 2000s, a decade after first coming to prominence. Numerous paleogenetics papers were discovered to be incorrect, because DNA from modern-day humans had accidentally been mixed in with samples from ancient humans.

It had apparently proved difficult for researchers to avoid contaminating their samples with their own DNA, which was not a problem for paleogeneticists working on animals. With the discipline brought into question, Paabo and other researchers led to the way to develop more reliable and advanced techniques. Now, paleogeneticists have created a vast library of knowledge tracing the recent evolution of our species that gives insight not just into medical concerns, but also into social issues such as migration. "We have thousands of ancient genomes that have been published, not just of Neanderthals but also of more recent humans," Heyer said. "They let us to show that we all have migrant ancestors, that we are a patchwork tapestry," she added. — 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. — AFP

India loses contact with budget Mars orbiter after years

India has lost contact with its Mars orbiter, eight years after the low-cost probe made it the first Asian nation with a spacecraft circling the red planet, its space agency said. Although "designed for a life-span of six months as a technology demonstrator, the Mars Orbiter Mission has lived for about eight years in the Martian orbit with a gamut of significant scientific results", the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said Monday.

The agency said in a statement that, after an eclipse in April cut off sunlight to the probe, its "propellant must have been exhausted" and that it "attained its end-of-life". Launched in 2013 before entering Mars's orbit the following year, the probe made India one of only a handful of nations to circle the Red Planet, including Russia and the United States, as well as the European Union.

It came six years before China launched its Tianwen-1 mission, which includes a rover vehicle on the surface

of the planet. India's launch cost just 4.5 billion rupees (\$73 million), less than a sixth of the \$455 million Mars probe begun shortly afterwards by US space agency NASA. Prime Minister Narendra Modi later quipped that it cost even less than the 2013 Hollywood space blockbuster "Gravity", which was reportedly made for about \$100 million.

The ISRO said the mission's achievements included providing an understanding of the composition of several gases in the Martian exosphere. "The mission will be ever-regarded as a remarkable technological and scientific feat in the

history of planetary exploration," it said. India has been bolstering its space program in recent years, including a manned mission with Russian backing slated for 2023 or 2024.

In 2019 Modi hailed India as a "space superpower" after it shot down a low-orbiting satellite, a move prompting criticism for the amount of "space junk" created. The same year India suffered a big setback when it lost contact with an unmanned spacecraft moments before it was due to land on the Moon. — AFP



In this file photo, Indian staff from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) watch as the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft (MoM) successfully enters the Mars orbit on a screen from a gallery at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC). — AFP

Sports

Kyrgios cruises past Tseng in breathless Japan opener

Coric beat Kokkinakis; Evans overpower Albot

TOKYO: Nick Kyrgios said he "struggled to breathe" in the Tokyo air Tuesday before finding his feet and crushing Taiwan's Tseng Chun-hsin 6-3, 6-1 in his first match since the US Open. Kyrgios dropped just seven points on his own service in his opening match at the Japan Open as he dismantled world number 87 Tseng in 1hr, 6min. The maverick world number 20 was playing his first match since his "heartbreaking" quarter-final loss to Karen Khachanov at last month's US Open but he said he made a "solid" return despite a slow start.

"The first couple of games I struggled to breathe, I think just the humidity and getting back into competitive play," said Kyrgios, whose lawyer appeared for him earlier in the day at a court hearing in Australia, where he faces a charge of common assault. "I came out a bit slow but I don't play many matches so it's hard to just get straight back into that competitive flow. "But as soon as I held that first game, I found my form again and played really well."

The Tokyo crowd cheered Kyrgios' name and clamored for the signed balls that he hit into the stands after the match. He put on a show on the court as well, hitting one shot between his legs and bickering with the umpire over line calls. Kyrgios has posted several pictures of himself sightseeing in Tokyo on social media since he arrived and he said he was "excited" to be playing in Japan. "To play in front of the crowd is amazing, they're so respectful and they always love good tennis," said the 27-year-old. "The last couple of years, COVID has affected the tournament so it's just good to have this event back and running again."

Ruud surprise

Earlier in the day, top seed Casper Ruud crashed out in the first round after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to

Spain's Jaume Munar. The Norwegian lost to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open final last month and he has hardly taken his foot off the gas since, playing in the Davis Cup and Laver Cup before heading to last week's Korea Open. He finally hit the wall against world number 58 Munar, having his service broken twice in the first set and dumping shot after shot into the net all match.

Ruud admitted he had been trying too hard after his US Open run. "I might have pushed a little too much and tried to go for too many tournaments and too many matches in a row but I really wanted to come to Asia and play these tournaments," said the world number three. "Today I wasn't able to bring my best level but it's an experience and a situation I will try to learn from." Australian number-six seed Alex de Minaur also made a first-round exit earlier in the day when he lost 6-3, 6-2 to South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo. Croatia's number-nine seed Borna Coric beat Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), while British number-eight seed Dan Evans beat Moldova's Radu Albot 6-7 (3/7), 6-1, 6-4.

Assault dismissal

Meanwhile, Kyrgios will seek to have an assault charge against him dismissed on mental health grounds, Australian media reported Tuesday. Kyrgios' lawyer appeared for him at a hearing in the magistrates' court of the Australian Capital Territory, where he faces a charge of common assault. The 27-year-old Australian player, who was not required to appear for the largely administrative hearing, is in Tokyo to take part in the Japan Open.

Kyrgios beat Taiwan's Tseng Chun-hsin 6-3, 6-1 in his opening match on Tuesday and then told reporters there was "only so much I can say about" the court case. "I'm here in Japan playing tennis. I'm not back home at the moment so what will be will



TOKYO: Nick Kyrgios of Australia hits a return against Tseng Chun-hsin of Taiwan during their men's singles match at the Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo on October 4, 2022. —AFP

be with that," he said. "The next meeting will be on February 3 so that's all that I can really say about it now." His lawyer, Michael Kukulies-Smith, sought an adjournment to allow time for a mental health assessment to be carried out, according to media including public broadcaster ABC and the Sydney Morning Herald.

Kukulies-Smith said his client's mental health issues were well known and he would seek to have

the charge dismissed at a later date, they reported. The Wimbledon finalist wrote about his previous mental health struggles in an Instagram post earlier this year, and has said that he battles depression. "I felt as if I couldn't talk or trust anyone," he wrote alongside a photo of himself from 2019. "I've been through those times when it seemed as if those positive energetic vibes were never ever going to be reality." —AFP

Judge stuck on 61 homers as Yankees win, miss no-hitter

WASHINGTON: New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge missed another chance at hitting a record-breaking 62nd home run of the Major League Baseball season on Monday but great efforts abounded around him. Yankees pitcher Luis Severino pitched seven no-hit innings and the batters in the lineup just ahead and after Judge homered in the eighth inning to spark New York's 3-1 victory at Texas. Judge has three more regular-season games, two on Tuesday and another on Wednesday, to try and smash his 62nd homer to shatter the American League single-season record set by Roger Maris.

Judge matched the 61-year-old mark of 61 homers set by Yankees legend Maris in 1961 with a Wednesday blast at Toronto, but hasn't hit the record breaker in four games since. The 30-year-old American outfielder grounded out, hit into a double play, singled and struck

out against the Rangers in the first game of the season-ending series for the playoff-bound Yankees. Severino faced the minimum 21 batters through seven no-hit innings with seven strikeouts and allowed only a lone walk in the third inning to Josh Smith. In all, 63 of his 94 pitches were for strikes.

But the 28-year-old Dominican right-hander was pulled from the mound by Yankees manager Aaron Boone before the eighth inning, a move made to ensure he would be fit when the playoffs begin after his recent return from the injured list. Yankees right-hander Miguel Castro, another Dominican, replaced Severino and, after striking out Adolis Garcia, surrendered a single to Josh Jung on a line drive to left field to end the no-hit bid. Jung had the weakest batting average in the Texas lineup, hitting .195.

There were homers all around leadoff batter Judge even as he failed to connect on a record-setter. Marwin Gonzalez smashed his sixth homer of the season, a solo blast, to start the eighth inning and give the Yankees a 2-0 lead just before Judge walked to



ARLINGTON: The Texas Rangers take the field before playing against the New York Yankees at Globe Life Field on October 3, 2022 in Arlington, Texas. —AFP

the plate. Rangers right-hander Jonathan Hernandez then struck out Judge but moments later issued Giancarlo Stanton a pitch the Yankees slugger smacked for his 30th homer of the season to make it 3-0.

The Maris mark had served as the MLB record until beaten several times in the 1990s by Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire during baseball's

notorious steroid era. Barry Bonds, implicated in the infamous BALCO drug scandal, set MLB's single-season record of 73 homers in 2001. Boone has said Judge's efforts this season rank above those of Sosa, McGwire and Bonds. Judge, however, said the achievements of those National League stars deserve to be recognized as the proper records. —AFP

World No 1 Alcaraz loses to Goffin in Astana opener

PARIS: World number one Carlos Alcaraz crashed out in the first round of the Astana Open on Tuesday, losing 7-5, 6-3 to Belgium's David Goffin. US Open champion Alcaraz suffered his first straight-sets defeat since November last year as Goffin made the most of his second chance as a lucky loser. Alcaraz, 19, was playing his first ATP tournament since his victory in New York that saw

him become the youngest ever world number one.

He played in last month's Davis Cup, winning one of his two singles rubbers as Spain claimed a place in the quarter-finals. Goffin only earned a spot in the main draw after the withdrawal of Danish teenager Holger Rune. He plays Frenchman Adrian Mannarino in the last 16. "I always believe that I have the level to cause some trouble against those guys," said Goffin, a former top-10 player now ranked 66th.

"When you play against the world number one on a big stage, big crowd, the fire inside gives you so much power to play your best tennis because you don't have any choice. "You have to fight and give your best and that was the case today. I always believed I had it and I am happy you can still hit there." It was 31-year-old Goffin's third win against

a top-ranked player, having beaten Rafael Nadal in 2017 and 2020. Unlike Alcaraz, third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas avoided an early exit as he eased past Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 6-4.

The Greek is hunting a third ATP title of the season. He reached 50 tour-level wins in 2022 after breaking Kukushkin once in each set. "It was a great match from my side," said Tsitsipas, who goes on to face Italian qualifier Luca Nardi for a quarter-final place. Karen Khachanov won on his first outing since reaching the US Open semi-finals, defeating American Maxime Cressy 6-4, 7-6 (7/3). Daniil Medvedev plays Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the first round later on Tuesday. Novak Djokovic is due to face Cristian Garin on Wednesday after winning the 89th title of his career in Tel Aviv last weekend. —AFP

Arc-winning jockey Soumillon given the elbow by Aga Khan

PARIS: Two-time Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-winning jockey Christophe Soumillon was sacked as the Aga Khan's retained jockey in France on Tuesday after he elbowed a rival out of the saddle. The firing follows Soumillon's actions against fellow jockey Rossa Ryan during a race in St Cloud last Friday which resulted in the latter falling and Soumillon receiving a 60-day suspension. "The Aga Khan Studs have taken the decision to cease their retainer with jockey Christophe Soumillon with immediate effect," a statement said.

Soumillon—one of the world's leading jockeys, who has had two spells as the retained jockey for the Aga Khan from 2002-09 and then from 2014 to this year—will still be able to don the famed colors should a trainer deem it necessary. "From this week onwards, Soumillon may still ride in the Aga Khan silks on occasion at the discretion of the French trainers and the Aga Khan Studs

team," the statement said. The 41-year-old Belgian jockey rode both his Arc winners for the Aga Khan, Dalakhani in 2003 and the great Zarkava in 2008.

He finished second on the Aga Khan's Vadeni in Sunday's running of the Arc, which is widely seen as the greatest race in Europe. Aga Khan Studs said "there is no intention to retain a jockey in France for the foreseeable future." Soumillon said he was "very disappointed". "I realize that I have bridges to rebuild," he told the Racing Post. "I am determined to show commitment and desire to those owners and trainers that wish to engage my services."

'Bad publicity'

Soumillon had enjoyed a successful season up until Friday, riding Vadeni to win both the French Derby and the prestigious Eclipse Stakes in England. Indeed he signed off at Longchamp on Saturday—the first day of the Arc festival—with a win on the Aga Khan's runner Erevann in the Prix Daniel Wildenstein.

However, Princess Zahra, the Aga Khan's daughter, speaking after Soumillon dismounted, made clear her displeasure at the Belgian's actions at St Cloud. "Obviously it was an unconscionable and an unthinkable thing to



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

happen and to do. It was very difficult to watch," she said. Soumillon—who like Italian great Frankie Dettori is a charismatic figure in racing and is married to a former Miss France—was extremely apologetic after the Ryan incident.

He faced a barrage of calls for him to stand down from riding at the Arc weekend at Longchamp, French racing's annual showcase. Racing rules in France

dictate that any suspension begins 14 days after the offence, which allowed Soumillon to ride. Owners also cannot switch jockeys once they are declared on their horses unless the rider himself decides to withdraw. David Redvers, a co-owner of a horse Soumillon was due to ride on Sunday, had urged the jockey to do the right thing and not distract attention from the racing. —AFP



MALANG: People grieve for victims of the stampede at Kanjuruhan stadium in Malang, East Java on October 4, 2022. Elite Indonesian police officers were under investigation on October 4 over a stadium stampede that killed 131 people including dozens of children in one of the deadliest disasters in football history. —AFP

Indonesia probes officers; stadium death toll rises

MALANG: Elite Indonesian police officers were under investigation Tuesday over a stadium stampede that killed 131 people including dozens of children in one of the deadliest disasters in football history. As public anger grew, police moved to punish those responsible for the crush in the city of Malang that witnesses say started when officers fired tear gas into packed stands to quell a pitch invasion. "As the regional police chief, I am concerned, saddened and at the same time I am sorry for the shortcomings in the security process," East Java police chief Nico Afinta told a press conference Tuesday.

The terraces of the Kanjuruhan stadium were packed Saturday evening with 42,000 "Aremania", or Arema FC fans, for a match against fierce rivals Persebaya Surabaya. But after a 3-2 defeat, the first home loss for more than two decades to their adversaries, fans streamed down to the pitch to confront players and management. Police described the incident as a riot and said two officers were killed, but survivors accused them of overreacting.

Officers responded to the pitch invasion with force, kicking and hitting fans with batons, according to witnesses and video footage, pushing fans back into the stands where many would be trampled or suffocate to death after the tear gas was fired. "If there was a riot, (tear gas) should be fired to the pitch, not in the stand," Danny Agung Prasetyo, coordinator of supporter group Arema DC, told AFP. The death toll jumped again on Tuesday with local health official Wiyanto Wijoyo telling AFP six more victims had succumbed to their injuries.

Police said the investigation was focusing on six gates at the stadium using CCTV footage from cameras placed outside them. It said the exits were open but too small for the crowds attempting to pass through them. "Those six gates were not closed but they were very narrow. Their capacity is for two people but the people coming out were hundreds," national police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said. But witnesses said some of the stadium's doors were shut, leaving those who could not scale large fences at the mercy of the crush as tear gas rained down.

"The doors were closed, that's why people were pushing. Some lay down in the corner" by a closed gate to try to escape the crush, a 16-year-old survivor of the chaos told AFP. The Malang police chief was replaced Monday, nine officers were suspended and 19 others were put under investigation over the disaster in the stadium, which was filled with only hometown Arema FC fans, Prasetyo said. He said those suspended were members of the Mobile Brigade Corps, or Brimob, a paramilitary unit for the Indonesian police force notorious for its aggressive crowd control tactics. —AFP

Sports

US women's soccer probe uncovers 'systemic' abuse, sexual misconduct

A pattern of 'sexually charged comments, coercive sexual intercourse'

WASHINGTON: An independent investigation into allegations of misconduct in US women's soccer released Monday found "systemic" abuse and sexual misconduct by coaches. The probe by former acting US attorney general Sally Yates and the King & Spalding law firm uncovered verbal and emotional abuse and sexual misconduct, including a pattern of "sexually charged comments, unwanted sexual advances and touching and coercive sexual intercourse."

The 172-page report included interviews with more than 200 National Women's Soccer League players-many of them members of US national teams-and detailed patterns of abuse from team coaches, manipulation and tirades plus retaliation for those who complained. "Our investigation has revealed a league in which abuse and misconduct-verbal and emotional abuse and sexual misconduct-had become systemic, spanning multiple teams, coaches and victims," Yates wrote in the report's executive summary.

"Abuse in the NWSL is rooted in a deeper culture in women's soccer that normalizes verbally abusive coaching and blurs boundaries between coaches and players," she added. "The players who have come forward to tell their stories have demonstrated great

courage. It's now time that the institutions that failed them in the past listen to the players and enact the meaningful reform players deserve."

The investigation began after a 2021 report by The Athletic about abusive behavior and sexual misconduct by former Portland Thorns manager Paul Riley. That report said complaints were brought to former US Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati but no action was taken by USSF against Riley. Although he eventually was fired by the Thorns, Riley was hired to coach another NWSL team. "The verbal and emotional abuse players describe in the NWSL is not merely 'tough' coaching," Yates wrote.

"And the players affected are not shrinking violets. They are among the best athletes in the world. They include members of the US Women's national team, veterans of multiple World Cup and Olympic tournaments." Rory Dames coached the Chicago Red Stars from the NWSL's start until resigning last November. The report outlined his obscenities and verbal abuse and insults to players, saying a sexualized workplace led to multiple improper sexual relationships with players.

Christy Holly was a coach with Sky Blue for half a season in 2016 before departing after complaints of verbal abuse and an improper relationship, the report

said. Holly was hired last year by expansion club Racing Louisville, where verbal and emotional abuse was repeated and he was fired after sexually coercing and groping a player.

The NWSL, in a statement, promised "systemic reform" to make the league one "with safe and professional environments to train and compete" and acknowledged the "anxiety and mental strain" for women reliving traumatic incidents. "We continue to admire their courage in coming forward to share their stories," it said. "We know we must learn from and take responsibility for the painful lessons of the past in order to move the league into a better future."

The report found teams, league officials and the USSF "repeatedly failed to respond appropriately when confronted with player reports and evidence of abuse," and "failed to institute basic measures to prevent and address it, even as some leaders privately acknowledged the need for workplace protections." That allowed abusive coaches to move from club to club with positive remarks that concealed misconduct. "Those at the NWSL and USSF in a position to correct the record stayed silent," the report said. "And no one at the teams, the league or the federation demanded better of coaches."

'Heartbreaking'

USSF president Cindy Parlow Cone, a former US women's national team player who took charge in 2020, said measures are already underway to prevent such violations from happening again. "This investigation's findings are heartbreaking and deeply troubling," Cone said. "The abuse described is inexcusable and has no place on any playing field, in any training facility or workplace."

"US Soccer is fully committed to doing everything in its power to ensure that all players-at all levels-have a safe and respectful place to learn, grow and compete." Federation initiatives include online and text systems for reporting incidents, tighter verifying of coaches and referees, and background screening.

"US Soccer and the entire soccer community have to do better," Cone said. "I have faith that we can use this report and its recommendations as a critical turning point for every organization tasked with ensuring player safety." A new office of participant safety will be established to address the findings and act on recommendations. "We're taking the immediate action that we can today," Cone said. "We can create meaningful, long-lasting change throughout the soccer ecosystem," Cone said.—AFP



Arab clubs vie for glory in basketball championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa, Agencies

KUWAIT: 16 Arab basketball clubs, including a trio from host-nation Kuwait, will be competing for top honors as a pan-regional championship kicks off on Wednesday. The championship's maiden contest will feature hosts Al-Kuwait club against Libya's Ahli Benghazi, while Al-Jahra, another Kuwaiti side, will go up against Iraq's Dijlah.

A day before the championship begins, Kuwaiti basketball Federation Chief Rashaid Al-Enezi highlighted the significance of the event as a chance to propel the sport to greater levels in the region, saying he had high hopes that Kuwaiti teams will put on spectacular performances. Clubs from Arab nations including Algeria, Libya and Qatar will also feature in the event that runs until October 15.

The 34th Arab Basketball Clubs Championship for men will start on Wednesday at Kuwait Basketball Association Hall at Sabah Al-Salem. There will be six matches on Wednesday. The first match (at 3:00 pm) will be between Yemen's Mina Club and Egypt's Al-Ahli in the second group. By 5:00 pm, Al-Itihad Alexandria Club (from Egypt) will face off with Ahli Aleppo (from Syria) in the first group. Kuwait Club will play their first match by 8:00 pm with Libya's Ahli Benghazi.



Rasheed Al-Enezi

Ahli Bahrain will meet Qatar's Al-Sadd (3:00 pm) at the Kuwait Club Hall in Kaifan in the third group. In another match, Kuwait's Kazima will battle Oman's Bashaer while Jahra (from Kuwait) will play with Iraq's Dijla University by 7:00 pm. Kuwait team, which were second in the previous tournament, aim to start strongly in the Championship. Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Basketball Association (KBA) Rasheed Al-Enezi welcomed the delegations in Kuwait - the land of friendship and peace. He said "the success of Kuwait Club in hosting the championship is considered a KBA success."

Kuwait's Ramadan ranks 2nd in MotoSurf Championship

KUWAIT: Ramadan Al-Fares, of Kuwait, secured the second place at fourth and final round of the junior race of 2022 UIM MotoSurf World Championship, held at the Croatian Adriatic Sea resort of Zadar, on Monday. This victory raised his general ranking in the championship to the third place. In statements to KUNA, Ramadan voiced joy for being able to make this achievement amid fierce competition among 70 competitors from 20 countries. He lauded the efforts of Croatia, the host country, to prepare for the final round of the race started yesterday, in coordination with the UIM (Union Internationale Motonautique).—KUNA



Iran Futsal team thrash Vietnam

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Iran Futsal team defeated Vietnam 8-1 and reached the semi-final of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Kuwait 2022 Championship. Iran's goals were scored by Hasaan Teebi, Salar Aghabour, Ali Redha Rafie, Mohammad Hussein Bazayr, Mousam Ouladghobad and Ahmad Saeed Abbasi, while Vietnam's lonely goal

was scored by Vam Douk Hua in the 38th minute.

Meanwhile, Head of the Medical Department at KFA Dr Abdelmajeed Al-Bannai said issues related to the medical aspects are going on smoothly. He said that 40 athletes went through steroid (performance enhancing substances) test, adding that the emergency department dealt with the injury of Turkmenistan player who sustained a broken jaw. The player decided to leave to his country with his teammates and wanted to be treated there. He said several players including from Kuwait were treated in the court - bearing in mind that 12 paramedics are always around to handle medical cases.



Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

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

Clinics

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

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMEER BASHA SHAIK S/O SHAIK SYED HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT NO. M8395064 ISSUED AT KUWAIT ON 01/10/2015 & CIVIL ID NO. 270020803046 HAS CHANGED MY NAME

FROM AMEER BASHA SHAIK TO AHAMAD BASHA SHAIK IN ALL MY DEALINGS AND DOCUMENTS, I WILL BE KNOWN BY NAME OF AHAMAD BASHA (GIVEN NAME) AND SHAIK (SURNAME). (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



NEOM, Saudi Arabia: This handout photo provided by Saudi Arabia's NEOM shows the design plan for the 500-metre tall parallel structures, known collectively as The Line, in the heart of the Red Sea megacity NEOM. Saudi Arabia was chosen to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a \$500 billion futuristic megacity in the desert that planners say will feature a year-round winter sports complex. — AFP

Saudi desert megacity to host Winter Games

'Deserts and mountains will soon be playground'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia was chosen on Tuesday to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a \$500 billion futuristic megacity in the desert that planners say will feature a year-round winter sports complex. "The deserts and mountains of Saudi Arabia will soon be a playground for winter sports," the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said in a statement on the decision made during its general assembly meeting in Phnom Penh.

The Saudi bid was "unanimously approved", the statement said, noting that the megacity known as NEOM will be the first West Asian city to host the event. First announced in 2017, NEOM has consistently raised eyebrows for proposed flourishes like flying taxis and robot maids, even as architects and economists have questioned its feasibility.

In July, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled plans for a project within NEOM known as The Line, two parallel mirror-encased skyscrapers extending over 170 kilometers of mountain and desert terrain. The Asian Winter Games are slated to take place in Trojena, an area of NEOM "where

winter temperatures drop below zero Celsius (32 Fahrenheit) and year-round temperatures are generally 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the region", according to the project's website.

Vertical village

Set to be completed in 2026, Trojena will include year-round skiing, a manmade freshwater lake, chalets, mansions and ultra-luxury hotels, the website says. Prince Mohammed, chair of NEOM's board, has said it "will redefine mountain tourism for the world by creating a place based on the principles of ecotourism, highlighting our efforts to preserve nature and enhance the community's quality of life".

One of 10 regions within NEOM, and situated about 50 kilometers inland from the Gulf of Aqaba, Trojena is meant to be surrounded by a nature reserve, something developers say they are trying to be mindful of as they proceed with the project. "You cut a new road through that environment and you'll never repair it," Philip Gullett, Trojena's

executive director, said in an interview on its website. "We are taking an approach whereby you realize the value that there is in the flora, fauna and animals."

Plans for Trojena also include The Vault, a so-called vertical village that Gullett said resembles The Line, by "minimizing the land take - and maximizing walkability - rather than spreading all those elements out across a large space." The manmade lake will be filled with desalinated sea water and will be about five meters deep, Gullett said. The elevation of the planned site for Trojena, which spans 60 square kilometers, ranges from 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) to 2,600 meters (8,500 feet).

Sportswashing?

Among those on the successful Saudi bid team for the Asian Winter Games was alpine skier Fayik Abdi, who acknowledged in a statement distributed by the OCA that, as a child, "I never believed I would ski in my homeland". The Asian Winter Games include competitions for skiing, snowboard-

ing, ice hockey and figure skating - 47 events in all, 28 on snow and 19 on ice, the OCA said.

Saudi Arabia has drawn criticism for alleged "sportswashing" - hosting high-profile boxing, Formula 1 and other contests to divert attention from its human rights record. An Egyptian official said in September that Egypt, Greece and Saudi Arabia were in talks on a proposal to jointly host the 2030 World Cup football tournament.

Later this month, in Jeddah, the kingdom is set to host a tournament of the Saudi-backed LIV golf tour, which has caused turmoil in the world of professional golf since its June debut, with record purses and financial guarantees luring several top players away from the US PGA Tour. In 2034, the capital Riyadh will host the Asian Games, a large-scale multi-sports event. In August, Sports Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal told AFP in an interview that hosting an Olympics was the kingdom's "ultimate goal". "I think Saudi Arabia has showcased that we can host such events," he said. — AFP

49ers dump reigning NFL champion Rams

SAN FRANCISCO: Jimmy Garoppolo completed 16 of 27 passes for 239 yards and a touchdown to power the San Francisco 49ers over the reigning NFL champion Los Angeles Rams 24-9 on Monday. The Rams, trying to become the first repeat champions since New England won the 2004 and 2005 Super Bowls, fell to 2-2, the same record as the 49ers and NFC West division rivals Arizona and Seattle. "It was a hell of an atmosphere out here and that always gets us going," Garoppolo said. "These games against the Rams are always a dogfight. It was no different tonight."

Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford was sacked seven times and could not solve an attacking San Francisco defensive unit that kept the Rams out of the end zone. San Francisco's Talanoa Hufanga intercepted a short Stafford pass and returned the ball 52 yards for a touchdown as the 49ers took a 24-9 lead with 6:27 to play. Garoppolo couldn't decide what the 49ers' defenders did best. "Everything," he said. "Big plays, stepping up on third down-they did really good. That D-line was getting after it."

Garoppolo threw a 57-yard touchdown pass to Deebo Samuel to give the 49ers a 14-6 halftime advantage. Matt Gay's 26-yard field goal late in the third quarter lifted the Rams within 14-9 but it marked the third time San Francisco's defenders had denied Los Angeles a touchdown after a golden opportunity off a combined 20 minutes of drives. The 49ers answered on Robbie Gould's 25-yard field goal seven seconds into the fourth quarter for a 17-9 advantage.

Gay's 39-yard field goal gave the Rams a 3-0 edge but the 49ers took the lead on Jeff Wilson's 32-yard touchdown run just 4:02 later and kept it even after Gay's 29-yard field goal in the second quarter. A spectator ran onto the field in the second quarter with a device emitting pink smoke and was flattened by a hit from Rams linebacker Bobby Walker near the LA sideline.

Tagovailoa out

Meanwhile, Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, whose medical health is the subject of an NFL investigation, will miss next Sunday's game



CALIFORNIA: Wide receiver Deebo Samuel #19 of the San Francisco 49ers is tackled by safety Nick Scott #33 of the Los Angeles Rams during the second quarter at Levi's Stadium on October 03, 2022. — AFP

against the New York Jets due to a concussion. Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel ruled out Tagovailoa on Monday due to a concussion the quarterback suffered last Thursday at Cincinnati in a game many critics say he should never have been allowed to play. Tagovailoa appeared to have suffered a head injury against Buffalo on September 25 when his head hit the ground but was allowed to return to the game with what was called a neck injury.

He was cleared to play four days later at Cincinnati but was slammed to the turf and struck his head again, staying down for several minutes before being taken off in a stretcher and hospitalized with what was later determined to be a concussion. The NFL said it will change its concussion protocols regarding "gross motor instability" as a result of the Tagovailoa case and that a probe of his case is ongoing.

But multiple reports said the NFL Players Association has fired the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant who was involved in allowing Tagovailoa to return against Buffalo. "I can't speak on what the league and the union decide to do with that particular specialist," McDaniel said. In the wake of the controversy, McDaniel said Tagovailoa's return timetable is uncertain. "This is something that is too early to give a definitely timeline," McDaniel said. "I can comfortably say he will be out for this game." — AFP

Maddison inspires Leicester as Forest hit rock bottom

LEICESTER: Brendan Rodgers said Leicester have turned the corner after James Maddison inspired a 4-0 rout of Nottingham Forest that eased the pressure on the Foxes boss and pushed their rivals to the bottom of the Premier League on Monday. Rodgers' side blew Forest away with three goals in the space of 10 minutes in the first half at the King Power Stadium.

Maddison struck either side of a superb finish from Harvey Barnes and Patson Daka netted in the second half as Leicester won for the first time this season at the eighth attempt. Leicester had lost their previous six games to leave Rodgers fighting to avoid the sack following his criticism of the club's Thai owners for failing to back him in the transfer window.

Winning the East Midlands derby should give Rodgers at least a little breathing space, with Leicester moving one place above rock-bottom

Forest on goal difference. "When you don't win games it comes on to you. We had a horrendous summer, that's the reality of it and that continued into the start of the season," Rodgers said. "I just had to remind the players of their ability and continue to support them. They have bags of resilience. We just needed to turn that corner tonight and we did that."

Woeful Forest are now without a win in six games, losing five in a row and conceding 16 goals in their last four matches. That dismal run has turned up the heat on Steve Cooper, who took charge when Forest were bottom of the Championship last season and led them back to the Premier League for the first time since 1999. It would be incredibly harsh on Cooper to sack him so soon after winning promotion, but Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis would have hoped for better results after sanctioning a hefty investment in 21 new players in the close-season. "It is another disappointing result, there's no doubt. We came with a plan and we were nowhere near good enough in the duels which was disappointing," Cooper said. "There were times where I felt we could have been more competitive, but I'm not looking at these lads and thinking they don't care. They are just a really fresh group trying to come together." — AFP

EPL Table

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

Arsenal	8	7	0	1	20	8	21
Man City	8	6	2	0	29	9	20
Tottenham	8	5	2	1	19	10	17
Brighton	7	4	2	1	14	8	14
Chelsea	7	4	1	2	10	10	13
Man Utd	7	4	0	3	11	14	12
Newcastle	8	2	5	1	12	8	11
Fulham	8	3	2	3	13	15	11
Liverpool	7	2	4	1	18	9	10
Brentford	8	2	4	2	15	12	10
Everton	8	2	4	2	7	7	10
Leeds	7	2	3	2	10	10	9
Bournemouth	8	2	3	3	6	19	9
Aston Villa	8	2	2	4	6	10	8
West Ham	8	2	1	5	5	9	7
Southampton	8	2	1	5	8	13	7
Crystal Palace	7	1	3	3	8	11	6
Wolves	8	1	3	4	3	9	6
Leicester	8	1	1	6	14	22	4
Nottm Forest	8	1	1	6	6	21	4