

**3** Co-ops slam 'illogical' rise in prices of eggs



**6** Embattled Truss told 'game is up'



**8** Zain awarded 'Best B2C and Marketplace Company' by Liferay



**16** Madrid defeat Barcelona in Clasico to top La Liga



## New Cabinet formed with 11 new faces, two MPs

Lawmakers hold brief Assembly session despite govt no-show



By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** An Amiri order was issued on Sunday naming the new Cabinet lineup, which included only three ministers from the outgoing Cabinet and 11 new faces, of whom two are MPs and two women. The new government has new ministers for oil, commerce and industry, foreign affairs, defense and electricity and public works.

It saw the exit of former foreign minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah after he declined the post following objections from MPs. The same happened with former oil minister Mohammad Al-Fares and minister of state for municipality and communications Rana Al-Fares. The three ministers retained are Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Minister of Finance Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid.

Under Kuwait's constitution, the government must resign and a new one must be formed following general elections. A Cabinet lineup was announced on Oct 6, but withdrawn almost immediately after fiery objections from MPs and after the only MP in the Cabinet declined his post, claiming

Continued on Page 6



Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah  
First Dep PM, Interior



Barrak Al-Sheetan  
Dep PM, Cabinet Affairs



Dr Bader Al-Mulla  
Dep PM, Oil



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi  
Information, Youth



Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid  
Finance, Economic Affairs



Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi  
Health



Dr Amani Buqammaz  
Public Works, Electricity



Dr Hamad Al-Adwani  
Education, Scientific Research



Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah  
Foreign



Abdulaziz Al-Majed  
Justice, Awqaf, Nazaha



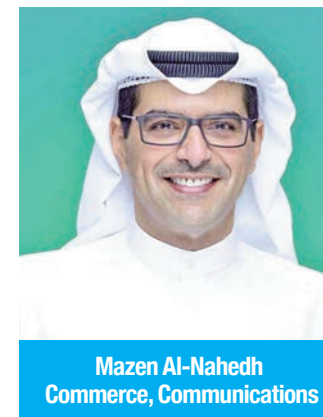
Abdulaziz Al-Mojel  
Municipality Affairs



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah  
Defense



Ammar Al-Ajmi  
Assembly Affairs, Housing



Mazen Al-Nahedh  
Commerce, Communications



Mai Al-Baghli  
Social Affairs, Women & Children

### News in brief

#### 1.5m apply for World Cup pass

**DOHA:** Qatar said Sunday that more than 1.5 million people have applied for the compulsory pass for the football World Cup, that begins on Nov 20. Saad Al-Suwaidi, head of the Hayya pass service, said that between 1.5 million and 1.7 million people have so far applied for the card, that acts as a visa, match ticket, transport ticket and gives access to some fan zones. All travelers to Qatar will need the pass to enter from Nov 1, whether they intend to watch a game or not. — AFP

#### Iraq probes \$2.5bn 'theft'

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi authorities are investigating the "theft" of \$2.5 billion from the tax authority, officials said Sunday. State news agency INA reported that an internal probe by the finance ministry found 3.7 trillion Iraqi dinars had been withdrawn from the account of the general commission for taxes at state-owned Rafidain Bank. It had been transferred to the accounts of five different companies using 247 cheques, and immediately withdrawn from those accounts. — AFP

### At least four killed in fire at Iran prison

**PARIS:** At least four Iranian inmates died in a fire in Tehran's notorious Evin prison overnight, the judiciary said Sunday, further stoking tensions one month into protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini. The Iranian authorities blamed the fire on "riots and clashes" among prisoners, but rights groups said

they had little faith in the official version of events.

"Four prisoners died due to smoke inhalation caused by the fire, and 61 were injured," the judiciary authority's website Mizan Online reported. Four others were in "serious condition", it said, adding that the fire had been extinguished. Prisoners' relatives and rights groups voiced grave fears for the inmates, and said authorities had used tear gas at the facility.

Gunshots and explosions were heard during the blaze from inside the complex, illuminated by

flames and smothered by smoke, in video footage posted on social media channels. The fire came after four weeks of protests over the death of 22-year-old Amini, following her arrest for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code for women. The wave of demonstrations has turned into a major anti-government movement in the Islamic republic, confronting its clerical leadership with one of its biggest challenges since the ousting of the shah in 1979.

Continued on Page 6

### Xi hails China's rise, demands unity at Congress

**BEIJING:** President Xi Jinping hailed China's rise as a global power and demanded unity around his leadership on Sunday, launching a Communist Party Congress that is set to rubber stamp his bid to rule for a historic third term. In an opening address to 2,300 delegates gathered at the Great Hall of the People, Xi promoted and defended a range of signature policies - including zero-COVID and his anti-corruption drive that has taken down rivals in the party.

"Unity is strength, and victory requires unity," Xi

said after walking onstage to a thunderous reception from the hand-picked attendees who will vote during the week-long Congress on the party leadership for the next five years. The president - whose 10-year rule has seen the country become a global superpower - said "China's international influence, appeal and power to shape the world has significantly increased".

During his 100-minute "work report" on the past five years, Xi also focused on two of China's most sensitive security and sovereignty issues in relation to Hong Kong, after democracy protests were crushed there, and on the self-ruled island of Taiwan. He lauded Hong Kong's transition from "chaos to governance", while his vow to "never commit to abandoning the use of force" on the self-ruled island of Taiwan drew rapturous applause.

Continued on Page 6



BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping gives a speech during the opening session of the 20th Chinese Communist Party's Congress at the Great Hall of the People on Oct 16, 2022. — AFP



# How to minimize construction and demolition waste in Kuwait?

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** To minimize construction and demolition waste, Sharifa Al-Shalfan, a Municipal Council member, submitted a proposal on Sunday to the Municipality to dismantle buildings instead of demolishing them. She said dismantling is a good option in order to reduce waste by reusing and recycling the parts and pieces of buildings. She recommended to make the practice mandatory for public buildings and optional for privately-owned structures.

"The demolition of buildings causes pollution to the environment due to dust resulting from the process, in addition to disturbing the owners of neighboring buildings, along with other financial losses from not using the building components that are discarded," Shalfan said, pointing out the world is currently moving towards dismantling buildings due to its benefits. "Deconstruction contributes to enhancing the concept of sustainability by reducing the amount of solid construction waste. It leads to promoting the concept of reuse and recycling in the Kuwaiti society, which results in positive effects on the environment and the economy, as well as preserving natural resources."



Sharifa Al-Shalfan

Shalfan suggested the Municipality should conduct a field study that determines the types of building materials that can be reused and study the local market to know how they will deal with them. "The Municipality must determine materials that can be reused, such as doors, windows and sanitary-ware, and other materials that can be recycled, such as iron, glass, and bricks," she said. The proposal addressed the need to determine the concerned entities and companies that will use recycled materials and specialized contractors in the field of construction to dismantle and extract the materials.

Shalfan added the Municipality should define related terms and determine suitable buildings to which the regulation applies and the materials that can be reused and recycled, along with dealing with residual waste. "Also, it should determine the categories of reusing and recycling materials and the ways of dealing



with them to maintain their value. In addition, it should conduct a study on how to deal with dangerous materials. It should also preserve the rights of the owner of

the building to use or sell the materials. It should also issue a demolition permit and impose penalties in the event of any violation," the proposal added.



KUWAIT: Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan with Richard Malanjum. —KUNA

## Kuwaiti official meets UN Ombudsman

**KUWAIT:** The Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan met on Sunday with Richard Malanjum, Ombudsman of the UN Sanctions Committee against the Islamic State.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said that meetings with Richard Malanjum, who has been appointed as the new Ombudsman for the UN Islamic State of Iraq and

the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee, will include discussions about the five citizens and illegal residents whose names are on the international wanted list, under the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions with efforts from the ministry. These meetings come as a culmination of a series of interviews with members of the committee of the Ombudsman and representatives of his office which will continue till next Thursday, so that names of the wanted people can be erased from the UN lists after approval and then put to UNSC for a vote, the statement added. The committee prepared letters on behalf of the foreign affairs minister and addressed them to the ministers of permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC which also includes Kuwait's efforts to remove the names of its citizens from the UN lists. — KUNA

## PAY keen on providing more job opportunities

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is determined to provide ample employment opportunities for its youngsters, which in turn, would help meet the needs of the local job market, Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth (PAY) said on Sunday. Speaking on the sidelines of a local

job fair at Kuwait's Australian College, the body's chief, Dr Mishaal Al-Shaheen said that PAY is committed to its role of providing jobs for young nationals, many of whom are currently unemployed. To address the matter, he added that PAY has launched a new initiative - a web portal allowing fresh graduates to sign up for jobs, saying that the platform has already churned out more than 2,000 jobs for youngsters. More than 100 companies are included in the portal as part of elaborative plans to lure more youth into the private sector, allowing it the chance to enlist the services of qualified personnel, he underlined. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Inauguration of the job fair at Australian University. —KUNA photos



At the job fair expo.

## KFF conducts inspections



**KUWAIT:** The prevention sector of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection tour across several areas and shops in Shuwaikh and issued 20 warning notices for shops that did not meet the necessary safety requirements.



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Local

# Unjustified hike in price of eggs affecting consumers

By Majd Othman

**KUWAIT:** It seems the war in Ukraine and the current global situation has become a legitimate excuse for any price increase in the market. In Kuwait, cooperative societies are sparring with local suppliers to maintain prices of essential products such as eggs, that have been witnessing unjustified price hikes, according to the Kuwait Consumer Protection Association.

Meshaal Al-Mane, President of Kuwait Consumer Protection Association, told Kuwait Times that the increase in the price of eggs is illogical. "The suppliers are saying there is an increase in the price of wheat and poultry supplements globally. But the figures they are relying on are incorrect. If it is a temporary increase, it shouldn't be as high as 30 to 35 percent, as this will exhaust people's budgets," he said. "Prices should not exceed more than 15 percent, not to mention that shipping rates have fallen globally, which means the costs should be balanced."

Mane pointed out that before hiking the prices of local products, there are a few things that should be



Baddah Al-Dosari



Meshaal Al-Mane

taken into account. "In addition to the reasons for increasing the prices, we should first calculate the margins. Earlier, the government provided financial support from the ministry of commerce to maintain prices, but in general we cannot consider this as a real solution to the problem," he said.

"Cooperatives are the largest sales points in the country, with sales estimated at more than one billion Kuwaiti dinars annually. Therefore, these sales points won't be able to increase the prices, which

will affect the consumer eventually. Currently, the scenario is repeating itself with eggs - the suppliers want to control the market and increase prices. Every time we suffer from the same struggles: Cooperatives are refusing to increase prices and suppliers are refusing to sell, which is illegal. The consumer suffers from this disruption, which leads to price increases," Mane said.

Mane stressed that the ministry of commerce should implement controlled procedures before financially supporting the market and providing a clear and detailed vision to the consumers and the government for a full picture about global price increases and price comparisons of raw materials. "The price increase that is occurring in the market currently looks deliberate, especially the huge hike in the prices of local eggs, from 950 fils to KD 1.650," he said.

Mane called on consumers to take responsibility and boycott these companies until prices become stable. "Every time these companies force the ministry of commerce to support the market, while the only victim are the consumers," he rued.

President of Union of Consumer Cooperative



Societies Baddah Al-Dosari said the issue of expensive eggs will be resolved in a couple of days, calling on suppliers and companies to hold a meeting to discuss the price increase. Dosari said the consumer union will negotiate with foreign companies and suppliers to provide Kuwait with eggs if needed, pointing out the sudden price increase of eggs occurred with the opening of schools and increased demand from consumers for eggs and milk products.



KUWAIT: Participants at the procession. — KUNA photos

## Kuwait Blind Association organizes procession

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Blind Association (KBA) organized a march on Saturday to mark the World White

Cane Day and the golden jubilee celebrations of the association. The procession aims to raise public awareness about the safety of blind people who depend on their white canes for safe movement, head of KBA public relations committee Fahad Al-Enezi told KUNA, on the sidelines of the event.

He also highlighted the need to remove all obstacles facing the free movement of blind people in the city. "KBA plans to organize more events to shed light on the role of its members in the society and

express their aspirations," Al-Enezi noted.

He voiced gratitude for the support provided to KBA's activities by government and non-government organizations, notably the Ministry of Social Affairs and Education and the Public Authority for Disability Affairs. Launched on October 8, 1972, KBA provides social and cultural support to blind people, helps raise public awareness about their needs and works with regional and international organizations with similar objectives. — KUNA

## Kuwait hosts Arab sports federation executive meeting



KUWAIT: Members and officials of the administrative office of the Arab Military sports federation. —KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait hosted on Sunday the 56th meeting of the administrative office of the Arab Military sports federation which saw the participation of 15 countries from the Arab world. In a statement, Defense ministry said that the meet-

ing was inaugurated with a speech by Commander of the Kuwait Navy, Rear Admiral Khaled Al-Kandari. Al-Kandari conveyed the greetings of Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Saleh Al-Sabah,

wishing the participants a pleasant stay in Kuwait. The core purpose of the meeting was outlined as, to select a new president for the federation, besides electing new members for the committee. — KUNA

Legalese

## When to hire a lawyer?



By Fajer Ahmed

Local@kuwaittimes.com

**L**awyers assist clients when certain situations arise which require an expert's knowledge of the law, as well as critical and out of the box legal thinking. Lawyers' obligations also include protecting clients and ensuring that they get their rights as provided by the law. So, when is the right time to hire a professional lawyer? And what should we expect from a lawyer?

**Before hiring a lawyer, you should ask yourself the following questions:**

- Have I done everything I can to negotiate the conflict, for it to be resolved amicably? You should probably try to negotiate first personally before hiring a lawyer, so as to not waste your time and money as well as other resources when hiring a lawyer. Sometimes things may be negotiated.
- Is the situation affecting me negatively mentally or emotionally? If the situation is negatively affecting you, it might be a good idea to hire a lawyer.
- Are the other parties going to be more hostile when they find out that I have hired a lawyer? Sometimes unfortunately, hiring a lawyer may make the situation worse as the other party may become more hostile. For example, if you are asking for monetary benefits from an ex-boss, the company may become more hostile when they find out that you hired a lawyer and would need their legal team to be involved, which may further delay things.

**What questions should you always ask a lawyer?**

- Have you dealt with a similar situation?
- What is your area of expertise?
- How much are you charging in legal fees?
- How long does it take to resolve a similar situation?

**What documents to request from your lawyer?**

- Bar association ID or permit - this is to ensure that they have the right to practice.
- Proposal - outline in writing the answers to the above questions - always get things in writing so that the terms are clear to both you and your lawyer.

## DWC visits center as part of awareness campaign

**KUWAIT:** Members of the Diplomatic Women's Committee (DWC) expressed their solidarity with the annual global campaign run by the World Health Organization in spreading awareness about breast cancer, by participating in the opening of the Arjan Riaya Specialized Hospital. The event saw the participation of several diplomatic attendees such as the Ambassador of Kenya as well as the spouses of other ambassadors, diplomats and representatives of several committees.

A cultural health program was held to outline the importance of services and health programs for the elderly, those with special needs and psy-

chological conditions as well as those who suffered from bone and muscle diseases. A team of specialist doctors delivered lectures and presentations on some of the health topics while the Vichy skin care company presented some skin care products and treatments.

At the end of the event, gifts and vouchers were presented to the attendees. The DWC team also presented a commemorative shield to the hospital in appreciation of their efforts for the elderly and those with special needs.

Meanwhile, the spouse of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Sudan was announced as the new president of the Diplomatic Women's Committee for the year 2022-2023, who said that she considered this nomination an honor with her experience in the diplomatic field and in the ministry of foreign affairs in Sudan and as an ambassador's consort, adding that she hoped to do her best to plan social and cultural activities for the diplomatic community in Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Diplomats and members of the DWC committee at the opening of the centre.



## Local

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## GHC launches online campaign for elderly care

RIYADH: The Gulf Health Council (GHC) launched on Sunday a campaign, "Their Time is Present, through its official social media platforms to spread awareness on the social care needed to be given to the elderly. The council indicated in a statement that many specialists in the Gulf countries said that as people aged, they suffered from several diseases and conditions and this resulted in loneliness, depression and sleep related issues among the elderly.

It also added that the concept of health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The council shed light on another prevalent issue among the elderly, as it is expected that the number of people among the elderly in the Gulf countries (60 years and above) will gradually increase during the coming years until 2050, due to the general increase in a person's average lifespan. It stressed that the campaign aims to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms associated with loneliness among the aged and ways to deal with positive life skills to enable their effective integration into society. —KUNA

## Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A serene view of the beach alongside Gulf Road. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

# Kuwait, World Bank issue knowledge index report



WASHINGTON: Dr Khaled Mahdi, with officials and World Bank representatives.



WASHINGTON: The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr Khaled Mahdi, announced the launch of the international report on the knowledge index of public institutions in Kuwait – a joint exercise that was carried out in cooperation with the World Bank Group.

Dr Mahdi said in a press statement that this report is the first of its kind in the world in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, explaining that the study included twenty public sector institutions in Kuwait and a comparative study was done on the practices they carry out in the field of knowledge management as well as their relationship to human resources and information technology systems. An independent study was also done on the organizational structure.

He said that the report is based on the results of a survey that includes more than 2,200 employees in the public sector, indicating that the results that appeared are a result of the data collected by 20 public institutions participating in it.

He explained that this report aims to lead the way in which knowledge management is conducted in the public sector and whether the principles and practices undertaken are effective and efficient, stressing that this report is expected to raise awareness and focus on moving to a knowledge culture in the public sector. The report is also helpful to understand advanced concepts in Knowledge Management (KM), he added.

Dr Mahdi also expressed his hope that this report would be a first step in exchanging and transferring knowledge between the public sector entities in Kuwait to attain its highest performance

in comparison with other entities, noting that the questionnaire will be revised and expanded in the future to include all state agencies from the public sector on a regular basis.

He explained that the report noted different levels of development in knowledge management among the participating government agencies, indicating that the distinction was evident in the financial sector and oil companies due to their well-established mechanisms for knowledge-sharing practices in this field with other companies involved in the same field.

He indicated that the KIA achieved the highest level of competency in the field of knowledge management, followed by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and then the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, explaining that the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development intends to issue this report every three years in cooperation with the World Bank.

Dr Mahdi said that this report could not have been possible without the cooperation of the participating parties, pointing to the importance of the continuous development of the survey and the involvement of more parties. He added that the World Bank expressed its willingness to apply the index methodology to the administrative units of the World Bank Group. The report and its results will be announced during the annual meetings of the World Bank in Washington, DC.

Dr Mahdi also gave a presentation at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington on policies of intervention to achieve reform in the fields of jobs and knowledge in Kuwait.

## Dasman Diabetes Institute organizes scientific lecture

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), recently hosted Dr Mohammed Al-Onaizi who is an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at the Faculty of Medicine in Kuwait University. He received his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in Canada in Anatomy and Cell Biology in 2016 and joined Kuwait University in 2017. His research interests include determining the consequences of diabetes and aging on neuronal signaling and neurodegeneration. Dr Al-Onaizi presented at the Institute recently, a research-based scientific lecture titled 'Elucidating mechanisms underlying cognitive dysfunction in Type 2 diabetes'. This seminar was well attended by many healthcare professionals, academics all over Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Dr Mohammed Al-Onaizi speaks at the lecture.

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## Kuwait, Years From Now Student Art Competition 2022

10 October - 13 November 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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Changing climate claims railways, houses and beaches in California

## Brazil opposition slams Bolsonaro over remarks on young Venezuelans

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THE HAGUE, Netherlands: People take part in a rally on the Malieveld following the death of the Iranian Mahsa Amini in The Hague. Amini, 22, died September 16, 2022, three days after falling into a coma following her arrest in Tehran by the morality police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. — AFP

# Iran protests: How far can they go?

## Authorities killed 108 people in Mahsa Amini protest wave across Iran

TEHRAN: On an early autumn day in Tehran, the morality police arrested in a city park a 22-year-old Iranian woman who was in the capital on a family visit, bundled her into a van and drove her to the police station.

The detention of Mahsa Amini on September 13 set in motion a chain of events that one month on has left Iran's clerical leadership under supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 83, facing one of its biggest challenges since the 1979 Islamic Revolution but whose final outcome remains far from certain.

Amini's arrest was an ordeal shared by hundreds of women every year who are deemed to have fallen foul of the Islamic republic's strict dress rules imposed after the fall of the shah.

But less than two hours after her arrest and transfer to the Vozara detention centre, Amini was in a coma. Rushed to Kasra hospital, she was pronounced dead on September 16. Her family and lawyers believe she was dealt a fatal blow to the head in custody.

Protests started outside the hospital on September 16 after the announcement of her death. Her funeral in her home province of Kurdistan on September 17 turned into a protest action with the movement spreading nationwide.

One month on, Iran's leadership is still facing what has proven to be the most enduring, taboo-breaking and multifaceted protest movement in the Islamic republic's history as well as the first driven by women.

The leaderless protest movement as yet shows no sign of dwindling, with protests not just on the streets but at universities, schools and even oil refineries.

But the regime is also willing to use levers of repression extending to lethal force, internet shut-

downs and mass arrests.

While the protests could mark "the beginning of the end of the Islamic republic" they would need to be sustained and find some kind of leadership structure, said Cornelius Adebahr, nonresident fellow at Carnegie Europe.

"It just takes a lot more than continued street

protests and calls for sanctions for positive change to set in," he said.

### 'Overthrow outright'

The protests built on existing disenchantment over economic hardship and corruption that had already caused demonstrations in the past.

They have taken place in Tehran, the northern hub of Tabriz, the historic cities of Isfahan and Shiraz, the pilgrimage city of Mashhad that is Khamenei's home region, and the Caspian Sea provinces.

Iran has seen protest waves in recent years — notably in 2009 over disputed election results and in 2019 over a sudden energy price hike — but none that have so blatantly challenged the foundations of the Islamic republic set up in 1979 by



Women have removed and even burned headscarves

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"The uprising started as a response to the restrictions on women's dress and behaviour in public... but has evolved into a campaign to overthrow the regime outright," said the US-based Soufan Center think-tank.

Anti-regime slogans such as "Death to the dictator" are not entirely new in Iran but never have they been used so frequently.

Women have removed and even burned headscarves. Images of Khamenei and icons of the regime, like late Revolutionary Guards commander Qasem Soleimani, have been defaced or set on fire.

Videos have shown protesters pushing back against security forces, evading arrest, burning police cars and on occasion even setting up roadblocks.

The deaths of young women in the protests such as Nika Shahkarami and Sarina Esmailzadeh, both 16, whose families say were killed by the security forces, have created new protest icons along with Amini.

The protests have also smashed any notion of Iranian politics as a battle between so-called reformist and conservative elements working within the system and also switched international attention away from talks with Iranian leaders on the nuclear programme.

"The protesters have changed the dominant discourse by mandating for a real change. They say no to the entire political regime," said Shadi Sadr, director of the Justice for Iran UK-based NGO.

She said the current protests were "much larger in scale and lasted much longer" than in 2019 when fewer cities were involved, including Tehran, and protesters mainly came from lower social classes.

It's "time to think beyond the Islamic republic", said Roham Alvandi, an associate professor of

London School of Economics, declaring that "reform is dead".

### Precedents 'not encouraging'

But as in 2009 and 2019, the authorities have also resorted to force, with Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights saying the authorities have killed at least 108 people in the Mahsa Amini protest wave across Iran.

In addition, at least 93 have been killed in a crackdown on protests in the southeastern city of Zahedan that were sparked by the reported rape of a teenage girl by a police chief.

According to Amnesty International, the protests are being "brutally quashed", with live ammunition and metal pellets fired on protesters at close range.

Meanwhile, the persecution of protesters and those opposing the regime has been remorseless, with dozens of prominent activists, journalists, lawyers and even athletes rounded up and most still in jail.

After the Arab Spring, few anti-government uprisings worldwide have succeeded in defeating authoritarian regimes.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad remains in power over a decade after the start of the civil war that began with the uprising against his rule.

Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko in 2020 faced unprecedented mass protests following an election opponents said was rigged but stayed in power after keeping support from the security forces and Russia.

"Examples from the past decade of attempts to topple a ruthless dictator... aren't particularly encouraging," said Adebahr.

"Precisely because of the anti-system slogans chanted at these marches, the Iranian regime is determined to not budge an inch," he said. — AFP

## Russia: 11 killed in 'terror' attack at military site

MOSCOW, Russia: Russia said two gunmen from an ex-Soviet state on Saturday attacked a military training ground killing 11 people who had volunteered to fight in Ukraine and wounding 15 others. Russia's defence ministry said the attack in the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, happened during a firearms training session.

Russia launched what it calls a special military operation in Ukraine at the end of February. Last month Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a mobilisation of 300,000 Russians who had previously done compulsory military service.

"On October 15, two citizens of a CIS country committed an act of terror at a training range of the Western military district in the Belgorod region," the state news agencies quoted the ministry as saying.

"As a result, 11 people were fatally wounded. Another 15 people suffered injuries of varying gravity and were taken to medical facilities." The two attackers "were killed in retaliatory fire", the ministry added.

The CIS, or Commonwealth of Independent

States, was formed between republics that were part of the Soviet Union. More than 200,000 people have been conscripted into the Russian armed forces since the announcement of partial mobilisation on September 21. The draft announcement sparked protests and several attacks on recruitment offices.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meanwhile said Saturday that his troops were facing a "most difficult" situation near the eastern town of Bakhmut, which has been under attack from the Russian army for weeks.

Ukraine is clawing back territory in both the east and south, occupied by Russia for months, but is facing a tough challenge in some areas. "A very severe situation persists in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions" Zelensky said, referring to two regions Russia says it has annexed.

"The most difficult is near Bakhmut, like in previous days. We are still holding our positions," he said. Russian troops have for weeks been pummeling Bakhmut, a wine-making and salt-mining city that used to be populated by 70,000 people, in the hope of capturing the city.

Zelensky also said that Russia's total losses were now approaching 65,000. One soldier, just back from the front line, told AFP they had been fighting for four days non-stop. "Out of the 13 guys in my group, we lost two soldiers, and five got evacuated," said the 50-year-old soldier, "Poliak", from the 93rd brigade. — AFP

## Tunisian protesters denounce 'coup', demand prez removal

TUNIS: Thousands of Tunisians demonstrated Saturday in the capital Tunis, denouncing a power grab by President Kais Saied and demanding accountability for the country's long-running economic crisis, AFP correspondents said.

Saied staged a dramatic power grab in July last year and later pushed through a constitution enshrining his one-man rule, in what critics have called a return to autocracy in the only democracy to have emerged from the Arab Spring.

Protesters in central Tunis chanted, "Down, down", "Revolution against dictator Kais" and "The coup will fall." The march was organised by the National Salvation Front, a coalition of opposition parties including the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha that had dominated Tunisia's parliament before its dissolution by Saied.

Ali Laarayedh, Tunisia's former prime minister and a senior Ennahdha official, told AFP that the protest was an expression of "anger at the state of affairs under Kais Saied".

Saied's power grab was welcomed by some Tunisians tired of what they saw as a fractious and

corrupt system established after the 2011 revolution that ousted late dictator Zine El Abidine Ali.

But a worsening economic situation, compounded by supply shortages in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, has agitated many in the North African country of 12 million.

If Saied stays, "Tunisia will have no future," said Laarayedh, citing growing despair, poverty and unemployment. The National Salvation Front has announced it will boycott a December vote to elect a new parliament with limited powers.

Ennahdha's deep ideological rival, the secular Free Destourian Party (PDL), also organised a protest in the capital on Saturday.

Saied "is doing nothing, and things are only getting worse", said Souad, a pensioner in her 60s at the secular party's demonstration.

Some of the protesters carried empty containers to symbolise the rising cost of water due to inflation, which hit 9.1 percent in September.

Around 1,500 people joined the Ennahdha-led demonstration, while nearly 1,000 attended the PDL protest, the interior ministry told AFP.

In public remarks, Saied has argued he was working to "correct" economic troubles he had inherited from Tunisia's post-Ben Ali leadership.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on Saturday it had reached a tentative agreement with the Tunisian government to unblock a \$1.9 billion loan to alleviate the economic crisis. — AFP



## International

# Brazil opposition slams Bolsonaro over remarks on young Venezuelans

## Lula's lead holds steady ahead of Brazil vote: Poll

**SAO PAULO, Brazil:** Brazil's opposition slammed President Jair Bolsonaro on Saturday as "depraved" for suggesting a group of Venezuelan girls that he visited in their home were prostitutes, as the country gears up for a presidential run-off.

Bolsonaro will face left-wing former president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva in the second round of a presidential election on October 30, with the expectation of a close contest pushing both sides to intensify their attacks in the run-up.

Local media aired an interview with Bolsonaro

election. According to polling organizations, Lula has a lead over the president. In the interview, Bolsonaro said: "I parked my motorcycle on a street corner, took off my helmet and started looking at the girls, three or four very pretty 14 or 15-year-olds, dressed up as you might be on a Saturday in a neighborhood community."

"There were 15 or 20 girls (in the house), all Venezuelans aged 14, 15, getting ready on a Saturday. Why? To earn a living," he said. "That's what you want for your daughter?" Bolsonaro responded to the criticism, saying he had entered the house with other people and in the presence of a film crew.

Meanwhile, leftist front-runner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's lead over far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro remains steady at six percentage points ahead of Brazil's October 30 presidential runoff election, according to a poll released.

Lula has 53 percent of the vote to 47 percent for Bolsonaro, the Datafolha institute found, the same numbers as its last poll on October 7. The figures exclude voters who plan to cast blank or spoiled ballots-five percent of respondents, Datafolha found.

The margin of error for the poll, which was based on interviews with 2,898 people Thursday and Friday, was plus or minus two percentage points. The latest numbers came as a battle brewed in Brazil over pollsters, which largely underestimated Bolsonaro's support in the first-round election on October 2.

Datafolha, for instance, had found Bolsonaro trailing Lula by 14 percentage points on the eve of the first round. In the event, the incumbent finished just five points shy: 48 percent to 43 percent. Bolsonaro cried foul after the election, accusing polling firms of trying to muzzle his popularity.

"We beat the lie," he said. Federal police reportedly opened an investigation into polling firms



**FORTALEZA, Brazil:** Brazilian President and presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro speaks to his supporters during a rally in Fortaleza, Ceara state, Brazil. — AFP

Thursday at the request of Bolsonaro's justice ministry over alleged "criminal practices."

Competition regulators, meanwhile, opened a separate investigation into whether the firms had carried out an "orchestrated action" to "manipulate" the elections. However, the head of the Superior Electoral Tribunal, Judge Alexandre de Moraes, ordered the investigations halted late Thursday, saying they were "usurping" electoral officials' authority.

The probes "appear to show an intent to satisfy (Bolsonaro's) will," wrote Moraes, instructing electoral officials to open an investigation of their own into a possible "abuse of power." Bolsonaro hit back at Moraes, who doubles as a Supreme Court justice and is a frequent target of attacks from the president.

"The polling firms are going to keep lying. How many votes are they dragging to the other side? People generally vote for whomever's in the lead," Bolsonaro said. — AFP



## Battle brews in Brazil over pollsters

about the situation in Venezuela in which he recalled a visit last year to a poor neighborhood in Brazil's capital where he met a group of Venezuelan girls. The president said he had asked a group of "three or four very pretty 14 or 15-year-olds" if he could "come in your house", where he found "15 or 20 girls" getting ready "to earn a living."

The leader of Lula's opposition party, Gleisi Hoffmann, quickly slammed Bolsonaro's comments as "depraved" and "criminal," while Senator Randolfe Rodrigues, coordinator of Lula's campaign, expressed "disgust."

Bolsonaro has repeatedly said that Brazil would suffer the same fate as Venezuela if Lula wins the

## AU calls on Ethiopia rivals to 'recommit' to peace talks

**NAIROBI, Kenya:** The African Union on Sunday called on the warring parties in Ethiopia's conflict to "recommit" to peace talks, as violence intensifies in the embattled Tigray region. The city of Shire in northwest Tigray has been bombarded for several days in a joint offensive by Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, with civilian casualties reported in the push against rebels from the war-torn region. The International Rescue Committee, an aid organisation delivering relief to stricken Tigray, announced on Saturday that one of its staff was among three civilians killed in an attack in Shire.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has joined the United States and other Western powers in expressing grave concern over the worsening violence

and its impact on civilians, and called on both sides to negotiate peace.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government, and the Tigrayan authorities, have accepted an AU invitation to talk, but negotiations scheduled to start last weekend in South Africa failed to take place. AU Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat said the escalating violence was of "grave concern".

"The Chairperson urges the Parties to recommit to dialogue as per their agreement to direct talks to be convened in South Africa by a high-level team led by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, and supported by the international community," he said in a statement issued on Sunday, but dated Saturday. — AFP

## Biden calls latest Jan 6 testimony 'devastating'

**PORTLAND:** US President Joe Biden on Saturday said the latest testimony and video evidence presented by lawmakers probing the deadly 2021 attack on the Capitol-including footage of House leaders asking for help-was "devastating."

Biden, who was speaking during an impromptu ice cream stop in Oregon, where he was campaigning for Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Tina Kotek, called the case presented by January 6 committee members "fairly overwhelming."

"I think the testimony and the video are actually devastating. And I've been going out of my way not to comment and see what happens. But it's-I think it's been devastating."

Biden told reporters.

"But any more I say about it, you-justified-are going to ask me if I'm trying to influence the attorney general. I'm not. I've not spoken with him at all." On Thursday, the House panel into the January 6 riot-comprised of seven Democrats and two Republicans-revealed new video of Congressional leaders desperately calling for help as the melee unfolded.

In what was expected to be the final hearing of the committee before crucial midterm elections in November, the lawmakers aired the previously unreleased footage of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others in a secure location.

The committee also voted to



**US President Joe Biden**

subpoena former president Donald Trump to testify on his role in the violence. The vote came as a spectacular coda to an already stunning hearing in which the committee offered fresh evidence that Trump had planned to declare victory in the 2020 election-regardless

of the outcome.

Trump had a "premeditated plan" formulated months before the vote to claim he had won on election night, whatever the vote tally showed, panel member Zoe Lofgren told the hearing, citing evidence gathered by the committee. — AFP

## New Cabinet formed with...

Continued from Page 1

the Cabinet included ministers who do not respect the constitution. After that, HHI the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, hailed as a reformist, held extensive meetings with almost all lawmakers before announcing the new lineup on Sunday.

As for women ministers, Amani Buqammaz was appointed Minister of Electricity and Water and Public Works, while Mai Al-Baghlil was given the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women and Children Affairs. New Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah was a long-serving Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States. MP Bader Al-Mulla was named Oil Minister, while MP Ammar Al-Ajmi was appointed Minister of

State for National Assembly Affairs and Minister of State for Housing. Sheikh Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, a new minister from the ruling family, was given the defense post.

The new Cabinet is expected to be sworn in on Monday, to be ready to attend the inaugural session of the Assembly on Tuesday. Over 40 MPs held a symbolic session on Sunday, saying that according to the constitution, the opening session of the elected Assembly must be held within two weeks of announcing the results.

The session lasted just a few minutes with MP Marzouq Al-Hubaini, the oldest member, chairing the proceedings. He said that based on the constitution, the deadline for holding the opening session was Sunday. Because the government did not attend, Hubaini adjourned the session. Meanwhile, the constitutional court received 50 petitions challenging the election results by the close of the period for submitting election challenges. One of the petitions challenged the election of MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa, who was elected from jail.

IHR reported that inmates' relatives gathered outside Evin on Sunday, seeking information about their loved ones. Kazem Gharibabadi, deputy head of Iran's judiciary, visited the facility and blamed "those incarcerated in Ward No. 7" for the unrest. He said the fire "did not spread to other wards". "The security and safety of prisoners is of paramount importance," tweeted Gharibabadi, who is also secretary-general of Iran's High Council for Human Rights.

Citing a Tehran prosecutor, the official IRNA news agency said the clashes had "nothing to do with the recent unrest in the country". The four inmates who died had been convicted of robbery, Mizan said. Evin prison holds French-Iranian academic Fariba Adelkhah and US citizen Siamak Namazi, whose family said he was taken back into custody days ago after a temporary release. Namazi's US attorney Jared Genser said he had spoken to his family, and that he was unharmed. France said it was following "with the greatest attention" the situation of French citizens "arbitrarily detained" in the facility.

Australian academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert, who was held in Evin for most of her 800-plus days behind bars in Iran, told AFP she had heard that all the women political prisoners were safe. But supporters of Austrian prisoner Massud Mossaheb said he was suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation and tear gas. — AFP

## Embattled Truss told 'game is up'

**LONDON:** Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss on Sunday vied to reboot her economic program, but Conservative critics warned the party faces electoral oblivion under her crippled leadership. With even US President Joe Biden joining in attacks on her libertarian platform, Truss admitted it had been a "wrench" to fire her friend Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor of the exchequer on Friday. But writing in the Sun on Sunday newspaper, she said: "We cannot pave the way to a low-tax, high-growth economy without maintaining the confidence of the markets in our commitment to sound money."

That confidence was jeopardized on Sept 23 when Kwarteng and Truss unveiled a rightwing program, inspired by 1980s US president Ronald

Reagan, of £45 billion (\$50 billion) in tax cuts financed exclusively by higher debt. Markets tanked in response, driving up borrowing costs for millions of Britons, and the Conservatives' poll ratings have similarly slumped, leading to open warfare in the governing party mere weeks after Truss succeeded Boris Johnson.

"I think the game is up, and it's now a question as to how the succession is managed," senior Tory MP Crispin Blunt said on Channel 4. Truss has been forced into a screeching policy U-turn which cost Kwarteng his job. But she depressed the bond markets even more with a painful press conference on Friday, and the government was nervously awaiting the resumption of trading on Monday.

Bidding to placate investors, Kwarteng's replacement Jeremy Hunt is now warning that taxes may in fact have to rise, and is pressing for spending restraint by his cabinet colleagues even as Britons endure a cost-of-living crisis. — AFP

## At least four killed in fire at...

Continued from Page 1

Evin, infamous for the ill-treatment of political prisoners, also holds foreign detainees and thousands facing criminal charges. Hundreds of those arrested during the recent demonstrations and in a crackdown on civil society have been sent there. "We do not accept official explanations," the Norway-based non-government group Iran Human Rights (IHR) said about Iran's official comments, adding that it had received reports that guards had sought to "incite" prisoners.

There were also reports, backed by images, of explosions rocking the inside of the prison complex, gunshots heard and even a projectile being fired from outside into the jail. "Prisoners, including political prisoners, are completely defenseless inside that prison," said Hadi Ghaemi of the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. Iranian rights activist Atena Daemi, herself a long-time inmate of Evin, wrote on Twitter that in the early hours of Sunday several buses and ambulances were seen leaving the prison. She said some prisoners in Ward 8, which houses political detainees, had been transferred to another jail.

## Xi hails China's rise, demands...

Continued from Page 1

Xi celebrated the party's continued efforts to eradicate COVID -which are placing heavy curbs on people's lives and is hammering the nation's economy - as a major achievement. He insisted the approach had "protected people's safety and health to the highest degree". He also highlighted as a success his graft crackdown, which has seen thousands of people jailed and critics have said has been used to crush dissent and opposition to his rule.

Xi said the anti-corruption campaign had eliminated "serious latent dangers" within the Communist Party, the military and the state. "The fight against corruption has won an overwhelming victory and has been comprehensively consolidated," he said. In a speech that mostly focused on domestic issues, Xi also told the delegates that China would "actively participate in global governance on climate change". Xi also reiterated that China opposed a "Cold War mentality" in international diplomacy, but made no mention of frayed

relations with the United States. Xi also did not refer to the Ukraine war.

There were no policy announcements in the address, which was largely a review of the current state of play, and analysts said Xi wanted to project stability. "This is a very turbulent time with the COVID crisis, economic downturn and tense international situation, especially with the US," said Alfred L Chan, a Xi biographer and professor based in Canada. "Caution, rather than dramatic change, is more prudent."

Should everything go to plan for Xi, the 69-year-old will be endorsed as the party's general secretary after the week-long meeting ends, cementing his position as China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. Xi and the party's other top brass are likely to be unveiled on Oct 23, the day after the Congress closes. If picked as party leader for another five-year term as expected, he is almost certain to be elected president at the annual meeting of China's National People's Congress in March. In the highly choreographed, mostly closed-door conclave this week, the delegates will pick members of the party's roughly 200-member Central Committee, which in turn selects the 25-person Politburo and its all-powerful Standing Committee - the country's highest leadership body. — AFP



## International

## Mexico: The promised land for migrants... from the US

## Relaxed immigration rules are part of the appeal for workers flocking to Mexico

**TIJUANA, Mexico:** While many migrants risk their lives chasing the American dream, Gabriel Zarate fled the rising cost of living in California and moved to the Mexican border city of Tijuana.

The 38-year-old Chilean American now crosses over to work in San Diego as an English teacher during the day and returns home in the evening to Mexico. "One of the biggest reasons is the cost of living in Tijuana. It's significantly cheaper than in California," Zarate said.

Also, he added: "I love Mexican people and food." His neighbor and fellow English teacher Mike Rachfal also made the move from San Diego, where he used to pay \$1,275 a month to rent a studio. "Here it's about half that," the 36-year-old said.

The cheaper rents can be a sensitive subject in Mexico, where wages are much lower than in the United States and people are also facing increasing living costs.

Tijuana is one of the cities with the fastest-rising real estate prices in Mexico — up 10.7 percent in the first quarter of 2022 from a year earlier, according to the state-owned Federal Mortgage Society.

The average price of properties bought by US citizens is around \$270,000 — "three times lower than what the same property would cost in the United States," said Ruth Sastre, president of the local realtors association.

## Construction boom

In Tijuana, a bustling city with a reputation for gang violence, new apartment buildings are springing up with "For Sale" signs in English and prices in dollars.

With more than 1,000 murders in the city already this year, security is an important consideration, but Zarate said that "in general I feel fine in Tijuana, especially down-

town or around the border." "It's like any big city. There will always be places rougher or more complicated than others," he added. It is a similar story just south of Tijuana in Rosarito on the Pacific coast.

Following a real estate boom that began a decade ago, up to around 12,000 people from the United States now live in the resort city, said Jesus Rincon Vargas, president of the local construction industry association. In total around 1.6 million US citizens are estimated to live in Mexico, according to their country's embassy, which does not keep official records. They can stay for up to six months with a tourist visa, or apply for residency.

## 'Friendly culture'

Along with the lifestyle and cost of living, the relatively relaxed immigration rules are part of the appeal for remote workers flocking to Mexico, notably the capital. Brian McDonald, a 34-year-old software developer from the US state of Oklahoma, has spent more than a year in the Latin American country, lured by its budding technology scene.

"Mexico City seems like it's kind of a gateway for expanding companies and I like working with start-ups," he said. "It's a very friendly culture," McDonald added. Office-sharing company WeWork has seen a "significant influx of digital nomads" in districts of Mexico City popular with foreigners, said spokeswoman Cristina Sanchez.

"Mexico City has an incomparable climate. For foreigners, it's definitely a cheaper city. It's also a cosmopolitan and highly developed city with start-ups and corporations," she added. Some foreigners working for US firms are also choosing to base themselves south of the border.

Kirsty Hall, 23, from Scotland, picked Mexico City as a



**TIJUANA, Mexico:** Gabriel Zarate (C), 38, a US teacher who lives in Tijuana but works in San Diego, in his home country, arrives at the San Ysidro crossing port in Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico. —AFP

remote working location while helping to set up a San Francisco-based tech start-up. "I can walk everywhere here. I can cycle. Today I roller-skated to work. Public transport is awesome and it's very cheap. People are very welcoming too," Hall said.

The influx of foreigners has divided opinion among residents of the capital, some of whom see the city's popularity as one of the reasons behind gentrification and rising rents. "I heard there's some prejudice towards digital

nomads within Mexico City but I haven't experienced it personally," said Blazej Mosinski, 23, from Poland, who is doing a San Francisco internship remotely "purely for financial reasons." Other challenges of working remotely in Mexico include slower internet speeds than in US technology hubs and safety concerns. "I was robbed by the police two weeks ago, just walking home," McDonald said. But "the rest—the good food, the cost of living—offsets all of those things," he added. —AFP

## Changing climate claims railways, houses and beaches in California

**SAN CLEMENTE, Etats-Unis:** Steve Lang can see catastrophic erosion worsened by climate change happening in real time along one of the world's most scenic railroad lines, where the sea is swallowing homes, tracks and California's beautiful beaches.

"Every day I come here and watch this, and it makes me want to cry," the 68-year-old tells AFP on rail tracks he crosses to go surfing. Powerful waves wash in from the Pacific over the rails where the "Pacific Surfliner" runs, ferrying sightseers through the stunning coastal landscapes of southern California.

Not long ago, the railway was cushioned by hundreds of feet (tens of meters) of golden sand. But violent southern swells have washed that sand away. With the beach gone, there was nothing to protect the rails from the fury of Tropical Storm Kay as it lashed the coast in September, eating away at the land on which they stood.

The track, which carries 8.3 million passengers annually between San Diego and San Luis Obispo, is now closed for emergency work.

## Climate change

In the luxury Cyprus Shore settlement, an enclave of about a hundred plush villas that was once home to former president Richard Nixon, residents look on uneasily. Without the beach to protect it, the hillside on which it is built is being eaten away and multi-million dollar homes are sliding towards the sea.

The cliffside parking lot is collapsing and two villas with cracked walls are now officially uninhabitable. "These homes were valued at minimum \$10 million each," says Lang. "We've been trying to raise the alert for years, but we don't get much traction." The tragedy of the encroaching waters is not limited to San Clemente, says acting mayor Chris Duncan, but a problem for the whole state.

"This area here in Cyprus Shore... is a microcosm," he says. "The entire California coast is threatened by climate change and threatened by coastal erosion." Erosion is a natural phenomenon that has helped shape our conti-



**SAN CLEMENTE, United States:** A wave breaks over a train truck delivering large rocks to be dumped along disappearing beach sand shoreline to protect train routes near the exclusive Cyprus Shores neighborhood in San Clemente, California, where beach sand has totally disappeared over recent years. —AFP

nents over millennia.

But scientists say it is being speeded up by the warming of the planet; exacerbated by rising sea levels brought about by melting ice caps and glaciers, and by the more powerful waves that warmer oceans hold.

Humanity's unchecked burning of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution has pushed average global temperatures up by 1.2 degrees celsius. They are expected to continue rising.

## 'Lost battle'

By 2050, between \$8 billion and \$10 billion of infrastructure could be underwater in California, and other construction valued at \$6 billion to \$10 billion will be in a high-tide hazard zone, according to a 2019 study released by California's state legislature.

In San Clemente, local transport authorities are trying to stabilize the shifting tracks. Every day, tons of rocks are dumped to reinforce the seawall and protect them, in a \$12 million project expected to last more than six weeks.

But "it's a losing battle," Duncan sighs. The line was closed in September 2021 to add 18,000 tons of rock, and that didn't solve the problem. "While the rock might

temporarily stabilize the slope, it causes exponential sand loss," he says.

"Because now when the waves hit, it doesn't hit a soft beach. It hits a hard rock, bounces off, takes all other sand with it." Duncan wants federal money to build back the beaches. "I'm talking about breakwaters, about living shorelines, about possibly groins where it might be appropriate." Some advocate a more radical solution to save the railway line.

"The best would be to move (the track) back away from the coast," says Joseph Street, a geologist at the California Coastal Commission. "But of course that's obviously a big, big effort to do that, very expensive." And, he points out, it does nothing to protect the homes that are at risk behind the track. "A lot of our urban planners and decision makers have really dragged their feet on responding to this problem," says Stefanie Sekich-Quinn, of Surfrider Foundation. The environmental NGO advocates moving the line away from the coast, an option put forth in a 2009 federal report.

California has a handful of such initiatives. On the same rail line, authorities in nearby San Diego announced this year a \$300 million project to relocate a portion of tracks further inland. —AFP

## Death toll from Thai nightclub fire rises to 25

**BANGKOK:** The death toll from a fire that ripped through a Thai nightclub in

early August has risen to 25, officials said Sunday, with eight victims still receiving medical treatment. The blaze broke out on August 5 at nightclub Mountain B in Thailand's eastern Chonburi province, roughly 150 kilometres (93 miles) southeast of Bangkok.

Authorities found 13 charred bodies inside the venue after the fire and 12 more people have died from their

injuries since then. Chonburi province's public relations office said the latest victim was a woman who died at a local hospital on Sunday. Local media reported she was 26.

Eight people remain in eight different hospitals with two of them on ventilators, a statement said. Around 40 people were injured in the inferno, all of them believed to be Thai. The fire erupted in the early

hours with flammable foam on the club's walls accelerating the blaze, which took firefighters three hours to extinguish.

Thailand's lax approach to health and safety regulations—particularly in its bars and nightclubs—has long raised concerns. A huge fire tore through a New Year's Eve party at Bangkok's swanky Santika club in 2009, killing 67 people and injuring more than 200. —AFP

## Rohingya community leaders killed in Bangladesh

**COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh:** A mob of a dozen people hacked to death two Rohingya community leaders in Bangladesh, police said Sunday, as security worsens in camps housing almost a million refugees. Bangladesh has been housing Rohingya refugees in a vast sprawl of camps since they fled a military crackdown in Myanmar in 2017 that is now the subject of a genocide investigation at the UN's top court.

The squalid settlements have seen escalating violence in recent months, with gangs trying to assert control over drug trafficking and intimidate the refugees' civilian leadership through killings and abductions.

Police spokesman Faruk Ahmed said two

Rohingya camp leaders were killed late on Saturday at Camp 13, calling it one of the worst attacks in recent months. "More than a dozen Rohingya miscreants hacked Maulvi Mohammad Yunus, 38, who is the head majhi of Camp 13. They also killed Mohammad Anwar, 38, another majhi. Yunus died on the spot and Amwar died at a hospital," he said.

"Majhi" is a term for a Rohingya camp leader. A senior officer of an elite police unit tasked with security in the camps blamed the killings on the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an insurgent group fighting the military in Myanmar.

"These are targeted killings by ARSA. The internal clashes in Myanmar are impacting the security situation in the camps," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

Gangs have long fought turf wars for control of the drug trade, centred on yaba methamphetamine pills, but the police chief of the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar said there

was an escalation taking place.

"In the last three months alone, at least 14 Rohingyas were murdered in the camps. The number of murders in the camp has increased compared to last year," Mahfuzul Islam told AFP. A Rohingya community leader and a nephew of one of those killed on Saturday also blamed ARSA for the murders.

"ARSA killed my uncle last night. My uncle used to tell them not to deal in drugs. He would supervise voluntarily patrolling in the camps. They killed my uncle," the nephew said, asking to remain anonymous out of fears for his safety.

ARSA has not publicly commented on Saturday's killings. Several of its members earlier this year were charged over the murder of top Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah in September last year. ARSA has denied its involvement.

The killing of Ullah, who had been received at the White House by then-president Donald Trump, sparked a major crackdown by Bangladeshi authorities, with at least 8,000 suspected ARSA members arrested. —AFP

## News in brief

## Flooding in Crete kills two

**ATHENS:** Two people were killed after torrential rain brought major flooding to the Greek island of Crete, firefighters said on Sunday. Rain started to fall on Saturday morning in the southern Greek island, a popular holiday destination, hitting the Heraklion region particularly hard. Greek firefighters said the body of a 49-year-old woman was found in the sea on Sunday, raising the death toll to two from the floods. On Saturday, a man in his 50s was found dead after he was trapped in his car as torrential rains began. The two individuals were going to Heraklion for work, Greek public television ERT reported. A second missing individual was found alive on Saturday evening. The rains forced the evacuation of several homes and unleashed extensive damage in seaside villages, where streets became rivers carrying away everything in their path, local media reported. The flash floods pushed several cars into the sea along the beach of the seaside resort of Agia Pelagia, with some almost completely submerged in the water surrounded by debris.

## Gun attack on bar kills 12

**GUANAJUATO:** Twelve people were killed in a shooting at a bar in central Mexico on Saturday, local authorities said, with growing cartel violence making the region one of the country's most dangerous. Industrial Guanajuato state has become the site of a raging dispute between two rival groups — the Santa Rosa de Lima and Jalisco New Generation cartels — known for carrying out drug trafficking and fuel theft, as well as other crimes. Police believe Saturday's attack took place when an armed group entered the bar in the city of Irapuato at around 8 pm (0100 GMT) and opened fire on customers and staff. At least six men and six women were killed, and three others were injured, the municipal government said in a statement, without specifying the identity of the attackers or their motives. The body of one victim was found outside next to a motorcycle, while the rest of those killed were discovered inside the bar, police said.

## 20 dead in bus accident

**BOGOTA:** At least 20 people died and 15 others were injured Saturday when a bus overturned on the Pan-American Highway in southwestern Colombia, police said. The bus was traveling between the port city of Tumaco, in the southwestern corner of Colombia, and Cali, 200 miles (320 kilometers) to the northeast when the incident occurred. "Unfortunately, we have a toll of 20 people dead," said Captain Albertland Agudelo of the Narino department traffic police. Among the injured were a three-year-old girl and an eight-year-old boy. Investigators are looking at possible "mechanical failures in the brake system." Colonel Oscar Lamprea, director of traffic and transportation in the area, said in a message to reporters. A preliminary report said the driver lost control after coming out of a curve in a foggy area. It took rescue workers from the police and fire departments nine hours to set the vehicle upright, evacuate the injured and recover the dead. Images obtained by AFP showed the bus, its roof caved in, perched dangerously at the edge of a steep drop-off. —AFP



# Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

## Zain awarded 'Best B2C and Marketplace Company' by Liferay during GITEX 2022

Award recognizes Zain's innovation-driven digital customer experiences

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, was awarded 'Best B2C and Marketplace Company' by Liferay Inc., the leading provider of digital platforms that creates enterprise-level, cloud powered optimized digital experiences to accelerate innovation. The award recognizes Zain for its innovation-driven digital customer experiences.

The award ceremony took place at GITEX Global 2022 attended by Daaj Al-Oud, Zain Kuwait Network Engineering Director, and Moussalam Dalati, General Manager, Middle East and Africa, Liferay who recognized the telecom provider's success in leveraging innovative technologies to elevate customer experience capabilities.

With a longstanding partnership since 2016 between both companies, the award recognizes Zain's future enabled efforts in web content management, search results, integration across applications, and more. Utilizing state-of-the-art digital services through Liferay's Digital Experience Platform (DXP), the collaboration with Zain has created an innovative approach in adopting cloud services which have become integral to digitally advanced societies. With upgraded end-to-end customer lifecycle experiences and data-driven personalization in a connected and secure environment, Zain has enhanced its expertise and capabilities to take its customer experience to the next level.

Daaj Al-Oud, Zain Kuwait Network Engineering Director, stated, "As a frontrunner in the telecom industry, we consider it our responsibility to elevate

customer experiences using latest and relevant technologies. Our relationship with Liferay contributed to the success of our comprehensive development strategy of providing best products and services, paving the way for a digital society and a knowledge economy."

With the focus on the oncoming 6G technology and its innumerable benefits and possibilities, the telecom sector is expected to make strides never imagined in enterprise services. This is certain to enhance Zain's value proposition in addition to its high-level performance and reliability available across the region. Moussalam Dalati, General Manager, Liferay Middle East and Africa said, "Zain is a forward-thinking organization, and this vision and philosophy also aids the progress of its customers using its enterprise solutions. In the last five years alone, we have witnessed massive transformative developments that have supported the enterprise growth of Zain's customers. We are extremely pleased to honor them and their efforts with this special award in contributing to industry growth, thereby leading the way for accelerated transformation through an agile and sustainable customer journey model in this dynamic business landscape. With Liferay's open-source, flexible and scalable solution on cloud and on prem, customers of Zain will continue to enjoy unified, seamless and delightful experiences." Zain continues to achieve its strategy towards fully transforming into an integrated digital service provider, through which it aims at empowering a more efficient business sector in the Kuwaiti



Daaj Al-Oud receives award from Moussalam Dalati.

market. This award reflects Zain's commitment in further pushing the digital transformation wheel in Kuwait by contributing to advance the local busi-

ness sector, as the company considers itself an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait on all levels.

## In reversal, Musk to continue funding Starlink in Ukraine

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk said Saturday that his company SpaceX will continue to pay for Starlink satellite internet in war-torn Ukraine, one day after the tech mogul suggested he could not keep funding the project. Starlink, a constellation of more than 3,000 small satellites in low Earth orbit, has been vital to Ukraine's communications as it battles Russia.

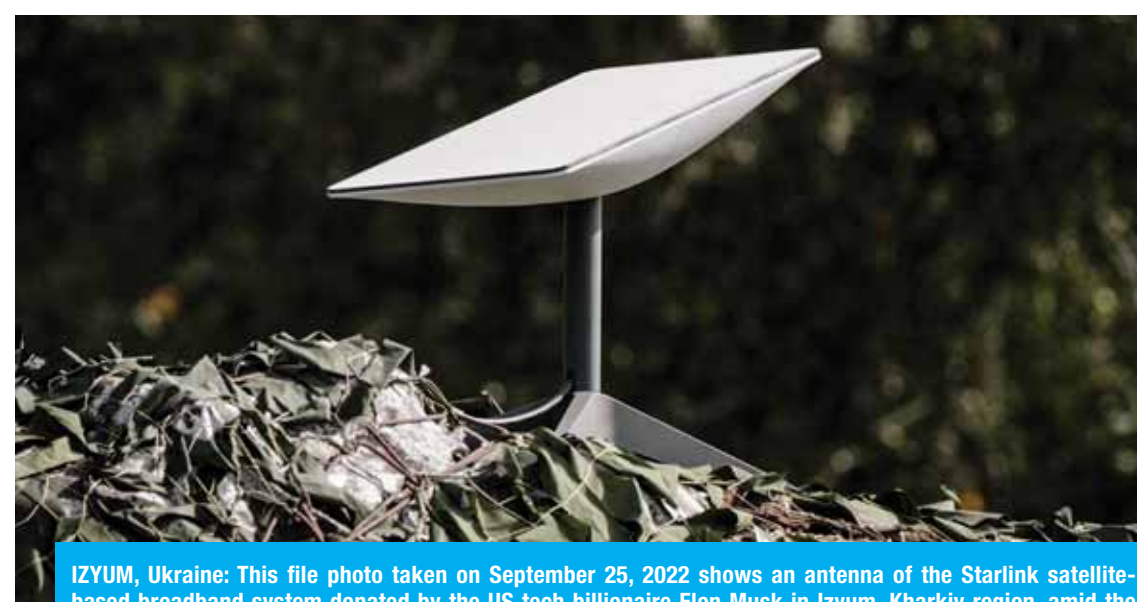
But Musk has found himself embroiled of late in public spats with Ukrainian leaders who were angered by his controversial proposals for de-escalating the conflict, which included acknowledging Russian sovereignty over Crimea. "The hell with it," Musk, the world's richest man, wrote on Twitter.

"Even though Starlink is still losing money & other companies are getting billions of taxpayer \$, we'll just keep funding Ukraine govt for free." In a series of tweets Friday, Musk had detailed the logistics of the operation and said it was costing SpaceX nearly \$20 million per month, and suggested the company could not fund it indefinitely. Meanwhile, the US military confirmed it was communicating with the billionaire's company about funding for the key network.

"SpaceX is not asking to recoup past expenses, but also cannot fund the existing system indefinitely and send several thousand more terminals that have data usage up to 100X greater than typical households," he said Friday. "This is unreasonable."

### Pentagon funding on cards?

SpaceX has donated some 25,000 ground terminals, according to an updated figure given by Musk last week. He says the operation has already cost SpaceX \$80 million, and that total is projected



IZYUM, Ukraine: This file photo taken on September 25, 2022 shows an antenna of the Starlink satellite-based broadband system donated by the US tech billionaire Elon Musk in Izyum, Kharkiv region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

to exceed \$100 million by the end of the year.

Musk also appeared to confirm a report by CNN saying he had written to the Pentagon warning that his financial contributions would come to an end, and that the military would need to foot the bill. According to CNN, SpaceX figures shared with the Pentagon show about 85 percent of the first 20,000 terminals in Ukraine were paid at least in part by countries such as the United States, Poland, or other entities, which also paid for about 30 percent of internet connectivity.

Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said Friday the Pentagon is in contact with Musk about the funding issue, saying it had "received correspondence from SpaceX about the funding of... their satellite communications product in Ukraine." Musk has recently been in a spat with Ukrainian officials including President Volodymyr Zelensky after suggesting a peace deal that involved re-run-

ning controversial referendums in Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine—an idea welcomed by Moscow.

A senior Ukrainian presidential aide, Mykhaylo Podolyak, acknowledged the importance of Starlink in a tweet on Friday. "Like it or not, @elonmusk helped us survive the most critical moments of war," Podolyak wrote, adding that Ukraine "will find a solution to keep #Starlink working."

Starlink, a constellation of more than 3,000 small satellites in low Earth orbit, has been vital to Ukraine's communications as it fights against Russia's invasion, with SpaceX donating some 25,000 ground terminals, according to an updated figure given by Musk last week. In a series of tweets, the world's richest man appeared to confirm a report by CNN saying he had written to the Pentagon warning that his financial contributions would come to an end, and that the military would need to foot the bill. —AFP

## BoE chief Bailey has 'meeting of minds' with new FM Hunt

LONDON: Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey said Saturday he had a "meeting of minds" with Britain's new finance minister on the need to restore fiscal stability after a controversial budget plan caused market upheaval. Speaking at a conference in Washington, Bailey warned against "flying blind" when setting fiscal policy but added that he and Britain's new chancellor of the exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, saw eye to eye when they spoke on Friday.

"It's not appropriate for me to constrain the choices he makes," Bailey said. But he added that he had a "clear message for everybody, including a clear message for markets."

"I can tell you there is a very clear and immediate meeting of minds on the importance of stability and sustainability," he said at the G30 international



LONDON: Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said he had a "meeting of minds" with Britain's new finance minister Jeremy Hunt.

banking seminar during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund. Prime Minister Liz Truss sacked Kwasi Kwarteng as finance minister on Friday and abandoned a key plank of their budget, pledging to raise corporation taxes after all.

Kwarteng had rushed back to London from the IMF meetings in Washington, where the crisis lender's chief had lectured him about the need for a "coherent" fiscal policy that does not undermine central bank efforts to contain inflation. Hunt, a former foreign minister, admitted on Saturday that "mistakes" had been made, saying Kwarteng and Truss had erred in trying to cut taxes for the high-earners.

Presenting their plan without independent forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility, he added, amounted to "flying blind." The Bank of England had to launch an emergency bond-buying program to calm the markets following Kwarteng's disastrous budget.

The Bank of England and other central banks have been raising interest rates aggressively in efforts to tame runaway inflation, which has soared as energy and food prices jumped following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bailey warned that the central bank may have to be even more aggressive.

"We will not hesitate to raise interest rates to meet the inflation target," he said. —AFP

## Ethiopia restricts banks from issuing foreign currency

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia has ordered banks to deny foreign currency to businesses importing non-priority goods, in an effort to shore up dwindling foreign reserves in one of Africa's major economies. The move effectively freezes the import of dozens of items such as alcohol and cars, as businesses must register with banks to obtain the foreign currency needed to bring goods into the country.

In a letter to Ethiopia's central bank, the Ministry of Finance said it had become necessary to restrict the use of foreign currency to importing food, medicine and medical equipment, and raw materials for manufacturing. "Therefore... we are sending a list of goods that will not be allowed forex for an indefinite period of time," said the letter posted Saturday on the Twitter account of Industry Minister Melaku Alebel Addis. The list of some 40 products includes vehicles and motorcycles to wall clocks, umbrellas, carpets and soaps, alcohol, perfumes and cigarettes. No recent public figures are available regarding Ethiopia's reserves of foreign currency.

In late March, the National Bank of Ethiopia

indicated reserves had fallen to \$1.6 billion at the end of 2021, covering less than 2 months worth of imports, according to local newspaper the Reporter. A largely importing country, Ethiopia is in structural shortage of foreign currency", the French Treasury said in a periodic bulletin this month.

Ethiopian authorities have also recently tightened laws on foreign currency holdings for individuals and businesses, and banned all foreign curren-

cy transactions in Ethiopia. There was also a crackdown this month on the black market exchange of foreign currency, where the US dollar can fetch almost twice the official exchange rate amid a surge in demand. The central bank also announced this month it had blocked nearly 400 bank accounts believed linked to illicit currency trading, and promised financial rewards to those who denounced players in the parallel market. —AFP



Remittance recipients line up at the Stadium branch of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) to withdraw money sent from relatives overseas.



Business

# Defiant protesters march in Paris as French refinery strikes continue

## Police gear up as public defiance and anger grow over fuel crisis

PARIS: Three weeks into a refinery strike that has caused fuel shortages across the country, thousands of protesters marched in Paris on Sunday, adding to a growing picture of defiance and anger about inflation. The demonstration on Sunday has been called by left-wing political parties, backed by hundreds of associations, which are seeking to build on the momentum created by the refinery standoff.

"You can see that this movement is starting to spread," the parliamentary head of the left-wing France Unbowed party, Mathilde Panot, told francinfo radio.

"You can see it in the nuclear sector. Truck drivers have announced a stoppage on Tuesday, and lots of other sectors are starting to join them," she added. Several French unions, but not all, have announced a national day of strikes on Tuesday that is expected to affect road transport, trains and the public sector.

French energy giant TotalEnergies said last Friday that it had reached a pay deal with the two largest unions representing staff at its four refineries, raising hopes of an end to the standoff. But the famously militant CGT union has refused to accept it, with its members continuing to maintain picket lines.

### 'Unacceptable'

Budget Minister Gabriel Attal denounced the continuation of the strike on Sunday as "unacceptable". "Of course there's a right to strike, but at some point the country needs to be able to work,"



DONGES, France: Trade unionists and striking employees gather outside the TotalEnergies refinery site, in Donges, western France. —AFP

he told French media. Staff at two other refineries owned by the US group Esso-ExxonMobil returned to work at the end of last week, but operations there will need two-to-three weeks to return to normal, the company said. Around a third of petrol stations around the country have supply problems, particularly those around Paris and in the north, meaning drivers are often waiting hours to re-fuel.

Many companies have cut back on travel and deliveries, while even emergency service vehicles are facing supply problems. Last week, the govern-

ment invoked emergency powers to compel some striking fuel depot workers to return to their jobs in order to release fuel stocks stuck inside blockaded facilities. This incensed the CGT, which said the move was evidence of the "dictatorship" of French President Emmanuel Macron. The huge profits by energy groups due to record fuel prices has led to some sympathy for employees pushing for higher wages. But one poll by the BVA polling group released Friday, suggested that only 37 percent of people supported the stoppages. —AFP

## Climate activists spray paint over Aston Martin store

LONDON: Climate activists on Sunday sprayed orange paint over an Aston Martin showroom in central London, as the government vowed new powers for police to halt an intensifying wave of "direct action" protests. Members of the group Just Stop Oil also staged a sit-in protest on Park Lane where the sports carmaker's store is located in an exclusive area of the British capital.

The action came after two Just Stop Oil activists hurled tomato soup over one of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" paintings at London's National Gallery on Friday. Another spray-painting protest by the same group on Friday targeted the headquarters of London's Metropolitan Police, who arrested 28 demonstrators. Then on Saturday, Animal Rebellion protesters poured milk onto shop floors and displays at high-end retailers across Britain including Harrods in London, demanding the world end cattle farming.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said she was introducing stronger legislation this week to counter citizen protests by groups such as Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion. Under the plan, the government would be able to apply for legal injunctions to outlaw such protests ahead of time, and make it easier for police to protect "essential" goods, services and infrastructure.

"I will not bend to protestors attempting to hold the British public to ransom," the hard-line Braverman said in a statement. "This serious and dangerous disruption, let alone the vandalism, is not a freedom of expression, nor a human right. It must stop." But outside the Aston Martin showroom, 19-year-old pregnant mother Chloe Thomas said she was fighting to protect the next generations of humanity. —AFP

## African govts ask creditors to speed up debt relief

JOHANNESBURG: African governments on Saturday urged creditors to speed up debt relief, saying delays were limiting growth on a continent facing an array of challenges, from high inflation to food insecurity. Speaking at an online International Monetary Fund (IMF) press conference, Zambian Finance Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane said debt relief was a "vital aspect" of bringing the world

economy "back to normal".

"Our ability to participate in the global economy is constrained," Musokotwane said. "All we can do is to urge our partners, the creditors, to see this as a matter of urgency. That's what we're pleading for. Speed, speed, speed is what we need." In 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic battered Africa, Zambia became the first country on the continent to default on its foreign debt, estimated at \$17.3 billion.

The G20 has agreed on a "common framework" for debt restructuring for the poorest countries but implementation has been slow. On Friday, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen accused China—the main creditor to many African nations—of "not participating constructively" and obstructing efforts to provide debt relief.

Zimbabwean Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube told the IMF panel that Yellen's calls for a greater Chinese involvement were "appropriate". "We are going into a very tough time globally," he said.

"We don't want indebtedness to hold back the growth of African countries, just because creditors are too slow to do the right thing." Earlier this week the IMF said sub-Saharan Africa faced its "most challenging environment in years", with the region's pandemic recovery disrupted by surging inflation, rising interest rates and a global slowdown.

It called for better implementation of the "common framework", cautioning that debt levels had grown but rising global interest rates meant access to funding was likely to "become much less forgiving". —AFP



شركة الصفاء للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 13 OCTOBER 2022

(965) 22 675 140  
Al-Safat Tower, Hawalli, Beirut St.  
alsafatinvest.com  
research@alsafatinvest.com  
alsafatinvestment  
al-safat-investment-company

Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	36,153	7,827.21	-2.7%	-1.5%	2.5%	300,537,843	182,452,440	29,310	26.6	2.5	79.3%
Main Market	9,413	5,222.22	-2.9%	-2.2%	-11.3%	231,593,324	24,135,734	11,859	15.7	1.3	20.7%
All Share	45,566	6,987.23	-2.7%	-1.7%	-0.8%	532,131,167	206,588,174	41,169	24.4	2.2	100%

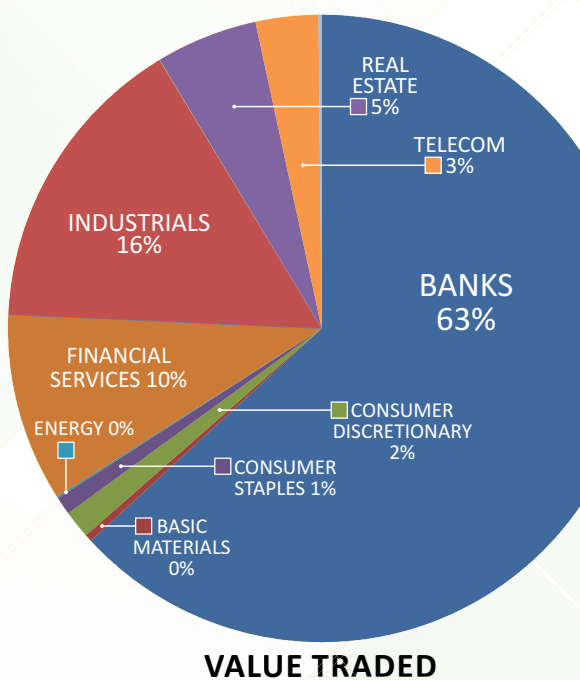
Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	28,806	1,714.01	-3.0%	-1.7%	5.6%	189,328,163	130,493,583	17,429	24.8	2.4	63.22%
BASIC MATERIALS	757	849.36	-4.4%	-5.8%	-17.1%	1,889,837	773,880	535	9.0	1.3	1.66%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	941	1,404.82	0.0%	1.4%	5.1%	29,919,431	2,959,030	2,298	32.6	11.2	2.06%
CONSUMER STAPLES	139	455.68	-4.6%	-2.5%	-37.7%	5,193,016	1,900,335	193	30.4	1.0	0.30%
ENERGY	213	1,022.07	-1.9%	-4.3%	-28.4%	7,511,218	183,230	287	13.0	1.1	0.47%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,016	1,216.51	-2.1%	-3.0%	-14.5%	158,247,134	20,084,866	7,911	33.4	1.9	8.81%
HEALTH CARE	228	459.73	0.0%	0.0%	-42.3%	0	0	0	12.5	3.4	0.50%
INDUSTRIALS	3,575	1,010.08	-1.4%	-0.6%	-11.5%	53,333,343	32,305,607	6,402	32.3	1.4	7.85%
INSURANCE	651	1,574.36	0.8%	4.9%	2.7%	147,585	37,480	34	9.1	1.0	1.43%
REAL ESTATE	2,519	1,176.94	-3.0%	-2.1%	-11.3%	73,287,591	10,838,698	3,529	23.4	1.3	5.53%
TECHNOLOGY	8	567.45	-1.3%	-3.7%	-17.0%	70,782	5,536	32	0.0	0.7	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,504	1,142.65	-3.3%	-1.8%	4.9%	11,415,757	6,666,017	2,274	13.4	2.0	7.69%
UTILITIES	209	500.00	-1.6%	-2.6%	-16.7%	1,787,310	339,911	245	14.5	2.1	0.46%

Top Gainers					
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
OSOUL	77	11.59%	243,132	16,735,767	20
AQAR	59.2	9.43%	2	0.111	2
HAYATCOMM	64	9.22%	60,715	3,549,642	32
MASAKEN	30.8	8.07%	141	4,342	2
KINS	480	7.62%	58,144	26,658,824	9

Top Losers					
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MASSALEH	32.9	-19.76%	634,161	20,644	41
EDU	2,462	-17.93%	38,380	98,411	82
OOREDOO	830	-14.70%	159,570	135,583	142
ALSAFAT	95.8	-12.11%	18,940,618	1,937,354	873
ERESCO	56.6	-10.87%	4,069,800	243,999	236

Top Volume					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	772	-6.31%	130,090,230	102,420,488	11,954
AGLTY	669	-1.18%	37,253,978	25,093,556	4,013
NCCI	106	-4.50%	30,931,840	3,322,345	592
GFH	73.5	-6.25%	25,751,011	1,931,702	1,347
GBK	320	-0.31%	22,155,278	7,003,721	863

Top Value					
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	772	-6.31%	130,090,230	102,420,488	11,954
AGLTY	669	-1.18%	37,253,978	25,093,556	4,013
NBK	1,020	-0.58%	13,406,112	13,681,115	2,049
GBK	320	-0.31%	22,155,278	7,003,721	863
ZAIN	580	-1.69%	10,723,462	6,263,446	1,831



**Market Summary:**

- Premier Market's weekly volume and value dropped 48% and 50%, while Main Market dropped 48% and 42%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices are still declining despite efforts to rebound.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 6987, with support levels at 6981, 6959, and 6918, and resistance at 7071. The Premier index closed at 7827, with support levels at 7784, 7701, and 7532, while resistance at 7926. The Main index closed at 5222, with support levels at 5902, and 5148, and resistance at 5308.



## Business

# IMF and crisis-hit Tunisia reach agreement on \$1.9 billion loan

## North African country faces grave economic challenges amid food shortages

**TUNIS:** The International Monetary Fund and the Tunisian government have reached a tentative agreement to unblock a \$1.9 billion loan as the North African country faces grave economic and political challenges. Under the four-year accord, the Tunisian government-hit by growing public protests at home amid shortages of food and fuel has committed to undertake a "comprehensive economic reform program" as it gets access to the money, according to an IMF statement Saturday.

Those reforms would include steps to extend taxation to the informal economy, to provide greater public-sector transparency and to phase out "wasteful price subsidies" while expanding social safety nets. The agreement in principle, reached between IMF staff and Tunisian authorities meeting this week in Washington, still requires the approval of the Fund's board, which is scheduled to discuss the matter in December.

Earlier Saturday, thousands of people poured into the streets of Tunis to protest the policies of President Kais Saied, who seized power last year in what critics say was a coup, and whom many blame for the country's economic crisis.

Pressures both from the deteriorating global economic environment and from high commodity prices "are weighing heavily on the Tunisian economy, adding to underlying structural weaknesses amid challenging socioeconomic conditions," IMF staff members Chris Geiregat and Brett Rayner said in a statement.

They headed the IMF team that met this week with Tunisian officials in Washington.

The resulting agreement "will support the authorities' economic reform program to restore Tunisia's external and fiscal stability, enhance social protection and promote higher, greener, and inclusive growth," the statement said, while predicting a near-term slowdown in growth.

The release of funds should provide relief to the heavily indebted country, which is no longer able to borrow on international markets.

Tunisia's budget deficit, up sharply, is set to exceed 9 percent of GDP this year.

Year-on-year inflation meantime hit 9.1 percent in September, while food and fuel prices have soared even more—up 13 percent from the same 2021 period. —AFP



TUNIS: Tunisians line up for petrol at a fuel station in Tunis. — AFP

## Danone plans to withdraw from its business in Russia

**PARIS:** French agribusiness Danone said Friday it planned to transfer control of its essential dairy and plant-based business in Russia, retaining only its infant nutrition branch. One of the few multinationals to have remained in Russia since the Ukraine war, Danone said the move to "transfer the effective control" of the dairy business could result in a write off of up to one billion euros (\$980 million).

The arm represented five percent of Danone's net sales in 2022 so far. "Danone considers that this is the best option to ensure long-term local business continuity, for its employees, consumers and partners," the group said in a statement.

The transaction will be subject to the approval of authorities, the group added. Danone will however retain the activities of its "specialized nutrition" arm, which includes infant milk.

"Danone's priority remains to act responsibly and respectfully to its local employees, consumers, and partners throughout the process," the statement said Friday. In March, the French group said it would continue its business in Russia, where it employs 8,000 people, as many international companies suspended operations in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. But Danone spoke in July of the "extremely tense" operational conditions in Russia and Ukraine.

### Multinational exodus

A large number of major western companies have pulled out of Russia in an exodus since Moscow invaded its pro-Western neighbor on February 24. Starbucks and McDonald's were among American corporations to announce their exit. McDonald's—which had employed 62,000 workers in Russia—was bought by Russian businessman Alexander Govor and renamed "Vkusno i tochka" ("Delicious. Full Stop").

The Russian operations of Starbucks were also bought and reopened with a new name and logo. Denmark's Lego, the world's largest toymaker, said in July that it would "indefinitely cease commercial operations" in Russia, ending its partnership with the retail group that operated 81 stores on the brand's behalf.

French automaker Renault left the country in May, handing over its assets in the country to the Russian government. Other firms to wind down their Russian business include clothing brands Nike, Adidas and H&M, Swedish furniture giant Ikea, and US tech giant Cisco. —AFP

## Hunt: Softly-spoken survivor takes on hardest role

**LONDON:** Newly appointed UK finance minister Jeremy Hunt is a mild-mannered political survivor who will require all of his considerable experience to calm an economy and government beset by chaos. Hunt, 55, was health minister under David Cameron, and foreign minister under Theresa May, but found himself on the sidelines after Boris Johnson defeated him to become party leader in 2019.

After another failed leadership attempt this year following Johnson's demise, Hunt suddenly finds himself thrust into the heart of the economic and political storm. Under-pressure Prime Minister Liz Truss called him "one of the most experienced and widely respected government ministers and parliamentarians".

## Ceremony Between DHAMAN



Thamer Arab and Mohammad Al-Muaili during the signing of the agreement.

## DHAMAN signs agreement with KRH

**KUWAIT:** Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) announced signing a collaboration agreement with Kuwait Resources House Company (KRH), a company established in Kuwait in 1991 and is a highly experienced provider of human resources, logistical services and facilities management. This step came in-line with DHAMAN's new strategic plan for operating its health network. KRH will ensure providing the medical staff with accommodations and transportation requirements

## Kwasi Kwarteng: Minister who failed to get off the mark

**LONDON:** Kwasi Kwarteng became the second shortest-serving British finance minister, paying the price for weeks of UK market tumult prompted by his controversial tax-slashing mini-budget. His sacking on Friday represents a humiliation for the Cambridge- and Harvard-educated former Chancellor of the Exchequer—who just the previous day had insisted he was "not going anywhere".

Only Iain Macleod, who died just a month after being appointed in June 1970, has had a shorter stint in the role. Kwarteng's position became untenable just two weeks after he started on September 6, following his announcement on September 23 of sweeping tax

"He will drive our mission to go for growth, including taking forward the supply-side reforms that our country needs," she said on Friday. Hunt hails from the centre of the Conservative Party, and his appointment indicates Truss wants to appease those MPs already plotting to remove her after her tax-cutting budget sparked market chaos. He saw unbroken cabinet service from the Tory election victory in 2010 to his leadership defeat in 2019.

In government, he oversaw the London 2012 Olympics, was Britain's longest-serving health secretary and proved a steady pair of hands as the UK's top diplomat. A supporter of remaining in the EU, Hunt was relegated to the backbenches when pro-Brexit Johnson took charge, although he was chair of the influential Health and Social Care Select Committee, which sought to hold the government to account during the pandemic.

However, he was also criticized for his pandemic planning while health chief. As the culture, media and sport minister, he was under intense pressure to resign in 2012 over his contacts with Rupert Murdoch during a phone-hacking scandal involving the mogul's media

as well as the needed manpower for hospitals from outside Kuwait, in addition to completing all relevant government procedures.

On this occasion, DHAMAN CEO, Thamer Arab said, "This important step comes within our preparations to operate DHAMAN network through collaborating with a company that has extensive experience in providing medical staff and housing for DHAMAN hospitals' nursing staff in the governorates of Jahra, Ahmadi, and primary healthcare centers distributed in the governorates of Kuwait, in addition to securing transportation for them as well".

He included, "This agreement is one of the many agreements signed, in addition to other agreements that will be signed with a number of major companies to provide the needed to operate the health network at DHAMAN hospitals, which in turn will relieve the pressure on the Ministry of Health by

providing primary and secondary healthcare services to expats' beneficiaries working in the private sector (Article 18) and their families".

Mohammad Al-Muaili, KRH's CEO, stated "We are delighted to sign this agreement with DHAMAN, which will provide its services to expats in Kuwait through an integrated network of primary healthcare centers and hospitals". The signing ceremony was attended by several company officials.

Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) has completed two hospitals in Ahmadi and Jahra governorates with a capacity of 660 beds, in addition to four primary healthcare centers distributed in different governorates, which are currently operating as private centers that receive all healthcare seekers in preparation for the launching of DHAMAN network and the reception of the segment that will benefit from its services.

cuts without any costs. The package spooked currency and bond markets, which were concerned about his mammoth spending commitments, and the Bank of England was forced to make several emergency interventions to stabilize markets in the aftermath. Liz Truss, who only became prime minister last month following the resignation of scandal-hit Boris Johnson, has since reversed on key parts of the plan, announcing the latest drastic U-turn on Friday. Truss was voted in by members of her Conservative party on a promise to cut taxes, plans that her rival Rishi Sunak—who was finance minister under Johnson—said were a recipe for disaster in the face of spiraling inflation.

Kwarteng's devout belief in liberal economics made him the obvious choice to carry out Truss's plans, despite the warnings. The pair were also at the forefront of urgent moves to help millions of Britons suffering under the strain of rocketing energy prices that have pushed UK inflation to a 40-year high. Those spending plans, allied with the tax cuts, sent sterling plunging to its lowest-ever value against the dollar last month, as critics decried the government's "Kamikwasi" econom-

empire. However, Hunt toughed it out and the judge-led inquiry into press ethics exonerated him of bias towards Murdoch's News Corporation in its bid to take over broadcaster BSkyB.

### Surrey, Oxford and Japan

Hunt was promoted to health secretary, one of the hardest jobs in cabinet at the time, as the government implemented long-lasting austerity measures in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of National Health Service workers went on strike in 2014 for the first time in 32 years following Hunt's rejection of an across-the-board pay rise.

But he remained in the role as May took charge following the 2016 vote to leave the EU, only leaving when Johnson quit the Foreign Office in July 2018 over May's Brexit policy. As foreign secretary, Hunt set up the Yemen peace talks. Born on November 1, 1966, Hunt is the eldest son of Admiral Nicholas Hunt, who was the fleet commander-in-chief from 1985 to 1987, one of the highest positions in the Royal Navy. Hunt grew up in Godalming, southwest of London, and now represents



LONDON: In this file photo, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng delivers his keynote address on the second day of the annual Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, central England. —AFP

ics. Tony Travers, a professor at the London School of Economics, said Kwarteng was "having the blame pinned on him" but acknowledged that his position had been "compromised by the budget package". —AFP

the local South West Surrey constituency in parliament. He was educated at Charterhouse, a prestigious private school. Hunt went on to Oxford University, where he first became politically active as president of the Conservative Association, and was a contemporary of Johnson and Cameron. He graduated with a first in philosophy, politics and economics.

### Big Rice

After university, Hunt worked as a management consultant and later an English language teacher in Japan. He now speaks fluent Japanese. Hunt had a successful career as an entrepreneur.

He set up Hotcourses, which puts prospective students in touch with universities and colleges. Selling his stake made him a sterling multi-millionaire. He was elected to parliament in 2005. He served as the Conservatives' culture, media and sport spokesman in opposition then took over the brief as secretary of state when his party took office in 2010. He is married to Lucia, who is from China. They have a son and two daughters. —AFP



Lifestyle | Fashion

The FDCI X Lakme Fashion Week



Bollywood actress Aditi Rao Hydari (center with golden skirt) presents a creation by designer Gaurang during a fashion show at the FDCI x Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai. —AFP photos



Models present creations by designer Gaurang.



Bollywood actress Aditi Rao Hydari presents a creation by designer Gaurang.



Bollywood actress Bhagyashree presents a creation by designer Sanjukta Dutta during the FDCI X Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai.



Models present a creations by designer Sanjukta Dutta during the FDCI X Lakme Fashion Week.



## Lifestyle | Features

# HOUNDED AT HOME, CHINA'S VIDEO GAME FIRMS WELCOMED IN EUROPE

China is investing billions in Europe's video game industry, but analysts have warned that there could be trouble along the road unless regulators start to take stricter notice. Europe is embroiled in long-running disputes with Beijing over trade, environment, education, raw materials, intellectual property—but so far video games are not part of the fight. As Beijing tightens up on the video game industry at home, China's tech giants are looking to make investments overseas—prompting concerns ranging from data security to limits on creative freedom.

"Europe has this idea that we will be able to separate strategic industries from non-strategic industries," Antonia Hmaidid from the Mercator Institute think-tank told AFP. "Video games for most policy-makers will always go into the non-strategic pile." This has helped Tencent, the world's largest games company by revenue, to buy into studios across Europe—including the then world-record \$8.6 billion deal for Finnish firm Supercell in 2016.

Chinese rival NetEase made its biggest foray into foreign gaming studios in August, snaffling French firm Quantic Dream—just days before Tencent upped its stake in Ubisoft, another French studio. EU regulators only look at major investments with a pan-European dimension, and national regulators have shown no interest. When Tencent bought British studio Sumo for \$1.3 billion last year, the deal was scrutinized not by UK regulators but by their US counterparts.

## 'Cold' China

Chinese firms are increasingly seeking profits abroad, analysts say, because of stifling restrictions in their home market. Tencent recorded its first-ever quarterly loss in August on the back of a wide-rang-



ing crackdown on the tech sector. The Chinese government has identified video games as a potential threat not only to state power but also to the wellbeing of citizens.

Beijing introduced a nine-month ban on approval of new video games last year and now approves only a fraction of the number it once allowed on to the market. Game makers have had to scrub "politically harmful" content, and the state has tightly restricted the time youngsters can spend gaming. "Chinese companies in general are looking further afield given

the climate of the domestic market," said Louise Shorthouse of Ampere analysis.

Several reports have suggested that Tencent is preparing to ramp up its overseas investments and could even begin to take control of smaller firms. Tencent is essentially "sitting on a load of cash," said Kevin Shimota, a former marketing manager at the company and author of "The First Superapp". "The Chinese market is cold right now so in terms of Tencent's global strategy you'd expect it to be more aggressive," he said. But he stressed that the aim was

unlikely to be direct takeovers or deeper control of foreign companies, rather Tencent might look at ways of developing games for audiences outside of China.

## 'More erratic'

Tencent is ubiquitous in China, an empire of games, social media and payment services largely funnelled through its WeChat app, which boasts more than one billion monthly users. Its leader, Pony Ma, has worked hard to keep himself out of the limelight—and out of Beijing's firing line. And the company is determined to present a humble face to the world.

"Whether we are a minority investor or a majority shareholder, we do not exercise creative, editorial, management, or day-to-day control," Tencent told AFP in a statement. Tencent's business model has generally been to buy into foreign firms and publish their games for the Chinese market. As those foreign companies were unlikely to find any other way into China, they welcomed the investment and new revenue streams.

NetEase is following the same model. A blog from Quantic Dream announcing the takeover stressed that the French firm would maintain control over the "editorial line, the artistic direction of our projects and the management of the studio". NetEase did not respond to AFP's request for comment.

Analyst Hmaidid said the hands-off approach was fine when business was booming—but the effects of an economic downturn or political upheaval were impossible to predict. European regulators, she suggested, could benefit from a broader approach that questioned whether a single country—China or any other nation—should be allowed to dominate an entire industry. "Having a sector dependent on China just in general is bad at the moment," she said. —AFP



A Buckingham Palace handout image shows Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort posing with a collection of Paddington teddy bears in the Morning Room at the Clarence House, in London. —AFP

## UK royals donate Paddingtons to kid's charity

More than 1,000 Paddingtons and other teddy bears left by mourners following Queen Elizabeth II's death are being donated to a leading children's charity, Buckingham Palace said Saturday. Barnardo's will receive the professionally cleaned toys in the coming weeks after they were left outside royal residences in London and Windsor, along with a sea of flowers, after Elizabeth died on September 8.

The late monarch was patron to Barnardo's for three decades, the UK charity's chief executive Lynn Perry said. "We promise to look after these bears who will be well-loved and bring joy to the children we support," she said in a palace statement.

Paddington Bear became synonymous with Elizabeth at a "Platinum Party" in early June celebrating her record-breaking 70 years on the throne. The party and concert memorably kicked off with the queen interacting with a computer-generated Paddington, tapping the beat to



In this file photo a Paddington Bear teddy bear is pictured with floral tributes in Green Park, near Buckingham Palace, in London. —AFP

Queen's "We Will Rock You" on her teacup. London's Royal Parks service has said meanwhile that the many flowers left last month were to be composted down for re-use in planting projects. —AFP

## Izzy the Frenchie has become Izzy the entrepreneur

Izzy the Frenchie is soon to be Izzy the NFT. Known as "the Joan Rivers of the pet influencer community" and followed by a whopping 1 million (and growing) Instagram users, French bulldog Isabella, aka Izzy, is about to enter Web3 with an NFT drop. "Iconic Izzy's" will be a generative drop comprising of 10,000 unique NFT designs of Izzy, crafted by Doge Pound, the brains behind the "OG Doge" and "Doge Pound Puppies" NFT collections, amassing an \$85 million valuation in 2021.

Izzy's NFT project will showcase her life highlights—from memorable red carpet moments to wearing haute doggy couture and posing as Cruella de Vil from 101 Dalmatians. Dog fans can own a small piece of Izzy and earn rewards and redeemables. The redeemables are still being confirmed but they are likely to include features on Izzy's social media channel, dog spa treatment tickets, pet store gift cards, and donations to animal charities. But that's not all on Izzy's schedule! She's also launched a jewelry line with diamond dog collars, dog tags and bracelets. A pair of 14-karat gold



paw print earrings are going for \$425 and a 14-karat dog collar with diamonds is \$52,600. Celeb fans of Izzy the Frenchie include Whoopi Goldberg, Paris Hilton, Jake Shears, and, of course, Tika the iggy.

## To save California coasts, scientists turn to the humble oyster

There are no pearls growing on the oyster reefs in San Diego Bay, but scientists hope they will yield an even more valuable treasure: protection against coastal erosion wrought by rising sea levels. Thousands of the tiny mollusks have begun growing on the artificial reefs dropped in the bay as part of a plan to mitigate damage in California's far south. "We look at numerous different ways to help combat sea-level rise, and these reef balls are one of the tools in our toolbox to do that," Eileen Maher, director of environmental conservation at the Port of San Diego, told AFP. The port implanted 360 structures last December, along a peninsula wedged between the salt marshes of Southern California and the Coronado peninsula—home to the naval air base that inspired "Top Gun."

These hemispheres weigh 300 pounds (135 kilograms) and look like huge thimbles. They are made from a mixture of cement, sand and crushed oyster shells—a crucial ingredient that attracts living oysters to make their home there. After 10 months in the water, the reefs are covered with a greenish silt, which hides thousands of still-microscopic oysters, says Maher. Eventually, the dozen scientists working on this pilot project hope to see the formation of real oyster reefs, which they believe will have a genuine impact on their local environment.

### Miniature filters

The reefs are much more than a natural bulwark against tidal erosion: their bivalve occupants are all miniature filtration plants that are essential to the marine ecosystem. That's because to capture the nutrients an oyster needs to survive, each one filters around 50 gallons (190 liters) of water every day, said Maher. "They help remove that turbidity out of the water and help clean the water, which will provide additional benefits to eelgrass, the submerged aquatic vegetation," she said.

"The more eelgrass sits in the bay, the less chance there is of the shoreline eroding, because it helps—any plant will help prevent shorelines from eroding." And like the oysters, these long-filament seagrass beds will also provide a crucial food source for the 80 species of fish and 300 varieties of birds that make their home in the area.

### Flooding and erosion

By 2050, sea levels around California are expected to have risen 20 centime-



Reef balls, made from a mixture of cement, sand and crushed oyster shells, form the South Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline Project, are seen near the Chula Vista Wildlife Refuge in Chula Vista, California. —AFP photos

ters (eight inches), according to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) study released early this year. This would drastically increase the frequency of flooding on the West Coast, which will also occur more often due to storms and heavy rainfall events exacerbated by human-caused climate change. And rising seas will worsen the erosion that threatens California's coastline.

Around San Diego, this future is already apparent. To the south, the streets of Imperial Beach are regularly flooded during high tides. An hour's drive to the north, the rail line that carries the "Pacific Surfliner" has just been closed at San Clemente, where the rocks that support it are sinking because of erosion. In this context, "We have to make sure that we're resilient," said Jason Giffen, vice president of planning and environment for the Port of San Diego.

The \$1.3 million oyster reef project is being evaluated over five years. Similar schemes have been established in San Francisco and New York. The oyster barriers work only in areas of shallow water, Giffen said. Elsewhere, the port is exploring other solutions.

In the northern part of the bay, small hollow reinforcements have been attached to the piers. They not only offer stability but provide refuge to algae, fish and shellfish, helping to bolster biodiversity.



Reef balls are seen near the Chula Vista Wildlife Refuge in Chula Vista, California.



Reef balls are seen near the Chula Vista Wildlife Refuge in Chula Vista, California.

Currently, about 70 percent of the shoreline around San Diego Bay has some type of artificially constructed rock protection. "We can look at replacing in the long run that infrastructure with something that's more biologically and environmentally sensitive and actually would be a value-add in terms of environmental quality," said Giffen. —AFP



Piles of old bleached oyster shells are seen at the site of the South Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline Project.



Piles of old bleached oyster shells are seen at the site of the South Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline Project.





A winning jockey steers his horse towards spectators gathered to watch as Lesotho horsemen riding Basotho ponies as they compete in a traditional horse race in Semonkong, a remote town in the Maluti mountains. —AFP photos



Basotho ponies rear as spectators gather to watch horsemen competing.

# Lesotho's mountain jockeys race in the mist

Jockeys from the southern African kingdom of Lesotho Saturday gathered with their mounts in the mountain village of Semonkong to compete on one of the continent's highest racetracks. Horse racing is a major social occasion in the poor mountainous nation of about two million people nestled inside South Africa. "I can go fast, very fast," 17-year-old Tsaeng Masotsa said before heading to the starting line. At more than 2,200 meters (7,200 feet) above sea level, the high plateaus of Semonkong in central Lesotho play host to a nationally famous racetrack.

Races are held here throughout the dry season

from May to September with the most prestigious one marking King Letsi III's birthday in July. A few hundred people, mostly wrapped in bright traditional shepherd's blankets, gathered Saturday to watch dozens of riders square off under the pale sun. "The news spread like wildfire from village to village," said Jonathan Halse 52, who runs a lodge in the area and is among the race's sponsors.

Many things are still organized by word of mouth here. The horse came to Lesotho with European settlers in the 19th century and the local Basuto pony is the result of crossbreeding over time. They are mid-sized and known for their

endurance. Locals use them to herd sheep and goats or for everyday transport. Some villages are accessible only on horseback.

"It's an absolute necessity in everyday life. There are places where you can't go otherwise," said Motlatsi Manaka, a 45-year-old herder. Before the races, the animals are brushed, their manes braided or trimmed. They have undergone months, or sometimes years of training. Winning prizes can reach \$130 dollars—about the same amount as the average monthly salary. Gambling is rife with bundles of cash being passed among spectators seated on large stones.

## 'My horse will win'

Most horse owners are shepherds who make a living selling wool. The annual shearing season has just begun and shepherds receive about \$3 per kilogram of the fibre. Jockeys get just a little more to ride and most of them are under 20. The race is divided into several events, based on the age of the horses taking part. "My horse will be victorious, no adversary can resist him," some riders chant, before launching their horses at breakneck speed on the curved course. The dirt track, about one kilometer long, is enveloped in mist from the nearby Maletsunyane Falls, among the largest in Africa. Its finish line is marked by a pile of stones. —AFP



A Lesotho horseman sits on the ground as his Basotho pony grazes before competing in a traditional race in Semonkong.



A Lesotho horseman poses with his Basotho pony before competing in a traditional race.



Lesotho horsemen ride and lead their Basotho's across a bridge over the Maletsunyane river to compete in the traditional horse race.



A Basotho jumps while being paraded with others by Lesotho horsemen before the start of the traditional horse race.



A horseman is congratulated by supporters after winning a race during the traditional horse race.



Lesotho horsemen riding Basotho ponies, compete during a traditional horse race.

## Art under attack: Masterpieces targeted by vandals

Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" was the latest famous artwork Friday to be targeted by vandals, when environmental activists at London's National Gallery doused it in tomato soup to demand an end to fossil fuel production. Here are some other cases of artworks being attacked:

### Custard pie for Mona Lisa

Leonardo da Vinci's beloved Mona Lisa had a custard pie thrown in her face at the Louvre museum in Paris in May but the artwork's thick bullet-proof case ensured she came to no harm. Her 36-year-old attacker said he was taking aim at artists who are not focusing enough on "the planet". She has been behind glass since a Bolivian man threw a rock at her in December 1956, damaging her left elbow. In 2009, a woman threw an empty teacup at the painting, which slightly scratched the case.

### Banksy murals vandalized

Celebrated British street artist Banksy has had several of his iconic murals vandalized around the world. In August 2021, a piece featuring a rodent sipping a cocktail in a sun lounger, part of his "Great British Spraycation" series, was smeared in white paint shortly after he left it on a wall in Suffolk. A year earlier, a Valentine's Day work showing a young girl firing a slingshot of flowers was defaced after appearing on a building in western England.

### Ivan the Terrible ripped

In May 2018 a Russian builder attacked a work by 19th-century artist Ilya Repin of the 16th-century tsar known as Ivan the Terrible, ripping it in three places. The man used part of a security barrier at Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery to break the glass covering the painting. He said the painting,



A handout picture from the Just Stop Oil climate campaign group shows activists with their hands glued to the wall under Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" after throwing tomato soup on the painting at the National Gallery in central London. —AFP

which depicts Russia's first tsar killing his son, was "a lie". He was sent to a penal colony for two and a half years.

### Delacroix defaced

In February 2013, a woman defaced Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People", one of France's most

iconic paintings, with a black marker at a provincial satellite of the Louvre, in the northern French city of Lens. Her inscription, "AE911", was a reference to conspiracy theories swirling around the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. She was given an eight-month suspended prison sentence.

### Indelible ink on Rothko

In October 2012, a Polish artist scrawled his name and a slogan advertising his own artistic manifesto in indelible ink on US artist Mark Rothko's 1958 painting "Black On Maroon" in Britain's Tate Modern gallery. Conservation experts said it took nine months of microscopic analysis to find a chemical solvent that could dissolve the ink, which had in some areas soaked through to the back of the canvas. The man was given a two-year jail term for the attack.

### Red lipstick on Twombly canvas

In July 2007, a Cambodian artist was arrested after planting a lipstick-infused kiss on a panel of US artist Cy Twombly's triptych "Phaedrus", in a contemporary art museum in the southern French town of Avignon. She was fined over the kiss mark on the pure white canvas and ordered to pay for the restoration. She defended it as "an act of love".

### Monet bridge fisted

In October 2007, a group of drunken revelers break into the Musee d'Orsay museum in Paris during the night and attack a work by Impressionist master Claude Monet. One of them sticks a fist in "The Argenteuil bridge" leaving a hole nearly four inches long.

### Petrol on van der Helst

In June 2006, a known art vandal sprays Bartholomeus van der Helst's "Celebration of the Peace of Munster" in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam with lighter fluid and attempts to set fire to it but causes only minor damage. In 1990 the museum's best-known painting, Rembrandt's "Nightwatch" (1642), was sprayed with hydrochloric acid but only the varnish layer was damaged. —AFP



## Sports

# 'Historic day' as Namibia stun Sri Lanka in T20 WCup opener

## Frylinck smashes 44 runs as Namibia hammer Asia Cup champions

### News in brief

#### Lorient miss top spot

PARIS: Lorient spurned the chance to usurp Paris Saint-Germain at the top of Ligue 1 overnight as their six-match winning streak came to an end with a goalless draw against Reims on Saturday, while Lens moved into third place. Regis Le Bris' side struggled to find the form that had taken them to within a point of reigning champions PSG, even after Reims midfielder Dion Lopy was sent off less than a minute after half-time. Lorient had to settle with moving level on points with PSG, who welcome fourth-placed Marseille to the Parc des Princes on Sunday. "We were coming off an impressive run of wins," said Le Bris. "This game reiterates the quality of this league and our opponents." Lorient started slowly against Reims, but were given a boost when Lopy was dismissed for a second yellow card. It was the 10-man visitors who almost snatched victory though, with Folarin Balogun and Arber Zeneli both going close in the final 20 minutes.

#### Berkane reach play-offs

JOHANNESBURG: CAF Confederation Cup title-holders Renaissance Berkane of Morocco squeezed into the play-offs with a 2-0 win over Kwara United of Nigeria on Saturday. Berkane won the last-32 tie on away goals after losing the first leg 3-1 in Lagos last weekend. They and 15 other Confederation Cup winners will be drawn against CAF Champions League last-32 losers in a draw in Cairo on Tuesday. The two-leg ties are set for November 2 and 9 with the overall winners progressing to the group stage, which kicks off in February. Burkinabe Djibril Ouattara put Renaissance ahead on 16 minutes and Charki El Bahri doubled the lead nine minutes into the second half in the northeastern city of Berkane. Moroccan clubs have dominated the Confederation Cup with Berkane and Raja Casablanca successful twice and FAR Rabat, FUS Rabat and Maghreb Fes once each since its 2004 launch.

#### Rublev overpowers Thiem

GIJON: Andrey Rublev secured his place in the Cijon Open final with a comfortable 6-4, 6-4 victory over Dominic Thiem on Saturday. The Russian, top seed and ranked ninth in the world, will face Sebastian Korda in Sunday's final after he beat Arthur Rinderknech 7-6 (7/2), 6-3. Rublev, playing aggressively, broke to move 3-1 ahead in the first set and after the Austrian broke back for 5-4 expressed his anger but managed to follow suit to seal the first set. In the second set Thiem saved two match points but Rublev eventually sealed the victory with another break as he closes in on his fourth title of the year. "When I was winning 4-1 with a break point for 5-1 it looks like the match is going my way and then I am at 5-4 with him serving," said Rublev. "That's not easy to accept, but I was lucky I played a really good game and Dominic helped me out a little bit."

#### Four-star Burnley go top

LONDON: Jay Rodriguez struck twice as Burnley hammered 10-man Swansea 4-0 to move to the top of the Championship on Saturday. The Swans' run of four straight wins was brought to an end by goals from Vitinho, Rodriguez and Anass Zaroury, and their misery was compounded by a straight red card for top-scorer Joel Piroe for violent conduct with 15 minutes remaining. The result meant Vincent Kompany's Clarets, relegated from the Premier League last season, extended their unbeaten run to 12 games in all competitions. "The performance was good and filled with energy," said former Manchester City captain Kompany. "One of the things I put forward as much as the result is to give the fans something to be happy about." Sheffield United fell to second on goal difference after failing to beat nine-man Blackpool in a 3-3 draw at Bramall Lane. Oliver Norwood's goal deep into stoppage time rescued a point for the Blades before both sides also had a man sent-off after the full-time whistle.

#### Forrest hits Celtic century

GLASGOW: James Forrest took his tally for Celtic to 100 goals with a hat-trick as the Hoops thrashed Hibernian 6-1 to open up a five-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership on Saturday. Forrest's appearances have been limited under Ange Postecoglou, but seized upon a rare start as Celtic bounced back from their elimination from the Champions League after a 2-0 defeat by RB Leipzig in midweek. "I was really strong on the fact that, if we put on a performance like we did on Tuesday, the goals would come and the quality of our goals was great," said Postecoglou. "It's why I thought some of the Champions League comments were ridiculous. We set out to play a certain way and we've fallen short in areas where, for the most part, I think we can improve, but it's not through a failure of endeavour or will. "We will never change our approach and the players wanted to show that today." Forrest opened the floodgates after just nine minutes with a fine finish from Sead Haksabanovic's cross. — From AFP

GEELONG: Jan Frylinck smashed 44 runs and took two wickets as Namibia hammered Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka by 55 runs to cause a major upset in the opening match of the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday. The left-handed Frylinck and JJ Smit, who made an unbeaten 31, lifted Namibia to 163-7 with their 69-run seventh-wicket stand after being invited to bat first in Geelong. Sri Lanka were then bowled out for 108 in 19 overs with David Wiese, Frylinck, Bernard Scholtz and Ben Shikongo taking two wickets each in the team's first of three opening-round matches.

The African minnows are on course for a second straight Super 12 place after achieving the feat on their T20 World Cup debut last year in the United Arab Emirates. "Incredible journey, last year was a special experience for us. We've started a great win, but lot of work to do throughout this tournament still," skipper Gerhard Erasmus said after the stunning win. "It's been a historic day for us. The opening day has been quite special but we want to kick on from here and qualify for the Super 12 stage. We understand the bigger picture as well."

Namibia lost their openers inside three overs with returning fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera getting a wicket third ball when Michael van Lingen was caught at deep third-man. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton fell to a brilliant diving catch by wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis after a 12-ball 20. Stephan Baard and skipper Gerhard Erasmus attempted to rebuild with a stand of 41 but Sri Lanka's bowlers kept chipping away with wickets. Namibia slipped to 93-6 when spinner Maheesh Theekshana got big-hitter David Wiese caught behind for nought but Frylinck, who hit four fours in his 28-ball innings, and Smit had other ideas.

#### Fans silenced

The pair took the attack to the opposition with five fours and two sixes in the final five overs. Sri Lanka, who won the Asia Cup last month, lost Kusal

## Padres, Phillies, Astros advance in MLB playoffs

WASHINGTON: San Diego eliminated a 111-win Los Angeles Dodgers squad while Philadelphia ousted defending champion Atlanta and Houston swept Seattle on Saturday in the Major League Baseball playoffs. Jake Cronenworth's two-run single capped a five-run seventh inning for San Diego as the Padres rallied to beat the Dodgers 5-3 and win their best-of-five National League division series 3-1.

"Since I was a little kid we've been getting beat up by the Dodgers but when it comes down to it and the games matter, this team stepped up top to bottom," hometown Padres star Joe Musgrove said. "The guys we've got in there, the dogs we've got, when the moment is big these guys turn it on." The Dodgers went 14-5 during the season against San Diego. "Disappointment very high. It's crushing," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "We didn't expect to be in this position."

The Dodgers led the MLB in wins this season and won the NL West division by 22 games over the Padres, making it the second-biggest upset in MLB playoff history, eclipsed only when the 1906 Chicago White Sox trailed the Chicago Cubs by 23 games but beat them in the World Series. "These guys dominated us all year but we got hot at the right time," Musgrove said. "We wanted it for these fans. We wanted it for ourselves. It's a great feeling."

For the first time since 1998, the Padres advanced

## Rins wins Australian MotoGP; Quartararo crashes out

PHILLIP ISLAND: Spain's Alex Rins stormed to a pulsating win at the Australian MotoGP Sunday with world championship leader Fabio Quartararo crashing out to put a huge dent in his title hopes. The Suzuki rider started 10th on the grid and finished 0.186 seconds ahead of Spanish great Marc Marquez who claimed his 100th premier class podium.

Francesco Bagnaia narrowly came third in one of the closest top three finishes the sport has known to move top of the championship standings. Ducati's Bagnaia started the race just two points behind Quartararo and now heads to the penultimate grand prix of the season in Malaysia with a 14-point advantage and a chance to win the world title. It could have been a bigger gap, with the Italian leading into the final lap at the waterfront Phillip Island circuit before an audacious Rins and then Marquez passed him.

"I'm super happy to finish first," said an ecstatic Rins after his fourth career MotoGP win. "First because it is the last time on a Suzuki on the island and second for all the people who supported me during the bad moments." Suzuki's season fell off the rails after it made a shock announcement in May that it would be quitting MotoGP at the end of the season, just two years after winning the championship with Joan Mir.

"It wasn't easy for us as a team to know that next year the team is not continuing ... we had some not so good races, but we don't give up," said Rins. Quartararo on a Yamaha started fifth but made a massive mistake under braking at turn five on lap four and dropped to 22nd. He started setting fastest laps in a desperate bid to get back in the points, but



GEELONG: Sri Lanka's Bhanuka Rajapaksa dives to make his ground during the Australia 2022 Twenty20 World Cup cricket tournament match between Sri Lanka and Namibia at Kardinia Park in Geelong on October 16, 2022. — AFP

Mendis for six when his top-edge off Wiese ballooned up to land in the gloves of Zane Green. Shikongo silenced the Sri Lankan fans when he sent back Pathum Nissanka for nine and Danushka Gunathilaka for nought from consecutive balls. Bhanuka Rajapaksa played out the hat-trick ball, surviving a big lbw shout. "Once we lose three wickets in the powerplay, we are usually out of the game," said skipper Dasun Shanaka. "The plans should be simple, we need not do anything special. We've got a good team, it's about the process."

Frylinck, a left-arm seamer who was named man of the match, removed Dhananjaya de Silva as Sri Lanka slipped to 40-4. The left-handed Rajapaksa and Shanaka, who made 29, attempted to put the chase back on track with a partnership of 34 but Scholtz broke the stand with his left-arm spin. Scholtz got Rajapaksa out for 20 when he skied a shot and also sent back Wanindu Hasaranga. Frylinck ended captain Shanka's resistance and the lower order soon followed to spark joyous celebrations when Wiese claimed the final wicket. — AFP



SAN DIEGO: Steven Wilson #48 of the San Diego Padres pitches during the seventh inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers in game four of the National League Division Series on October 15, 2022. —AFP

to the best-of-seven NL Championship Series, where they will face the Philadelphia Phillies, who ripped Atlanta 8-3 to dispatch the Braves in four games. JT Realmuto hit an inside-the-park home run while Brandon Marsh smacked a three-run homer and Bryce Harper added a solo homer for the Phillies, who hadn't reached the playoffs since 2011 or the NLCS since 2010. "What an opportunity," Harper said. "You've got to beat the champs to be the champs. I get chills, man. We've got two more.

We've got (to win) eight more games."

The Braves failed in their bid to become the first MLB repeat champion since the New York Yankees from 1998-2000. In the American League, the Houston Astros won a marathon contest 1-0 at Seattle on Jeremy Pena's solo home run in the 18th inning to eliminate the Mariners in three games. Pena's blast after the most scoreless innings in MLB playoff history sent the Astros into their sixth consecutive AL Championship Series. —AFP

## Red Bulls out of MLS playoffs but Galaxy advance

MIAMI: The New York Red Bulls crashed out of the Major League Soccer playoffs in the first round as they fell to a 2-1 defeat at home to FC Cincinnati on Saturday. Los Angeles Galaxy advanced however with a 1-0 win over Nashville earning them a clash with cross-city rivals Los Angeles FC in the Western Conference semis. The Red Bulls, founder members of MLS have yet to win an MLS Cup title in their 26 years of trying and Cincinnati, in their first playoff campaign, will now face the Philadelphia Union, who finished top of the Eastern Conference, in the second round on Thursday.

Lewis Morgan fired the Red Bulls into the lead, three minutes after the break, with a superbly struck effort after picking up a clearance on the edge of the box and then drilling a diagonal drive past Cincinnati keeper Roman Celentano. But there was a bizarre twist as Scotsman Morgan appeared to injure himself in the goal celebrations and had to be substituted. Cincinnati responded positively though and Red Bulls keeper Carlos Coronel had to be alert to keep out a close range header from Brazilian striker Brenner.

The visitors thought they had equalized on the hour when Junior Moreno blasted a shot goalward and it flew into the net off the thigh of Geoff Cameron but the effort was ruled out after a VAR review found that the veteran defender had been in an offside position. But the Ohio side were soon on level terms when Andres Reyes brought down Alvaro Barreal inside the box and Luciano Acosta coolly converted the penalty to make it 1-1 in the 74th minute. —AFP

overdid it on lap 10 of the 27-lap race, losing control on a corner and sliding out.

#### 'We must be smart'

The Frenchman has now failed to score in the last three grands prix in a horror run that has seen his title hopes fade. "The championship changed for him (Bagnaia) and it can change for us in the last two races," insisted Quartararo. "I think we can make a great last two races."

Bagnaia, who was 91 points behind Quartararo after the 10th race of the season in Germany, said he planned to approach Malaysia the same way he does every race. "It will be very important but I will just try to do the same ... thinking session by session. We must be smart," he said. Australian Jack Miller started 40 points behind Quartararo, still with slender title hopes, and had moved up to fourth when his race also ended prematurely. Alex Marquez was at fault, smashing into him at turn four in an error that ended both of their races. —AFP



## Sports

# Haney pummels Kambosos to retain undisputed title

## American batters Australian with his thunderous right hand

MELBOURNE: American Devin Haney kept his unbeaten record intact Sunday by battering Australian George Kambosos with his thunderous right hand in a rematch to remain undisputed lightweight world champion. The highly-rated 23-year-old successfully defended his WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO belts at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena in a unanimous points decision with one judge scoring the bout 119-109 in his favor, and the other two both having it 118-110.

Haney now looks to fight next either two-time Olympic champion Vasiliy Lomachenko or Shakur Stevenson. "We're taking on all comers. No matter who it is, we want to fight the best fighters in the world. I believe I'm the best fighter in the world," Haney told reporters afterwards. The American is only the eighth boxer to hold all four belts from the major sanctioning bodies-WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO-at the same time.

He beat Kambosos unanimously in June to achieve the feat and become the first undisputed lightweight champion since Pernell Whitaker in 1990, and the first in the four-belt era which began in 2004. He again used his sensational speed, instinct and relentless left jab, but this time also deployed big right-hand blows that left the Australian a bloodied mess. "I knew he would be looking for the jab, so I wanted to show other tools in my arsenal," said the San Francisco-born fighter after pummeling Kambosos, who did well to still be

there after 12 rounds.

"My dad (trainer Bill Haney) wanted me to hook more, but I feel the right hand is what won me the fight. "He's a warrior. I take my hat off to George Kambosos," he added. Kambosos came out all guns blazing in front of a parochial crowd, switching his stance in a bid to upset Haney's timing. But after an even opening four rounds, Haney gradually gained control and picked Kambosos apart with impunity in the second half of the fight with the Australian having no answer to the American's relentless right hand.

### 'It's not the end'

Victory stretched Haney's phenomenal record to 29-0 with 15 KOs, while inflicting only the second defeat on Kambosos who is now 21-2. The Australian suggested before the fight he could retire if he lost and the chances of him getting another world title crack now appear slim. But he put an end to retirement talk after the fight. "He's a great fighter. He gave me a boxing lesson the first time but I came here and gave it my all. It is what it is," he said. "It's not the end, I'll be back," added Kambosos. "I feel that this was a much better fight than the first fight."

On a bumper undercard, two-time world title challenger Jason Moloney of Australia had a unanimous points win over Thailand's Nawaphon Kaikanha in the final eliminator for the WBC ban-



MELBOURNE: Devin Haney of the US (left) and George Kambosos of Australia box during their bout for undisputed lightweight world boxing champion in Melbourne on October 16, 2022. —AFP

tamweight title. A second world title fight saw Australia's women's IBF super-bantamweight champion Chermeka Johnson defend her title. Despite a

deep cut that left her covered in blood, she beat Australian former two-time world belt-holder Susie Ramadan, also by a unanimous decision. —AFP



## First 'Jazeera Premier Cup'

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways concluded its first Jazeera Premier Cup football tournament which saw 26 travel agencies from Kuwait compete over two days of matches at the Boulevard, Salmiya. Speaking of the tournament, Jazeera spokesperson said: "The

Jazeera Premier Cup aims to gather our partners, the travel agencies, in a friendly and family-oriented event that brought out the spirit of sports and encouraged a fun engagement away from our day-to-day business interactions." A total of 13 matches were held with National Aviation Services winning first place, and Alhind.com winning second place. Captain Zak entertained guests throughout the matches while food and beverage were offered by sponsors Costa Coffee, Burger King and Coca Cola.

## NZ, Canada join England in Rugby WCup last eight

AUCKLAND: New Zealand and Canada joined England in guaranteeing themselves berths in the women's Rugby World Cup quarter-finals with contrasting wins in Auckland on Sunday. Canada used forward power to suffocate Italy 22-12 before tournament hosts New Zealand unleashed a high-octane brand in a 56-12 demolition of Wales.

The two performances came a day after England used pressure rugby to beat stubborn fourth seeds France 13-7 as the three top-ranked nations rose to the top of their pools through two rounds of matches. The weekend ended on a thrilling note when Fiji scored a try in the final minute to upset South Africa 21-17 to secure their first win in tournament history.

Fly-half Libbie Janse van Rensburg put South Africa three points ahead with a penalty four minutes from the end but Fiji snatched victory with a try to No 8 Karalaina Naisewa, prompting colourful celebrations. While both of those teams can still secure a quarter-final berth in next week's last round of pool play, England, New Zealand and Canada have already booked tickets to the knockout phase with 100 percent records. New Zealand's Black Ferns turned on an attacking masterclass in their 10-try display.

Playing with a willingness to offload passes rather than kick, the Black Ferns had too much speed and skill for a Welsh side who had beaten Scotland 18-15 last week. There were two tries each for 18-year-old centre Sylvia Brunt and prolific wing Portia

Woodman, who lifted her extraordinary career tally to 36 tries in 22 Tests. New Zealand captain Ruahei Demant said her side had improved from last week's tournament-opening 41-7 defeat of Australia.

### 'Deadly players'

"I'm proud of the way the team bounced back from last week," said Demant, who was among the try-scorers and made eight offloads. "We weren't happy with the way we started the tournament and so to come up here and apply ourselves mentally, I'm pleased with the way we played to the spaces that we saw." Wales skipper Siwan Lilliecrap, who scored their second try in the dying stages, said New Zealand's style will have the top teams on high alert. "They pounced on our mistakes, they have deadly wingers that can create stuff from nothing," she said. "They have deadly players all around the park, with great attacking ability."

Woodman is the tournament's joint top try scorer with five, level with Canadian hooker Emily Tuttos, who scored twice in Canada's forward-based win over the fifth-ranked Italians. Down 5-0 after conceding a try to fullback Vittoria Ostuni Minuzzi in 31 seconds, the Canucks took control up front, launching a series of ferocious forward drives. Tuttos was the beneficiary, adding to the hat-trick she scored in last week's big win over Japan.

Canada captain Sophie de Goede believed her forwards would continue to be a weapon at the tournament. "They are just so technically sound and they're powerful and athletic," said the No.8. "We work really well as a unit and all those parts make the difference. "This win is massive. We came here wanting to win the World Cup and the first step is to get wins and bonus points." Canada's other tries went to centre Sara Kalijuvee and speedy winger Paige Farries, who has six tries in her last four Tests. —AFP

## Local Hunting and Equestrian Club horse jumping

KUWAIT: Rider Abdulrahman Al-Fuzaie won the local Hunting and Equestrian Club horse jumping that was held with the participation of riders of both genders representing local clubs. In the main round at 130 cm, Abdulrahman Al-Fuzaie took first position - recording 63:40 seconds, followed by Fawaz Al-Subaie, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Latifa Al-Hajiri and Shaker Al-Kazmi respectively.

The winners were awarded by Major General

Waleed Al-Shihab, Chairman of the Board of Police Sports Association, Assistant Secretary at the Equestrian club Khalil Assad and member of the Equestrian school Sheikha Muneera Al-Sabah. This is the second local championship during the current sports season (2022-2023). The first championship was held last week and the winner was Fawaz Al-Subaie.

Rider Fawaz Al-Rashed won first place of 120 cm height, followed by Nadia Al-Mutawaa, Fawaz Al-Subaie, Enaz Al-Enaz, Yaqoub Al-Nasallah and Abdullah Al-Awadhi respectively. Abdulaziz Al-Ajeel won first place of the 110 cm - defeating Aws Al-Tannak, Saad Al-Saeedi, Ali Al-Kharafi, Faisal Al-Khunaini, Maria Bushehri and Hamad Al-Otaibi. The 100 m event was won by Abdelaziz Al-Athaina followed by Ahmad Al-Baghi, Sujo Babi, Sama Al-Barjas and Yousuf Al-Rajhi.



## World Down Syndrome championships

KUWAIT: First Secretary at Kuwait Embassy in Portugal Mishal Al-Shihab received the delegation that will participate in the 10th World Down

Syndrome Swimming and Artistic championships. The conveyed greetings of the Ambassador Hamad Al-Hazeem and wished them success. He said Kuwait's participation in the event which includes 20 countries is an achievement that reflects what Kuwait disabled athletes enjoy in the terms of care. Chairwoman of Tomroh Sports Club Rihab Buresli thanked the ambassador and the embassy staff for the reception and easing the procedures. The delegation went to Albufeira city where they are getting ready for competition which kick off on Monday.



## Wilder outpunches Helenius, makes a triumphant return

NEW YORK: Former world heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder made a spectacular triumphant return after a year-long layoff, knocking out Finland's Robert Helenius in the first round on Saturday. Wilder stopped Helenius after two minutes and 57 seconds with a powerful right hand punch to the face, improving the American's record to 43-2 with one drawn and 42 KOs.

"It was a great night," Wilder said. Wilder, his back against the ropes, answered a combination with a short but solid right to the nose of Helenius, who fell to the canvas on his back as Wilder walked away, his night complete after three punches. "I had to take my time. I was making him reach," Wilder said. "I wanted to be mobile, agile and hostile. I set

him up, allowed him to reach and then when he reached, I attacked."

Doctors rushed to the 38-year-old prone Finnish fighter, who slowly rose to his knees. Helenius, a former Wilder sparring partner whose record fell to 31-4, eventually departed the ring under his own power. A week shy of his 37th birthday, Wilder climbed into the ring for the first time since an 11th-round knockout defeat to Britain's Tyson Fury last October. Wilder had lost his World Boxing Council crown and unbeaten status to Fury in 2020. "We wanted to make this fun again," Wilder said. "You can do this so long it can be a job, just something you are doing. We made it fun. It paid off big time."

Wilder's victory likely sets up a 2023 fight against compatriot Andy Ruiz, a former world champion, with that winner poised for a chance at the WBC title. But Wilder didn't rule out trying to fight Ukraine's unbeaten Oleksandr Usyk, who owns all the heavyweight division's other major titles. "Who's next? I'm down for whatever," Wilder said. "Andy Ruiz, Usyk or whatever. I'm back. The excitement is back in the heavyweight division." —AFP



## Unbeaten Madrid grab La Liga top spot, stun Barca in Clasico

### Griezmann and Reinildo lift Atletico over Athletic



MADRID: Real Madrid's French defender Aurelien Tchouameni falls during the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona on October 16, 2022. — AFP

**MADRID:** Reigning champions Real Madrid beat Barcelona 3-1 in the Clasico to overtake their fierce rivals at the top of La Liga on Sunday. Karim Benzema opened the scoring in the 12th minute by converting a rebound after Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved from Vinicius Junior, with Fede Valverde drilling home the second from the edge of the box before the break.

Ferran Torres pulled one back for Barcelona in the final stages after good work by Ansu Fati, but Rodrygo won and converted a late penalty to ensure Carlo Ancelotti's side inflicted Barcelona's first domestic defeat of the season. Madrid ended the Catalans' seven-game winning streak in the league and added to the still-raw pain of their struggles in Europe, where they are on the verge of Champions League elimination.

Barcelona, who spent heavily in the summer to try and catch up with their rivals, now trail them by three points. The Catalans had conceded just one league goal in eight games before the Clasico but shipped double that tally in the first half, leaving Madrid as the division's only unbeaten side. After a damaging draw with Inter Milan midweek that left Barcelona's European hopes hanging by a thread, Xavi made changes. Jules Kounde returned after injury to strengthen the defense, with veteran defender Gerard Pique, who made a costly error against the Italians, dropping out. Frenkie de Jong and Alejandro Balde also came into the side.

Xavi's counterpart Ancelotti had fewer decisions to make, with Valverde getting the nod over Rodrygo on the right of the attack, while Andriy

Lunin started in goal with Thibaut Courtois not ready to return after suffering sciatica. Last season Barcelona's best moment came at the Bernabeu, as Xavi's side earned a surprising 4-0 win, but this visit found them at their lowest ebb since the Spanish World Cup winner took charge.

#### Benzema on the money

Vinicius probed in the opening stages down the left flank against the unconvincing Sergi Roberto and that was where Madrid's opening goal came from after 12 minutes. The masterful Toni Kroos held off Sergio Busquets and threaded a neat pass down the wing, with Vinicius leaving Roberto for dead. Ter Stegen denied the Brazilian winger, but Benzema was on hand to slam home the rebound.

The French forward had gone five games without a goal, but ended his drought on the big stage, showing typically perfect timing as he is expected to win the Ballon d'Or in Paris on Monday. The visitors should have leveled when Raphinha fired a cross along the six-yard box which De Jong missed and then Lewandowski, at full stretch, sent high over the crossbar. The Polish striker, La Liga's top scorer on nine goals, could barely believe he had missed, although he might have been offside.

Vinicius was booked for complaining about a push from Roberto as Barcelona began to earn a foothold in the game, but another individual error quickly pulled it away from them. Eric Garcia's loose header found Vinicius in a dangerous area and Madrid toyed with Barcelona's defence, dragging them one way before Ferland Mendy passed the ball

back across for Valverde to drill home from the edge of the area. Madrid continued to push forward after the break and Benzema curled home a third, but it was ruled out for offside.

At the other end Lewandowski sent a free-kick into the wall and appealed for a penalty after Dani Carvajal collided with him in the box, but the referee was not interested. Substitute Fati angled a strike wide from outside the area but Madrid were largely comfortable, sitting back and keeping Barcelona at arm's length until Torres struck. Fati's brilliant run and cross for the Spanish winger gave Barcelona a lifeline, but Madrid sealed the win when Garcia trod on Rodrygo in the area and he beat Ter Stegen from the spot.

#### Atletico beat Athletic

Meanwhile, Antoine Griezmann's strike earned Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win at Athletic Bilbao to help Diego Simeone's side leapfrog their Basque opponents and move third in La Liga on Saturday. Atletico's goal lived a charmed life in the final stages, thanks to brilliant defending from Reinildo Mandava and some impressive saves from Ivo Grbic, who had to come on for the injured Jan Oblak.

Ernesto Valverde's Athletic, now fourth, were awarded a late penalty for handball against Reinildo, but it was cancelled after the officials spotted the ball had struck the defender on the face. Griezmann, who missed a penalty and various chances during two frustrating matches against Club Brugge in the Champions League, was delighted to net the winner. Athletic's Inaki Williams

missed a free header early on, while Alvaro Morata had a goal disallowed for a foul.

The home fans, encouraged by their team's strong start to the season, had San Mames rocking during half-time. Griezmann quickly spoiled the party atmosphere when he stroked home in the 47th minute following a cut-back from Alvaro Morata. The 31-year-old completed a century of La Liga goals for Atletico, only the sixth player to do so in the club's history. Atletico were dealt an apparent blow when Oblak went off injured, appearing to hurt his shoulder after a collision with Alex Berenguer earlier in the half.

However his replacement Grbic made two fine saves before referee Jorge Figueroa Vazquez pointed to the penalty spot. Reinildo was accused of a handball but the Mozambican blocked Oier Zarraga's drive with his face and it was scrapped. Six minutes into stoppage time Athletic were poised to level but Reinildo made another sublime block to deny Raul Garcia just a couple of yards out.

Earlier Nemanja Gudelj scored one of the goals of the season to earn Sevilla a 1-0 win at Mallorca, their first in seven games across all competitions. Gudelj, over 30 yards out, arrowed a powerful strike into the top left corner after 53 minutes to help Sevilla rise provisionally to 13th. Morocco's Bono made a brilliant save to deny Mallorca forward Abdon Prats in the sixth minute and crucially was quick off his line to keep out Angel Rodriguez in the final stages. New Sevilla coach Jorge Sampaoli, at the club for his second spell in charge, had drawn the two matches before this. — AFP

## Salah downs City as Arsenal extend lead

**LONDON:** Mohamed Salah produced a moment of magic as Liverpool condemned Manchester City to their first Premier League defeat of the season on Sunday, with leaders Arsenal taking full advantage. The Egyptian forward's stunning goal in the 76th minute sealed a 1-0 win after a crackling contest at Anfield and leaves champions City four points behind the Gunners, who won by the same scoreline at Leeds. Elsewhere, a Mason Mount double secured a 2-0 win for Chelsea at Aston Villa and Manchester United played out a 0-0 stalemate at home to Newcastle, while Southampton drew 1-1 with West Ham.

Liverpool and City could not be separated in the first half at Anfield but the game caught fire after the break. Jurgen Klopp's team had a glorious chance to take the lead early in the second half when Salah broke clear on goal but Ederson managed to get a faint touch to tip his shot wide. City thought they had snatched the lead moments later through Phil Foden but VAR spotted a foul by Erling Haaland on Fabinho in the build-up and the goal was disallowed.

Instead it was Liverpool who struck, with Salah

spinning past Joao Cancelo on the halfway line as the pair challenged for an Alisson clearance and racing away to fire beyond Ederson. The game became heated in the closing stages and referee Anthony Taylor sent Klopp to the stands for the German's angry reaction to a perceived injustice. But Liverpool repelled City's desperate attacks in the closing stages to secure just their third league win in nine games after poor start to the season.

Earlier, England midfielder Bukayo Saka slammed home emphatically 10 minutes before the interval at Elland Road as Mike Arteta's Arsenal won for the ninth time in 10 league games this season. Leeds substitute Patrick Bamford missed a penalty and his side had another spot-kick decision in stoppage time, initially awarded by referee Chris Kavanagh, overturned after a VAR intervention. Earlier, play was suspended seconds after kick-off when the match officials lost contact with the video assistant referee and goal-line technology due to a power cut. Kavanagh led the players off the pitch to a chorus of boos and play did not resume for about 40 minutes.

Chelsea's fourth consecutive league win came courtesy of Mount's two goals plus an inspired performance from goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga. Mount's first came after Villa defender Tyrone Mings - in the sixth minute - miscued a simple header straight to the England midfielder, who finished coolly past Emiliano Martinez. Despite their early gift, Chelsea struggled to find attacking fluency and were indebted to Arrizabalaga, whose best save came from a point-blank header from Danny Ings. Mount dou-



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (L) vies with Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (R) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on October 16, 2022. — AFP

bled the visitors' lead in the 65th minute, curling home a free-kick from 25 yards after he was brought down by Mings. Chelsea manager Graham Potter heaped praise on Mount and said Arrizabalaga, who is keeping Edouard Mendy out of the starting line-up,

had produced a "world-class performance". Cristiano Ronaldo was handed just his second start of the Premier League season against Newcastle but could not add to his tally of 700 club goals - a milestone he reached last week against Everton. — AFP