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## British PM Truss quits, Conservatives in chaos

Tories vow new leader next week • Labour demands general election



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss delivers a speech outside 10 Downing Street on Oct 20, 2022 to announce her resignation. — AFP

LONDON: British Prime Minister Liz Truss on Thursday announced her resignation just six crisis-filled weeks after taking office, becoming the shortest-lived premier in UK history. Her Conservative party detailed a rapid process to elect a new leader on Oct 28, setting a high bar of 100 nominations among its MPs for candidates - which might block any comeback by former premier Boris Johnson.

The race will be effectively limited to three candidates at the start, before the 357 Tory MPs vote on their preferred candidate on Monday. Party members will then get an online vote, in an accelerated timetable that avoids the drawn-out contest in which Truss defeated Rishi Sunak over the summer following Johnson's own resignation.

Truss admitted she "cannot deliver the mandate" on which she was elected by the

members, after her right-wing platform of tax cuts disintegrated and as many Conservative MPs revolted. Labour leader Keir Starmer, whose opposition party has surged in opinion polls on the back of Truss' short, eventful tenure, demanded a general election "now".

"This is not just a soap opera at the top of the Tory party," he said, warning of "huge damage" to the UK economy, although the pound surged against the dollar after Truss's dramatic announcement. Speaking outside 10 Downing Street, Truss said she would stay on as prime minister until a successor was chosen to serve as Tory leader.

"We've agreed that there will be a leadership election to be completed within the next week," she said, after senior backbench MP Graham Brady told her the game was up. "This will ensure that we remain on

a path to deliver our fiscal plan and maintain our country's economic stability and national security."

The new leader will be in place in time for new finance minister Jeremy Hunt to deliver a crucial budget statement on Oct 31. Hunt has already thrown out nearly all of debt-fueled Truss's tax promises, which Sunak had warned would bring about higher inflation and market turmoil. Sunak's warnings were vindicated, and the former finance minister quickly emerged as the bookmakers' favorite. But he remains held in deep suspicion by Johnson loyalists.

Johnson himself was eyeing a comeback, the Times and Telegraph newspapers reported, despite remaining deeply unpopular with many Tory MPs and the electorate for the many scandals that brought him down.

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### News in brief

#### KD 9 visa fee for Egyptians

KUWAIT: In a reciprocal move, Director of the Airport Passports Department Brig Gen Bader Al-Shaya issued a circular on Oct 20, 2022 stipulating that a fee of KD 9 will be collected when issuing any type of entry visas to Egyptian nationals, whether for tourism or visit.

#### Construction worker dies in fall

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Force announced the death of an Arab construction worker after falling from a building under construction in Mutlaa on Thursday. "Squads from Jahra and Mutlaa command centers were sent to recover the body and transfer it to the concerned departments," KFF said.

#### MoE denies ceiling collapse

KUWAIT: The education ministry announced on Thursday that a video showing a ceiling collapse at a school, which went viral on social media, is misleading, as it is an old video of an incident that happened outside Kuwait. "The incident did not happen in any school building in Kuwait," the ministry said.

#### Illegal substances seized

KUWAIT: The interior ministry announced the criminal security department seized around 2.5 kg of hashish, a kilo of synthetic marijuana, 250 gm of methamphetamine, an amount of Lyrica pills and two electronic scales. Two suspects who were arrested admitted after investigations they were planning to sell the drugs.

#### Licensing deal for cancer drug

GENEVA: Pharmaceutical giant Novartis has signed a licensing agreement increasing access to a vital leukemia treatment, a UN-backed public health organization said Thursday, marking the first-ever such agreement for a cancer drug. The deal will give selected manufacturers the opportunity to develop, manufacture and supply generic versions of nilotinib. — AFP

### Winter Wonderland Kuwait set for Dec 1 opening

KUWAIT: Winter Wonderland Kuwait is set to launch on December 1, 2022, the Touristic Enterprises Company announced. The event has 28 rides for visitors of all ages, in addition to various activities and a theater with a capacity for 1,200 people, it added. Shaab Park, which is currently not in use, was selected as the location for Winter Wonderland Kuwait because it has the infrastructure needed for such an event.

### Caution urged amid increase in cases of respiratory illnesses

KUWAIT: The health ministry highlighted the importance of following medical instructions on ways to prevent sicknesses during this season, which witnesses an increase in respiratory illnesses. "There has been an increase of patients with

### Strike after Palestinian man killed

RAMALLAH: Shops, offices and schools were closed across the occupied West Bank on Thursday as Palestinians went on strike to protest the Zionist entity's killing of a Palestinian man. Uday Tamimi, who had been on the run since a fatal shooting this month of military police-woman Noa Lazar at a checkpoint in Zionist-annexed east Jerusalem, was killed late Wednesday after he fired at Zionists on the edge of a settlement. With the West Bank largely shut

down, the Palestinian health ministry also confirmed that Mohammad Fadi Nuri, 16, died from a gunshot wound sustained during clashes with Zionist forces near Ramallah last month. Omar Abed Al-Latif Omar, a resident of the West Bank city of Tulkarem, told AFP the strike was intended as "a message" of solidarity with Tamimi. AFP journalists also saw shuttered shops in the West Bank cities of Bethlehem and Nablus, as well as Jerusalem's Old City. Violence in the Zionist-Palestinian conflict has surged in recent months, amid near daily West Bank raids by Zionist forces and an uptick in attacks on troops.

More than 100 Palestinian fighters and civilians have been killed since the start of the year, the heaviest toll

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About the selection of the site, TEC Chairman Mohammad Al-Saqaf said Shaab Park is ready to host Winter Wonderland Kuwait, after instructions were issued to speed up development and entertainment projects that benefit the people. Saqaf said Winter Wonderland Kuwait is the result of fruitful work by a team entrusted by Finance Minister Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid to do so.

The team, which includes Fadhel Al-Dousary and Noura Al-Qabandi, found the best means to build an entertainment facility and seek an international company specialized in entertainment to launch the first edition of this project, which was executed quickly in cooperation with TEC and concerned authorities. When the project is complete, it will set a precedent in executing entertainment projects, as the time it took to complete is less than four months.

respiratory illnesses with the start of this season at healthcare centers and emergency departments at hospitals," Health Ministry Spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said during a press conference on Thursday.

"Most cases do not need hospitalization, and patients do not face any increase in complications or danger, as cases are within expected yearly averages. The current spike in cases has not had a noticeable effect until now on medical services and statistics," he said, appreciating the efforts of medical staff.

Dr Sanad assured that it is important to follow



medical guidelines to prevent illnesses and reduce their spread as much as possible, by continuously washing the hands and face, covering the mouth and nose during sneezing and coughing, avoiding contact with others in case of symptoms or signs of illness and maintaining the cleanliness of surfaces. "It is important to also take season vaccinations such as the flu shot, which will protect against seasonal viruses, especially for those aged 5 and under or 65 and older," he added. Dr Sanad concluded by stressing the importance of taking COVID vaccines and seeking medical help if symptoms persist or worsen.



HEBRON: Zionist soldiers scuffle with a Palestinian during clashes in this flashpoint city in the occupied West Bank on Oct 20, 2022. — AFP

# Kuwait reiterates at UN keenness to promote, protect human rights

## State has worked nonstop to adopt many legislations, laws and measures

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait reiterated its keenness to promote and protect human rights through the inclusion in the constitution of many articles and texts that comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with the relevant international charters and agreements. This was in Kuwait's statement delivered Thursday by the Diplomatic Attache Rashed Al-Abhouh before the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Third Committee during the discussion of the item on promoting and protecting human rights.

Kuwait worked nonstop to adopt many legislations, laws and measures that reflect its respect for its international obligations in human rights, in addition to establishing national mechanisms that contribute to the implementation of those legislation and laws, Abhouh said. He referred to the establishment of the Permanent National Committee for preparing reports and follow-up recommendations on human rights in December 2019, in addition to holding consultative meetings with civil society

organizations concerned with human rights before submitting their reports to contractual committees.

Additionally, Kuwait continued its unremitting efforts in that field, establishing the National Bureau for Human Rights in compliance with the UNGA resolution 48/134 regarding national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, he stated. It is crucial for Kuwait to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by integrating these goals into the country's development plans in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, which includes supporting people's rights with special needs and ensuring basic public services to them, he explained.

Abhouh pointed to the strategy of the Public Authority for Persons with Disabilities, which includes four main areas, namely education, employment, healthcare, and recreational community activities, aiming to remove obstacles to the inclusion of people with disabilities in various sectors. Kuwaiti women established themselves as

an indispensable pillar in building society, as Kuwait seeks to eliminate any stereotypical concept that suggests discrimination against them, he pointed out.

After Kuwaiti women gained their political rights to vote and run for office in 2005, they established themselves as an active element in society that contributes to political decisionmaking through holding many leadership positions in successive governments, Abhouh added. Kuwait ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime under law no. 5 of 2006, he indicated.

In response to its international obligations, Kuwait issued law no. 91 of 2013 in the matter of combating trafficking and smuggling of migrants, Abhouh stated. In an effort to explain the file of missing people in armed conflicts, Kuwait submitted, during its membership in the Security Council during 2018-19, a draft resolution 2474 regard-



**NEW YORK:** Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attache Rashed Al-Abhouh addresses the UN session. — KUNA

ing those missing, he mentioned. Accordingly, there are still over 300 people missing for more than 30 years, their fate unknown, he pointed out. Kuwait's efforts

focus on respecting the rule of law, respecting the sovereignty of states, and working to achieve the goals and principles of the UN Charter, he concluded. — KUNA

## Kuwait calls for synergy to fight human trafficking

**VIENNA:** Kuwait's Attorney General Bader Al-Massad said Thursday his country has met its obligations under all international conventions, notably the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Since Kuwait joined the conventions under Act 5 (2006), the law has been a national legislation, he said in a speech during 11th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

As part of the conference, being held in Vienna online from October 17 to 21, a session was held on Thursday to discuss an item on international cooperation, with particular emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance. Massad highlighted the importance of this agenda item in the effort to prevent serious crimes and strengthen the central authorities. He briefed the conferees on Kuwaiti experience in the combating cybercrimes through joining regional accords in this field.

Kuwait adopted pieces of legislation to criminalize misuse of the information technology, including tampering with data, money laundering, promotion of narcotic trade and human trafficking, he pointed out. In this context, Kuwait adopted Act 63 (2015) against cybercrimes which criminalized on a national level unauthorized access to information systems, tamper-

ing with, changing or deleting personal data. "This legislation also criminalizes initiating websites associated with terrorist organizations or with the intent of committing criminal activity," he added.

Massad urged the international community to scale up cooperation in criminal affairs on the regional and international levels with a view to combating serious crimes such as misuse of information technology to instigate or finance criminal acts. Kuwait supports the committee working on an international convention against illegitimate uses of electronic means, he affirmed. The Kuwaiti government also attaches great importance to combat pollution, Massad said, adding that Act 42 (2014) on environment protection stipulates that any infringement on environment whether soil, air or sea would trigger a harsh punishment.

On Wednesday, Kuwait called for global collective action to combat the alarming spread of crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and to eliminate all forms and manifestations of this phenomenon. States also must have their national strategies to serve as a cornerstone for eliminating this global phenomenon, Massad said during his participation in a UN meeting to review the implementation of the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

He stressed that a national strategy would provide effective mechanisms to ensure optimal implementation of national laws and coordination between the competent authorities in the state in dealing with this problem. Massad pointed out that Kuwait approved a national strategy for combatting trafficking in per-



**VIENNA:** Kuwait's Attorney General Bader Al-Massad attends the UN meeting. — KUNA

sons and smuggling of migrants. This strategy tackled the different aspects of the problem, notably prevention, protection, building partnerships and internal, regional and international cooperation.

In 2013, Kuwait issued law no. 91 on fighting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The law criminalizes human trafficking and sets harsh penalties on traffickers and complicit persons, he noted. Massad added that Kuwait issued this year the domestic workers law which regulates this profession and guarantees the rights of workers. He concluded by saying that the constitution of Kuwait guarantees freedom of litigation at all levels and degrees without discrimination and ensures fairness and compensa-

tion for victims of human trafficking crimes.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 Nov 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The convention is further supplemented by three protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime: The protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air; and the protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. — KUNA

## ILO thanks Kuwait for supporting its programs

**GENEVA:** The International Labor Organization (ILO) Director General Gilbert Houngbo has thanked Kuwait for supporting the ILO efforts and activities, especially in Arab countries and most notably its employment program in the Palestinian territories. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain told KUNA that this expression of gratitude was made by Houngbo during a meeting with him on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Hain assured the ILO chief that HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, out of deep

belief in human rights, are eager to cooperate with the international community and back all efforts and activities aiming to preserve workers' rights. He asserted that Kuwait is keen to have distinguished relations with the United Nations and other international organizations.

Kuwait highly appreciates the UN organizations' pivotal role in many important dossiers such as health, migration, asylum, work, humanitarian issues, labor rights and international trade, Ambassador Hain said. Hain noted that Kuwait, driven by its principles, works side by side with peace-loving countries to find peaceful solutions to international crises and achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals.

The Kuwaiti envoy argued that supporting UN organizations now is more required than ever due to the huge challenges the world is facing: notably the climate change, repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine. These challenges have implications on all countries, which necessitates intense efforts from the United Nations organizations to overcome them, he added. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Culture, State Minister for Youth Affairs and Head of National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi holds a meeting on NCCAL's strategic plan. — KUNA

## Minister stresses youth role in NCCAL strategy

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture, State Minister for Youth Affairs and Head of National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi stated Thursday that Kuwait is packed with ambitious youngsters with energy vital to ensure success of NCCAL's strategic plan. When heading the strategy's team meeting, Mutairi stressed the necessity of empowering youth, providing them with necessary support, via enabling participation in cultural process and enriching their experiences with training and constant development.

During the meeting, attended by NCCAL's Acting Secretary-General Essa Al-Ansari, Mutairi underscored the importance of drawing a clear roadmap to be followed, so that proposed ideas are filtered accordingly. He further stressed the execution of these ideas, and working in an accelerated professional and transparent manner. On his part, Ansari explained in a press statement, that a visual show was put on by strategy team to display the project's latest developments, its journey and mechanism. It also handled the strategy's main axes and provided a defined visualization of its three-phase methodology of planning, discussion and international experiences.

Ansari added that the strategy's main objectives include supporting culture, arts and literature, stimulating intellectual production, safeguarding heritage, cementing connections with Arab and international cultural bodies, and creating a sustainable and stimulating cultural developmental environment. — KUNA



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## Local

# Experts warn Kuwait can no longer ignore effects of climate change

## Water scarcity and droughts in neighboring countries are exacerbating dust storms

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Kuwait Aid Network organized on Wednesday a panel discussion on climate change and the quality of life in Kuwait. "Countries around the world have committed to reducing their carbon emissions and limit their effect on climate change. In Kuwait, we can no longer ignore its effects. As a country, we have already experienced its effects on our coastal settlements," Municipal Councilmember Sharifa Al-Shalfan said.

"Another effect is that Kuwait is now experiencing heavy rains during a short period of time, which places a large strain on the infrastructure, especially our rainwater drainage systems. We need to think of using porous materials that absorb water to alleviate the stress on infrastructure. It is also important to reuse the excess water, especially with our hot and arid climate," she pointed out.

"Our urban plan must prioritize its effect on the environment in terms of where we allocate residential and commercial areas, and how we link them through transport. The trick is to minimize transport distance and introduce multiple modes of

transport alongside cars, such as an efficient public transport network, bike lanes and walkable streets," Shalfan said, stressing on the importance of prioritizing the quality of life of everyone living in Kuwait. "We hope to focus on green areas, better playgrounds for children and walkable streets."

Shalfan also aims to include green building concepts to limit the effect of the construction industry on climate change and at the same time to save natural resources. She indicated that sand and dust storms are strongly related to climate change. "We must work together to tackle dust storms engulfing Kuwait. These dust storms are over certain areas, and we have to study this phenomenon to avoid building in those areas," she added.

Samia Al-Duaij, Sustainable Living Co-Founder, said climate change is no longer a problem that will happen in the future. "Rather, it is a problem we are dealing with now and it is happening now. Its effects are repeated and worse than at any time in human history. Natural disasters are not a new phenomenon; it's just that their intensity, severity and frequency that are causing alarm," she said.

"Locally, we all witnessed the intense and insane dust storms this year. Days of almost zero visibility on our roads, followed by a countrywide sauna in July when temperatures hit 52 C accom-

panied by extreme humidity. Hospital admissions went up during the summer from a combination of heat stress and respiratory ailments. The temperatures in Kuwait have increased by 1.8 C in the last 50 years; it is significantly higher than the global average," Duaij pointed out.

She added that water scarcity and droughts in neighboring countries are exacerbating dust storms and causing untold misery to millions of people in the region, stressing the need for serious action to resolve climate change, which requires a change in the complete overall current system and way of life to change it for the sake of future generations. "The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable. It is an all-encompassing threat to health, agriculture, food security, water supply, transportation, energy and ecosystems. Non-Kuwaitis are at very high risk of death from increasingly hot temperatures. It is expected that the health disparity between citizens and non-citizens in Kuwait is set to widen as temperatures continue to rise because of climate change," she noted.

Duaij shared her positive view on how youth in Kuwait, activists, innovators, green entrepreneurs, large corporations, policymakers and local communities around the world are taking action. "More businesses and politicians are answering the call of

climate activists, and perhaps most inspiringly, the cause is now being spearheaded by an amazing and united generation of young people across the world. And the youth of Kuwait are no different. The recent proliferation of environmental NGOs, activists, specialists, businesses and events like this makes me optimistic for the future and should give all of us hope," she said.

Duaij expressed joy over Arab countries' participation in climate change conferences. "The selection of Egypt and the UAE to host the UN climate conference COP27 and COP28 in the next two years is expected to kickstart clean energy initiatives, sustainability drives, and better adaptation policies to ensure Arab countries have the resilience to face the expected impacts," she added.

During the conference, experts discussed climate change from the perspective of challenges to infrastructure systems and its impacts, challenges and policies. In the second panel, experts discussed water scarcity and sustainability, resources, industries, grassroots and planning. In the third session, they spoke about the quality of life in Kuwait, rights, health and urban development. The panel included topics about socioeconomic effects, health and well-being, justice and urbanism.

## Ambassador of Japan congratulates Kuwaiti leadership

By Morino Yasunari

**KUWAIT:** On behalf of the government and people of Japan, I present my heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-



Morino Yasunari

Ahmad Al-Sabah, the government and people of Kuwait on the commencement of the 17th legislative term of the National Assembly.

I'm looking forward to deepening the friendship between Japan and Kuwait, and enhancing our relationship to a higher level in all fields. Wishing

Kuwait peace and prosperity with the new government under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.



**KUWAIT:** Acting Manager of the Public Authority of Manpower Mubarak Al-Azmi holds a meeting with Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Hashemi Ajili.

## Information minister congratulates KJA chief on FAJ VP post

**KUWAIT/CAIRO:** Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and State Minister for Youth Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on Wednesday congratulated Kuwait Journalists Association Chairman Adnan Al-Rashed on his election as Vice President of the Federation of Arab Journalists. The minister regarded the move a result of the distinction and high reputation of Kuwaiti journalism in the Arab region.

Information Ministry spokesman Anwar Murad said Mutairi congratulated Rashed, saying this selection reflects the appreciation for Kuwaiti press and its freedom of expression, professional credibility and moral responsibility. The minister wished the Federation of Arab Journalists success in serving Arab journalists and supporting freedom of expression and objectivity. The selection came at FAJ talks held in Cairo under the auspices of Egyptian President Abdelattah Al-Sisi, amid the participation of unions, organizations and press associations representing 18 Arab countries.

The closing statement of the conference announced the following: In view of the heinous crime the Zionist enemy committed, proving the criminal identity of this enemy, through the assassination of journalist and Palestinian hero Shireen Abu Akleh, the general conference of Arab journalists decided to name this round after Martyr Shireen Abu Akleh, in recognition of Arab journalists and the major roles of this martyr, which she performed professionally and with courage.

This also condemns this crime and declares amazement at the lack of ability by the international community to open a transparent and independent investigation into this heinous crime and announce a punishment for it. The general conference of Arab journalists renews its support of the measure taken by Palestinian Journalists Syndicate by filing a complaint at the International Criminal Court and demanding its quick activation as soon as possible. It also supports the Arab League decision which designated an Arab day for journalism to immortalize the yearly anniversary of the assassination of Martyr Shireen Abu Akleh.

The conference confirms that at free Arab journalists stand with the Palestinian people, who are facing one of the most dangerous forms of colonialization in the entire history of humanity, while facing the most ugly tyranny, killing, torture, imprisonment, kidnapping and land confiscation with clear collusion by international powers and international community that has double standards in dealing with international issues and grave violation of human rights around the world.

The federation declares its solidarity with Palestinian colleagues led by their fighting syndicate (Palestinian Journalists Syndicate) and expresses its readiness to present all forms of support. It also announces its decision to commission a committee to prepare an integrated work program to materialize this support. The conference renews its absolute solidarity with Yemeni journalists who are targeted by killing,



Adnan Al-Rashed

kidnapping or imprisoned without trials, and calls for an immediate halt of such practices and free all jailed journalists.

The 14th General Conference of the Federation of Arab Journalists renews its affirmation that there is no talk about facing social, political and economic major challenges the Arab nation is going through without true journalistic freedom, guarantee of journalists' safety and safeguarding their dignity. It also calls to allow Arab media to carry out its role in full to convey news and information, analyses and expose corruption, and that there should be true paths for societal dialogue which reflects pluralism, differences and diversity.

Arab journalists are aware the Arab nation is under dangerous targeting by some international powers that use freedom of media as means of pressure and blackmail to impose the fulfillment of its economic and geostrategic interests, and for sure the sudden focus by some international media and some organizations on certain Arab countries under the current circumstances reveals malicious intentions that are not related to declared goals.

So as much as FAJ defends freedom of journalism, expression and publication in their countries and their continued readiness to face all form of encroaching on it, it also defends the national interests of Arab countries and peoples, and the independence of national decisions in Arab countries, and rejects all forms of pressure and blackmail. So, it confirms its total awareness of the new colonialization policy of some parties on behalf of imperialist powers that aim at dividing some Arab countries, as the case is in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and Somalia.

The 14th conference of FAJ affirms its rejection to all foreign interference in these countries, and its defense of the unity of Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia, and declares its total support for the self-rule initiative that Morocco proposed to guarantee a just and permanent solution for the artificial dispute in Western Sahara. It also announces its absolute support for the Egyptian and Sudanese people in their legitimate right to preserve their water security with regards to the dispute Ethiopia instigated, with a foreign plan that seeks to weaken these two countries. It also demands an end to all forms of occupation of Syrian lands.

On the other hand, the Federation of Arab Journalists admits the importance and danger of the deep changes the media and communications sector is under, which was accompanied by a rise in demand for media production that is characterized with triviality, which brings up major challenges that demand deep reforms.

The Federation of Arab Journalists distinguishes between freedom of expression and publication, which must be sacred and protected by law, and practices that instill public repulsion against this freedom itself, because encroachment on people's honor and society values will give legitimacy to make citizens become enemies of this freedom.

## PAM chief receives Tunisian ambassador

**KUWAIT:** Acting Manager of the Public Authority of Manpower Mubarak Al-Azmi received Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Hashemi Ajili and his team. Azmi praised the Kuwaiti-Tunisian relationship and the climate of brotherhood and shared trust, which the authority aims to strengthen, as he praised the Tunisian people's high work ethic.

The meeting involved searching for cooperative procedures to bring Tunisian workers to Kuwait. Azmi said the work market in the country brings in

workers as needed for the service of the country, adding the authority exerts great effort to develop the procedures to bringing in skilled workers to serve development and the Kuwaiti economy, which in turn will benefit the workers and their countries. "The main role of the authority is to provide legal protection and the transfer system to ensure a right work environment which gives all workers their rights," Azmi added.

Ambassador Ajili expressed his appreciation to Kuwait for the welcome reception of Tunisian workers and stressed the importance of improving cooperation between the two countries economically in a coordinated manner between PAM and the Tunisian Embassy to successfully bring in Tunisian workers.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Women and Children's Affairs Mai Al-Baghli visits the social care and shelter department.

## Social affairs minister visits departments

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Women and Children's Affairs Mai Al-Baghli has started inspection visits of various departments in the ministry, starting with the social care and shelter department. The minister assured she will review all the department's needs and make up for anything missing in the support of social responsibility and the rights of all involved in social and family care services.

She also promised to support all needs of shelter homes of all kinds. "The staff's role in care shelters is evident and must be supported more in order to upgrade the level of services," Baghli said. "We will aim to support the rights of women and children in this new phase, as we will announce a strategy that can help achieve all ambitions that will advance the country on a regional and global level," she added.

"The development of work starts with adherence to instructions of the political leadership, as well as the observations of the Cabinet regarding improving work and development of services needed by citizens in family, social and shelter aid," Baghli pointed



out. The minister mentioned that she issued instructions in a meeting with leaders of the ministry to work hand in hand to improve the quality of performance and apply a wide governmental system to upgrade advanced services for citizens to make things easier for them as part of Kuwait's 2035 vision.

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## A slice of Kuwait in Mumbai

By Shakir Reshamwala

MUMBAI: A leafy cemetery tucked behind a wall off a busy road in South Mumbai is the final resting place of many Kuwaitis who spent their entire lives in India. The names on the headstones of the gravesites, some decades old and others relatively recent, reveal a who's who of Kuwaiti merchants, diplomats and seafarers who called erstwhile Bombay their home.

The upkeep of the cemetery and a mosque attached to it off Charni Road in Mumbai is managed by a Kuwaiti family, whose members visit the city regularly from Kuwait to oversee the running of the place and pay their respects to the departed.

Kuwaitis have longstanding ties with India, even before both countries became independent from Britain. Kuwaitis visited India for trade in the pre-oil era, and the Indian rupee was in circulation in Kuwait and the Gulf till the sixties. Many Indian words also entered the Kuwaiti lexicon and dialect, and are spoken to this day. The lives of Kuwaiti families in Bombay of the '40s have been serialized in 'Mohammed Ali Road', a fictional Netflix series



MUMBAI: Views of a mosque and cemetery off Charni Road, the final resting place of many prominent Kuwaiti residents of Bombay. —Photos by Shakir Reshamwala

whose Season 2 is out now.

Even after the discovery of oil, when the tide turned, with Indians now heading to the prosperous Gulf country, some Kuwaiti families preferred to stay

in Bombay, even choosing to be buried there. The tranquil cemetery and quaint mosque are a testament to the deep bond the peoples of the two nations share.



## 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.

Strategic Partner  
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## Pandemic changes spending behavior of cafe customers

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: After the pandemic, many things have changed in our lifestyles and our way of seeing the world. One of the things that has changed after the COVID pandemic is people's spending at cafes and buying coffee every day, as many are allocating a budget every month on this habit despite it costing them a lot, even as others have cut back.

Ahmad Jassem said he visits coffeeshops three to four times a week, because he is looking for a change in his daily routine, due to the lack of entertainment activities in the country, adding his average spending on coffee is KD 60 to 70 per month. Regarding his daily habit of buying coffee, he noted: "For me, buying coffee every day and visiting cafes is a thing I cannot stop. We have all got used to caffeine in our lives to give us the power to finish daily tasks. After going to the gym and training, I need a daily dose of caffeine."

Jassem said his lifestyle changed after coffeeshops mushroomed all over the country and it became easier to grab a quick cup through a drive-thru while going to work or the gym, which has encouraged people to buy.

Heba Ahmad said she has been frequenting cafes for years, also spending between KD 60 to

KD 70 monthly on shisha and coffee. "As more cafes opened in the country, more people were attracted to visit them. But after the pandemic, my visits become fewer, as we got used to making the items we order in cafes at home. I was spending more than KD 90 at cafes before the pandemic," she said.

"Overspending on such things is a result of feeling bored most of the time. This is what encourages people's spending behavior usually. Also, for many people when the day is not busy, and the coffeeshop is on your way or has a drive-thru or they are offering a great deal, then the probability of spending is higher," Ahmad said. "From the point you leave your house till your destination, there are lots of cafes and coffeeshops, so they are increasing their sales by forcing us to buy subconsciously."

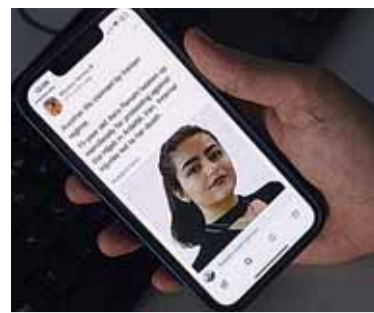
Jumana Al-Sabbah said due to her busy schedule, she doesn't go to cafes a lot, so her expenditure is not much. She pointed out that after the pandemic, the demand to visit cafes became less as most people have got used to making at home the items they usually ordered in cafes. Rawan Nael pointed out that visiting cafes and spending money there has changed after the pandemic. "The time people spent at home during the pandemic made them get used to staying at home rather than going outside and sitting in cafes," she said.

Regarding people who spend large amounts of money on coffee monthly, she said such behavior is overexaggerated. "People should have priorities in their lives and not spend on things that are not essential, especially since life has changed a lot after the pandemic, not only on the social level, but financially as well," Nael said.

## ASCC: Partial solar eclipse on Tuesday

KUWAIT: The Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center announced that a partial solar eclipse will be visible in Kuwaiti skies on October 25. "The space museum will follow up and document the solar eclipse, as special eyeglasses will be provided to people who would like to see the event as part of the weekly space events," museum supervisor at the center Khaled Al-Jumaan said. "The partial eclipse will occur at 13:30 pm, peaking at 14:35 pm and will end on 15:44 pm," he said. "The eclipse will be partial at 43 percent and more in northern regions, depending on visibility and time of occurrence," he added. — KUNA





Iran schoolgirl dies after beating by security forces

## Malaysia to hold snap national elections on November 19

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LONDON: A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss speaking during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons in London. —AFP

# Truss becomes Downing Street's briefest PM

## Truss forced to announce her own resignation, a week after firing her finance minister

LONDON: Liz Truss is set to become the shortest-serving prime minister in Britain's history, after the public, MPs and the markets comprehensively rejected the self-styled heir to Margaret Thatcher. Truss succeeded Boris Johnson by selling to the Conservative rank-and-file a plan to turbo-charge economic growth through tax cuts, via increased borrowing.

She accused her rival in this summer's Tory leadership race, Rishi Sunak, of "scaremongering" when he warned that such an approach at a time of rampant inflation would drive up interest rates for millions of Britons.

But that is exactly what happened. On Thursday, Truss was forced to announce her own resignation, a week after firing her finance minister and "ideological soulmate", Kwasi Kwarteng, in a desperate bid to shore up her position. The Tories expect to have a new leader in place by October 28, meaning Truss will comfortably underperform 19th-century leader George Canning, who died in office after serving for 118 days.

She is no stranger to screeching U-turns, having begun her political journey as the Liberal Democrat-supporting daughter of progressive parents. At that time, she also opposed the monarchy and Brexit. Her

youthful calls to abolish the royal family ran headlong into her new role when Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8, only two days after appointing Truss.

The new prime minister paid tribute to the late monarch, curtsied to King Charles III, and joined the queen's successor on a tour of his new UK realms. But her tribute from the steps of 10 Downing Street was widely seen as stilted, betraying the leaden oratory of Truss in comparison to the verbal theatrics of Johnson.

Yet after scandal-ridden Johnson, Truss's unvarnished style and promises of a right-wing agenda found favour with the Tory membership.

### 'Human hand grenade'

"She's always been outspoken. She's always been a disrupter," said Mark Littlewood, head of the Institute of Economic Affairs think-tank and a former member of Oxford University's Liberal Democrat club with Truss.

"You really need to understand Elizabeth Truss as a kind of free-market liberal," he told AFP when she took power. Truss's rise to become the UK's third female prime minister inevitably led to comparisons with the first: Thatcher.

During her year-long stint as foreign minister, Truss was pictured riding atop a tank and sporting a Russian fur hat in Moscow, just like the Tory icon. Johnson's former top aide Dominic Cummings likened her to a "human hand grenade", and some MPs accused her of excessive self-promotion.

Truss admitted to not being the " slickest presenter". She was mocked online for a bizarre speech she gave as environment minister in 2014, offering impassioned support for British cheese and pork.

### Liberal to Tory

Truss grew up first in Scotland and then in an affluent suburb of Leeds, northern England. Her mother was a nurse, teacher and campaigner for nuclear disarmament who took her on protests, and her father was a left-wing maths professor.

During the Tory leadership campaign, Truss criticised her Leeds school for fostering "low expectations". That prompted a backlash from teachers, contemporaries and locals who accused her of inventing an "insulting" back-story to curry favour with the Tory right.

Despite the school's supposed failings, she went on

to Oxford, where she graduated in philosophy, politics and economics. At Oxford, she was president of the university's Liberal Democrat branch. At the party's national conference in 1994, she gave a speech calling for the abolition of the monarchy.

"I was a bit of a teenage controversialist," Truss admitted during campaigning this summer. By her own admission, her switch to the Conservatives shocked her parents, but she says her beliefs had evolved.

After university, Truss worked in the energy sector, including for Shell, and telecommunications before entering politics a decade later. She was a local councillor in southeast London for four years and became an MP in 2010, part of a new generation of women and minority candidates encouraged by then party leader David Cameron.

He quashed protests from the local party in the agricultural South West Norfolk constituency, after it emerged that Truss had been having an extra-marital affair with a fellow Tory. Her critics were dubbed the "Turnip Taleban". Truss's marriage to an accountant survived the episode, and he stood close by as she made her resignation statement outside 10 Downing Street. They have two daughters. —AFP

## Trump testifies in case filed by rape accuser

NEW YORK: Former US president Donald Trump testified Wednesday in a defamation case pitting him against a prominent former American columnist who says he raped her in the 1990s. E. Jean Carroll, 78, alleges that Trump sexually assaulted her in a New York department store.

Last week, a New York federal court judge rejected a motion by Trump, who has denied the accusation, to further delay his deposition.

The New York law firm representing Carroll said in a statement: "We're pleased that on behalf of our client... we were able to take Donald Trump's deposition today." The firm, Kaplan Hecker & Fink, said it was "not able to comment further."

In ruling on the deposition last week, Judge Lewis Kaplan said that Carroll's and Trump's depositions should be held on October 14 and 19, respectively.

It is not known if Carroll testified last Friday. It also was not immediately clear if Trump submitted the sworn deposition from his Mar-a-Lago resi-

dence in Florida. Carroll on Tuesday shared a photo of her lawyer Roberta Kaplan on Twitter captioned "Carroll versus Trump," and wished Kaplan "GOOD LUCK FOR TOMORROW." She later deleted the tweet.

Kaplan, who is unrelated to the case's judge, is a co-founder of the Time's Up movement that provides legal aid to victims of sexual assault.

Carroll, a former columnist for Elle magazine, sued then-president Trump for defamation in a New York civil court in November 2019.

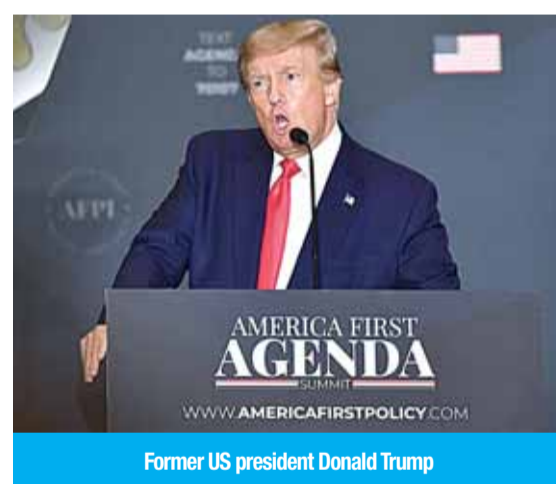
In an excerpt of her book published by New York Magazine that year, Carroll said she was raped by Trump in the changing room at the luxury Bergdorf Goodman department store on Fifth Avenue in New York in the mid-1990s.

Trump denied the accusation, saying Carroll was "not my type" and that she was "totally lying," which prompted the defamation suit.

The case has been delayed by procedural battles, including whether Trump should be represented by the US government, since he was president at the time he made the statements.

According to several media outlets on Tuesday, Trump's lawyers have always claimed their client was protected by his executive immunity, particularly for allegedly defamatory statements he made during his term.

Last week, Trump made new comments about



Former US president Donald Trump

the case on his right-wing Truth Social platform, mocking Carroll's rape allegations.

According to legal experts cited in a Vice News report, Carroll could argue that Trump defamed her again — this time as a private citizen.

Judge Kaplan said last week that Carroll could claim damages from Trump for the alleged rape starting from November 24, after a New York state law comes into effect that allows survivors of sexual assault to file a civil suit regardless of the statute of limitations. —AFP

## Spanish police arrest woman for snatching infant

MADRID, Spain: Spanish police on Thursday found a newborn baby who was snatched from a Bilbao hospital hours earlier and arrested the woman who took the infant while disguised as a nurse. The baby, who was taken from Basurto hospital in the northern port city of Bilbao on Wednesday evening, was found early on Thursday "in good health", police said.

The infant—whose gender and exact age was not revealed—was discovered on the doorstep of an apartment inside a block of flats in Bilbao. "She left the baby there," a police spokesman said of the presumed kidnapper, saying the 24-year-old woman had rung the bell of the apartment before fleeing the scene.

The woman was detained several hours later in another area of the city. Dressed in "a white doctor's coat", the woman entered the maternity wing of Basurto hospital at around 9:00 pm (1900 GMT), Basque regional security minister Josu Erkoreka told reporters. —AFP

## Wagner mercenaries buttress Russia's battered army

MOSCOW: As Russia's invasion force in Ukraine has been battered by Kiev's counter-offensive, one section of front around Bakhmut is bucking the trend thanks to the Wagner mercenary group, which experts say is now a vital cog in Moscow's military machine.

Deployed in recent years in Syria, Mali and the Central African Republic, "Wagner... is right now proving to be the most capable infantry that the Russian army has" in Ukraine, said Philip Wasielewski, a researcher at the US-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

"However, it's not a high bar because of the poor performance of the Russian army," he added. Kiev's forces have scored spectacular advances in the northeast around Kharkiv and in the south towards Kherson in recent weeks.

But Ukrainian troops in Bakhmut, an eastern city in Donetsk where Russia has been advancing, say they face Wagner troops across the front lines. The Kremlin has always denied any ties with private military groups, and Wagner has no

legal entity in Russia, where mercenary companies are illegal.

That fiction was partly dispelled in late September, when Yevgeny Prigozhin—a businessman close to President Vladimir Putin and a fellow Saint Petersburg native—acknowledged founding the company in 2014, calling its fighters "pillars of our motherland".

Sent to support the Assad regime in Syria and into Libya, they have repeatedly been accused of atrocities against civilians on current deployments in Mali and the CAR.

### 'Musicians' in Wagner's 'orchestra'

There was little sign of Wagner presence in Ukraine early on in Russia's assault on its neighbour. Recently, however, "they've become more and more visible, and almost affiliated with the Russian state," said Tracey German, a lecturer in defence studies at King's College London.

Wagner's fighters "have been used as a force multiplier for Russia," she said. One advantage of using mercenaries is that "it allows the Kremlin to avoid having to state casualties" as it would with regular troops—a boon for a government loath to reveal losses believed by Western sources to amount into the tens of thousands.

Wagner-linked accounts have also been spreading Moscow's propaganda on social

media, claiming to be fighting to "liberate the Donbas" and drive out Ukrainian "Nazis". But the group also strives to set itself apart with imagery and language.

Sporting its logo of a death's head in red crosshairs, members call themselves "musicians" belonging to Wagner's "orchestra". And they are no longer shy about talking up the role they are playing in Ukraine fighting.

Increased use and spotlighting of the mercenaries is "reflective of wider breakdowns in the Russian military and amongst Russian military leadership," said Karolina Hird of the US-based Institute for the Study of War.

"We've seen in the past months this new rhetoric, originating from Wagner gains, that basically Wagner has become the Kremlin's premier strike force," she added.

### Ground down

That could be a sign of tensions within the Russian elite, where the regular army no longer commands the same respect, Hird said. "It seems like (Wagner boss) Prigozhin is trying to curry favour with the Kremlin through pushing his own influence and the gains that his troops have made."

The close Putin ally on Tuesday announced the construction of a line of fortifications in the eastern Lugansk region, one of the four whose

"annexation" Moscow announced in September. He went on to boast that the defence line would not be "needed" because "the presence of a Wagner unit at the front line is already an impregnable wall" in itself.

Researcher Wasielewski said that Wagner's advantages include "a little better leadership" thanks to its recruitment among former special forces troops, as well as the fact that "they are paid as promised".

"However, the question is how long that can be maintained," he added. "As the fighting and heavy casualties go on... the long-term employees of Wagner will die or be wounded... you'll have less and less of that background, less and less of that experience, less and less of that leadership for the younger or the newer Wagner recruits."

A video that circulated online in September appeared to show Prigozhin promising a crowd of prison camp inmates pardons if they agreed to fight for Wagner in Ukraine. Wagner's chest-beating may be "a way of addressing its own recruitment problems," suggested Yohann Michel, a researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"Whatever happens, Wagner won't be able to advance without the rest of the army, there aren't enough of them to mount a successful large offensive," he added. —AFP

## International

# Iran schoolgirl dies after beating by security forces

## Family rejects official Iran findings on Amini death: Lawyer

**NICOSIA, Cyprus:** A 15-year-old Iranian girl died last week after being beaten during a raid by the security forces on her school, a teachers' union said, urging the authorities to stop killing "innocent" protesters.

Asra Panahi died on October 13, after "plainclothes officers attacked" Shahed High School in the northwestern city of Ardabil, the Co-ordinating Council of Teachers Syndicates said. The pupils had been taken into town for an "ideological event" at a spot known to be a centre for protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death in the custody of Iran's notorious morality police.

Some pupils, who started "chanting slogans against discrimination and inequality", were "subjected to violence and insults by plainclothes and veiled women", the union said. After being returned to school, they were beaten again, it said in a statement issued on Monday.

"After that one of the pupils named Asra Panahi unfortunately passed away in hospital and a number of students were arrested," it said, adding the beating left another pupil in a coma. State television later aired an interview with her uncle in which he said she died of heart failure.

Ardabil's parliamentary representative, Kazem Mousavi, was quoted as saying she had "committed suicide by swallowing pills" in a report by the Didban Iran website. Those accounts raised the ire of retired Iranian football star Ali Daei, who hails from Ardabil and has run into trouble with the authorities over his support for the Amini protests.

In a post to his 10 million Instagram followers, Daei said he did not believe Panahi had died of

heart failure and dismissed as "rumours" the MP's claim that she had taken her own life. The death of the 22-year-old Amini, after her arrest for allegedly breaching Iran's strict dress code for women, has fuelled the biggest protests seen in the country for years.

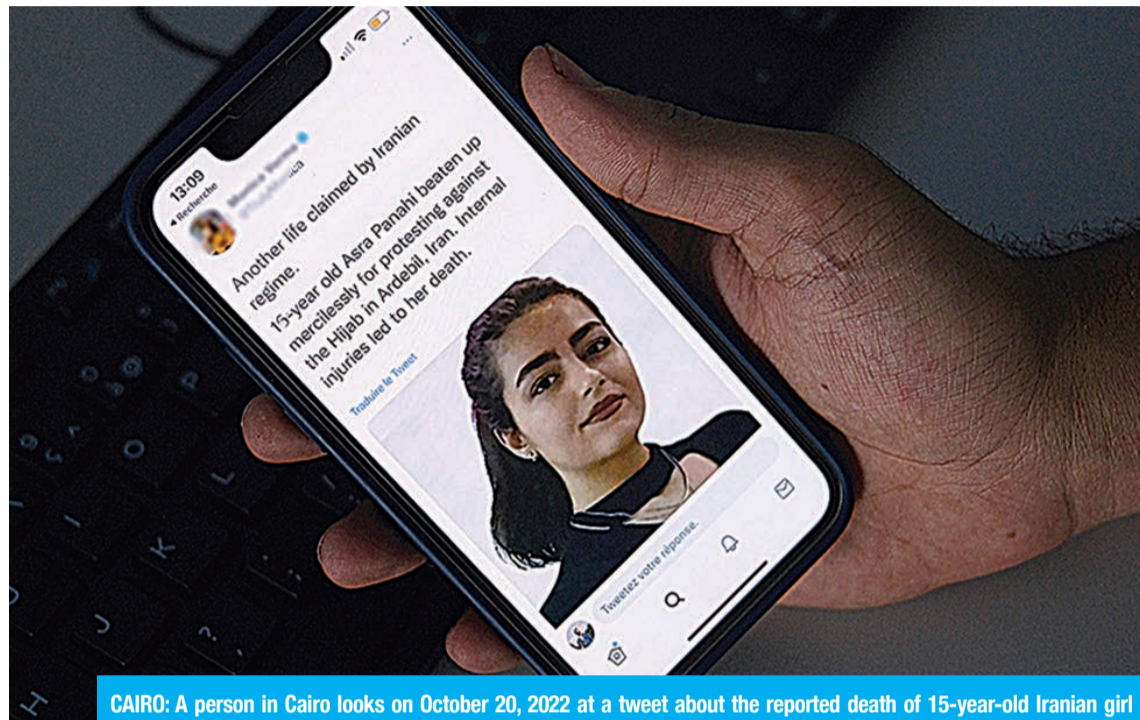
In its statement issued on Tuesday, the teachers' union slammed the school's decision to get pupils involved in the "ideological event" without the consent of their parents. "The council calls on the system and military and security forces to stop their transgressions against schools," it said.

"This council also calls on the system to stop the killing of innocent people and defenceless protesters." In response to Daei's Instagram post, the judiciary's Mizan Online website rejected his version of events as "fake news".

"If Mr Daei has any proof regarding the claims made about the death of the girl pupil in Ardabil, he is expected to present them to the related officials as soon as possible and to follow up on them," it said. A coalition of human rights groups, including Amnesty International, said on Monday that the security forces' crackdown on the Amini protests has killed at least 23 identified children.

Meanwhile, lawyers for Mahsa Amini's family have rejected an official Iranian medical report that found her death was not caused by beatings, they said in comments published on Thursday. Amini, 22, died on September 16, 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.

Three days after her death, Amini's father



**CAIRO:** A person in Cairo looks on October 20, 2022 at a tweet about the reported death of 15-year-old Iranian girl Asra Panahi. The 15-year-old Iranian girl died last week after being beaten during a raid by the security forces on her school, a teachers' union said. —AFP

Amjad, told Iran's Fars news agency that she had been in "perfect health". In its report published on October 7, Iran's Forensic Organization said her death "was not caused by blows to the head and vital organs and limbs of the body".

"The lawyers rejected the forensic doctor's

report in their statement of defence," one of the lawyers acting for the parents, Saleh Nikbakht, told Etemad newspaper. The parents called for "the re-examination of the cause of death by another commission in the presence of doctors" who are confidants to the Amini family. —AFP

## Lebanon fails for third time to elect president

**BEIRUT, Lebanon:** Lebanon's parliament failed Thursday for a third time to elect a successor to President Michel Aoun, stoking fears of a political vacuum after his mandate expires at the end of the month.

Parliament speaker Nabih Berri called for another vote on Monday in the hope of overcoming long-running discord between political factions in crisis-hit Lebanon, already governed by a caretaker cabinet.

Lawmaker Michel Moawad, son of former president Rene Moawad, emerged as a frontrunner when parliament first convened to vote on a new president last month, with lawmakers opposed to the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah movement backing his candidacy.

But the 42 votes he received in Thursday's session fell well short of the 65 needed for election in the second round of voting. A total of 119 lawmakers from Lebanon's 128-seat parliament attended the session, but quorum was lost before a second round could be held after some lawmakers walked out.

Fifty-five lawmakers cast blank ballots. "We are still working on uniting the ranks of the opposition," lawmaker Samy Gemayel, who has backed Moawad's candidacy, told reporters



Lebanon's President Michel Aoun

after the session.

"We are facing difficulties, but I hope that as the October 31 deadline approaches everyone will join forces." Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah told reporters before the vote that "there is no consensus and no comprehensive dialogue between the different blocs."

Under Lebanon's longstanding confessional power-sharing system, the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian. Aoun was elected in 2016 after a more than two-year vacancy at the presidential palace as lawmakers made 45 failed attempts to reach consensus on a candidate.

The political deadlock has also scuppered efforts to form a new government since the outgoing cabinet's mandate expired in May, despite the country being gripped by its worst-ever financial crisis. —AFP

## 'Inhuman conditions' in new Egypt jail

**BEIRUT:** One of Egypt's newest prisons, presented as a model by authorities, has only replicated "cruel and inhuman conditions" in facilities previously used to house political opponents, Amnesty International said Thursday.

Amnesty secretary general Agnes Callamard accused the Egyptian government of seeking to conceal the "awful reality" of its treatment of prisoners, including dissidents, as it prepares to host world leaders for the COP27 UN climate change conference next month.

"The Badr prison complex opened to great fanfare by the authorities, as if the new facility signified an improvement to Egypt's human rights record. Instead, prisoners are facing the same human rights violations that have repeatedly blighted older institutions," Callamard said.

Recorded violations-gathered from prisoners' relatives or lawyers-included lack of access to sufficient food, clothing and books, inadequate medical care, and bans on family visits. According to the London-based watchdog, there has been at least one death since prisoners began being transferred to the new prison earlier this year. El-Sayed al-Sayfi, 61,

died on October 5, within days of his transfer.

The Badr prison, some 70 kilometres (45 miles) east of Cairo, was opened in October last year along with the Wadi al-Natrun Reform and Rehabilitation Centre, where jailed Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abdel Fattah completed 200 days on hunger strike this week.

Egyptian officials insist the new facilities are a massive step forward. Critics charge they are an attempt to whitewash the government's treatment of its 60,000 political prisoners as the climate change conference puts it in the international spotlight.

"Ahead of COP27, Egypt's PR machine is operating on all cylinders to conceal the awful reality in the country's jails, where prisoners held for political reasons are languishing in horrific conditions," Callamard said.

"But no amount of PR can hide the country's abysmal human rights record that demands real reform from the government." Cairo has faced frequent criticism of its human rights record since then military chief, now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ousted his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013 and launched a crackdown that first targeted Islamists before widening to curtail all public space for dissent.

Advocacy groups say there are now about 60,000 political prisoners in Egypt, many of them held in brutal conditions and overcrowded cells. —AFP

## British PM Truss quits...

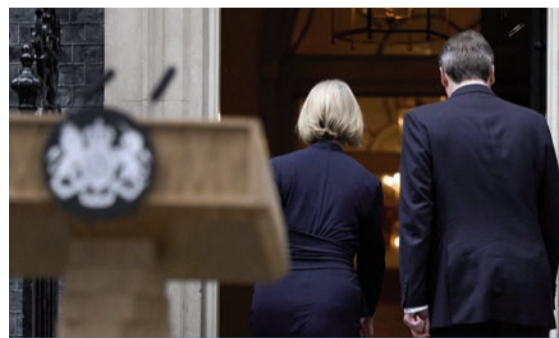
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"Time to come back," trade minister James Duddridge, Johnson's former parliamentary aide, tweeted with the hashtag #bringbackboris. "Few issues at the office that need addressing." Another potential runner is senior cabinet member Penny Mordaunt, who narrowly failed to make the Truss-Sunak runoff this summer.

The end for Truss came after a key minister resigned and many Tory MPs rebelled over an important vote in chaotic scenes at the House of Commons late Wednesday. By Thursday morning, more than a dozen Conservative MPs had publicly urged Truss to resign, after her tax-cutting plans caused a market meltdown during an already severe cost-of-living crisis. Many more were reported to have submitted letters to Brady calling for Truss to be removed, although party rules would have forbidden another leadership campaign for 12 months.

"The prime minister acknowledges yesterday was a difficult day and she recognizes the public wanted to see the government focusing less on politics and more on delivering their priorities," her official spokesman told reporters. Barely two hours later, she quit, and will fall well short of Tory predecessor George Canning who served 118 days as prime minister in 1827 before dying in office.

Amid Russia's war in Ukraine and growing eco-



**LONDON:** Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss and her husband Hugh O'Leary go inside 10 Downing Street on Oct 20, 2022 following a statement to announce her resignation. — AFP

nom problems, Britain's allies have been observing the tumult with concern, with political instability recurrent since the country voted in 2016 to quit the European Union. US President Joe Biden vowed to "continue our close cooperation with the UK government" on shared challenges including Ukraine. "It is important that Great Britain regains political stability very quickly, and that is all I wish," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

Irish premier Micheal Martin said the need to resolve post-Brexit tensions in Northern Ireland was "ever more urgent" under Truss's successor. For its part, the Russian foreign ministry said Britain has "never known such a disgrace as prime minister". Events reached a head after what right-wing tabloid The Sun called "a day of extraordinary mayhem" on Wednesday. — AFP

fired at the entrance to Maale Adumim, one of the largest Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Zionist police said.

The 10-day pursuit of Tamimi had resulted in closures affecting schools, health centers and other services in the camp that is home to thousands, and clashes between Zionist forces and Palestinians. While on the run, he acquired folk hero status among some Palestinians, including young men who shaved their heads to mimic his look. — AFP

## Biden campaigns in Pennsylvania as midterms near

**PITTSBURGH:** US President Joe Biden touted the rebirth of American infrastructure and manufacturing Thursday in a Pennsylvania trip aimed at boosting Senate hopeful John Fetterman, whose closely watched race could be key to avoiding a Democratic wipeout in the midterms. Biden touched down first in Pittsburgh, where he plugged his signature infrastructure package with a tour of a newly repaired bridge, ahead of an evening fundraiser with Fetterman in Philadelphia.

The national spending spree that Biden's Democrats got through the divided Congress is "the most significant investment" in US history, Biden said on a makeshift podium at the edge of Fern Hollow Bridge, which collapsed eight months ago on a day that Biden happened to be visiting. Now, it has now almost been rebuilt, serving as a poster child for the White House's policies.

"There's no better place to talk about rebuilding the backbone of America, the middle class," Biden said. "I want you to feel the way I do - pride, pride in what we can do when we work together," he said, referring to the pieces of heavy construction equipment lined up around the build. The speech aimed to buoy Democrats in the final run-up to the midterms in three weeks, with Fetterman in one of the key races to holding the Senate.

Fetterman, who greeted Biden on the tarmac in Pittsburgh, is known for his multiple tattoos and a love of hoodies and cargo shorts. He was once a runaway favorite in the battle against Republican candidate Mehmet Oz, a celebrity TV doctor - but the race has tightened, reflecting sinking Democratic hopes of maintaining the party's already fragile control of Congress.

The Democrat suffered a stroke in May and the Oz campaign has made his health a major campaign issue, arguing he is medically unfit for office. Fetterman's doctor released a letter this week stating that he could work "full duty" in public office. Fetterman's performance will be scrutinized for any signs of physical or cognitive weakness when the two candidates meet for a debate Oct 25. The latest average of polls shows Fetterman's



**PITTSBURGH:** US President Joe Biden greets a carpenter as he arrives to speak about rebuilding the nation's infrastructure at the Fern Hollow Bridge on Oct 20, 2022. — AFP

nearly 11-point lead in mid-September whittled down to about five points.

With Biden hampered by approval ratings in the low 40 percent range, some campaigning Democratic candidates have even asked him to keep away. He has avoided large-scale rallies in favor of smaller policy announcements that he hopes can shift the momentum. Just this week, Biden gave speeches vowing to protect abortion access and explaining his attempts to tamp down high energy costs.

But three weeks from voting day, Americans appear to be veering toward the Republican message that Democrats are failing on the economy. That raises the likelihood of Republicans taking control of at least the House and quite possibly the Senate - ushering in two years of political trench warfare for the White House. Even just the House would give the increasingly far-right Republican Party the ability to shut down Biden's agenda and - as prominent figures are already threatening - attempt impeachment.

A New York Times/Siena poll this week showed that, of likely voters, 26 percent named worries over the economy as their top issue, while 18 percent listed inflation, at its highest rate in four decades. Even on issues where Biden feels he has a winning hand, there are limits. During his impassioned speech on abortion, the president tapped into widespread anger over the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the half-century-old Roe v Wade ruling that enshrined national abortion rights. Predicting a revolt by women voters at the ballot box, Biden said Republicans "ain't seen nothing yet". But the Siena poll showed just five percent of likely voters named abortion as their top issue. — AFP

## Strike after Palestinian...

Continued from Page 1

in the West Bank for nearly seven years, according to the United Nations. Tamimi was killed by a security guard after wounding another when he

## International

# Malaysia to hold snap national elections on November 19

## Observers now fear that an UMNO win could see Najib freed and anti-graft probes quashed

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia: Malaysia will hold a snap election on November 19, officials announced Thursday, with the ruling party seeking to consolidate its comeback after its former leader was jailed for corruption. The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), which ruled the country for more than 60 years, was voted out in 2018 over a massive graft scandal, but capitalised on disarray amongst its opposition to claw back to power in 2021.



**Nomination day for candidates will be on Nov 5**

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob has now decided to hold elections a year ahead of schedule—in a bid to expand the slim parliamentary majority of the Barisan Nasional coalition that UMNO leads. The election date announcement comes eight weeks after former prime minister and UMNO leader Najib Razak began serving a 12-year sentence for corruption in the 1MDB financial scandal.

Some observers now fear that an UMNO win in November could see Najib freed and further anti-graft probes quashed. Veteran opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, head of bitter UMNO rival the Pakatan Harapan alliance, told AFP on Thursday: “We want to end graft.” “The key issues we have been raising are on cost of living, affordable housing, health, quality of education,” he added. Other parties entering the fray include Pejuang, led by 97-year-old former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has put himself forward for a third stint as premier.

Election Commission chairman Abdul Ghani Salleh said at a press conference that nomination day for candidates will be on November 5. UMNO expects to win big and cement its rule, and while it has the political machinery to do so, it remains tainted by the 1MDB corruption scandal. Also among those facing graft-related charges is UMNO presi-



PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia: Malaysia's Election Commission (EC) chairman, Abdul Ghani Salleh (C) speaks during a press conference in Putrajaya on October 20, 2022. Malaysia will hold elections on November 19, officials said. — AFP

dent Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. “If UMNO wins, there are concerns that the rule of law will not be honoured in Najib’s conviction,” said Bridget Welsh of the University of Nottingham Malaysia. “Voters will be deciding effectively whether Najib and UMNO party president Zahid will not face punishment for the criminal charges they face.” Ex-premier Mahathir expressed similar concerns earlier this month, telling reporters that if UMNO won, “their first objective is to free Najib” and drop all other charges. It was Mahathir’s reformist coalition that ousted UMNO in 2018, but it lasted only 22 months in power due to infighting.

### Soaring inflation, tumbling currency

The mega scandal surrounding the 1MDB state fund triggered investigations in the United States,

Switzerland and Singapore—whose financial systems were believed to have been used to launder the money—and battered Malaysia’s global image.

The US Justice Department has said more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB between 2009 and 2015 by high-level officials at the fund and their associates, with the proceeds spent on everything from high-end real estate to pricey art.

Meanwhile, the economy and the rising cost of living will also be key election issues, with inflation soaring and the local ringgit currency tumbling. “This is a crucial election because they are electing a government that will bring Malaysia out of the pandemic and back to normality,” said James Chin, a Malaysia expert at the University of Tasmania. There are also concerns about the polls being held in the monsoon season, which usually brings widespread floods. — AFP

## Rohingya face backlash in Bangladesh

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh: Rohingya refugee Noor Kamal found a sympathetic welcome in Bangladesh when he fled the soldiers rampaging through his village—but five years later, the hostility he now faces has left him pondering a dangerous return home. Much has changed in the time since he and 750,000 other members of the stateless Muslim minority escaped neighbouring Myanmar, the survivors of a horrific crackdown now subject to a UN genocide probe.

Back then, thousands of Bangladeshis, outraged by the anti-Muslim violence across the border, trekked from across the country to distribute food and medicine to the shell-shocked arrivals. But public attitudes have hardened after years of fruitless efforts to negotiate a safe return for the Rohingya, with media outlets and politicians regularly condemning refugees as drug runners and terror threats.

“There is so much hatred among local people and the press here that I worry it may trigger violence at any time,” Kamal told AFP from his home in Bangladesh’s sprawling border relief camps. “It’s better we return home even if it means we have to face bullets. If we die, at least we will be buried in our motherland.”

Bangladesh has struggled to support the immense refugee population—while there is financial assistance from the UN refugees body and other humanitarian organisations, Dhaka still faces huge administrative challenges in hosting the camps. Last year’s military coup in Myanmar has made the prospects of a wholesale return even more remote. Last month, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the Rohingya camps had become both a deep burden on her country’s economy and a threat to its political stability. “If the problem persists... it may affect the security and stability of the entire region,” she told the UN General Assembly in New York.

Resentment is widespread among Bangladeshis living near the camps, who say the Rohingya have outstayed their welcome. “They are bringing shame to Bangladesh,” Ayasur Rahman, the spokesman of a local civil society group campaigning against the Rohingya’s presence, told AFP. “They should be sent to Myanmar immediately,” he said, accusing refugees of “snatching our jobs (and) stealing our passports”. — AFP



KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh: In this picture taken on September 29, 2022, Rohingya refugees gather outside a relief supplies distribution point at Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhiya. — AFP

## HK victim slams ‘barbaric’ attack at China consulate

LONDON, United Kingdom: A Hong Kong man Wednesday decried his “barbaric” treatment at the hands of Chinese diplomats in Britain who dragged him inside their compound to assault him after an anti-Beijing protest. Bob Chan spoke at a news conference in London after China, insisting its diplomats in Manchester were blameless, lodged a formal complaint with the UK government. In a letter to Greater Manchester Police, Consul-General Zheng Xiyuan complained the police had failed to intervene promptly after protesters “stormed” the mission on Sunday.

While insisting that China was “respectful of the right to protest”, consular staff were required “to physically fend off unauthorised entry and subsequent assaults”, he said. But Zheng himself was named on social media and in the UK parliament as attacking Chan, along with three other consular diplomats. Iain Duncan Smith, a Conservative MP and virulent critic of the Chinese communist authorities, said the diplomats should be expelled and decried the “wholly inadequate” response from his own government.

“Anybody involved in those scenes is not welcome here,” the former Tory party leader, one of several UK parliamentarians who has been sanctioned by Beijing, told the news conference. “They must go.” Greater Manchester Police have themselves contradicted the Chinese account, after video of the incident showed consular staff hauling Chan inside the gates of the Manchester compound. Chan was one of several protesters who had displayed banners mocking the Chinese Communist Party and President Xi Jinping. Chan said he was pulled by the hair and assaulted from behind by masked men, but could not say “100 percent” that Zheng attacked him.

“It was barbaric. I am very concerned for my safety and I have nightmares about how my loved ones might be treated,” said the Hongkonger, who has lived in Britain since March of last year. “I am shocked because I never thought something like this could have happened in the UK,” Chan added, while declining to give any more personal information for fear of Chinese reprisals. — AFP



LONDON, United Kingdom: MP for the Conservative party Iain Duncan Smith speaks with Hong Kong pro-democracy protester Bob Chan at the end of his press conference, in London after he says he was beaten at Manchester China Consulate during a demonstration three days earlier. — AFP

## Philippines to get US military helicopters

MANILA: The Philippines will acquire heavy-lift military helicopters from the United States, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said Thursday, after scrapping a deal to buy similar aircraft from Russia. The government of his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte had signed a deal worth \$216 million for 16 Mi-17 helicopters, but backed out in the months following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the imposition of wide-ranging sanctions on Moscow.

Earlier Thursday, local media had quoted the Russian ambassador to the Philippines as saying that deal was still valid. But Marcos said it was dead. “We have secured an alternative supply (for heavy-lift helicopters) from the United States,” Marcos, who was elected president in May, told a business forum.

“Unfortunately, we made a down payment (to the Russian manufacturer) that we are hoping to negotiate to get at least a percentage of that back,” he added. “But the deal as it stood maybe at the beginning of or in the middle of last year has already been cancelled.”

Russian ambassador Marat Pavlov, however, was quoted in local media as saying the manufacturer was still proceeding with the assembly of the Mi-17s. The Russian embassy in Manila could not be reached for comment. Marcos did not specify which US helicopter was chosen as the alternative, only that they will be manufactured in Poland. The Philippine ambassador in Washington, Jose Romualdez, told reporters in August that Manila was looking at Chinooks to replace the Mi-17s. — AFP



N'DJAMENA, Chad: Demonstrators shout slogans during a protest in N'Djamena on October 20, 2022. — AFP

## Five killed in Chad protest clashes

N'DJAMENA, Chad: Five people were killed Thursday when police clashed with demonstrators in the Chadian capital during a banned protest against the ruling military, an AFP journalist saw. Hundreds of demonstrators turned out to mark the date when the military had initially promised to hand over power—a spell that has been extended for another two years.

An AFP reporter saw five bodies on the floor of the city’s Union Chagoua Hospital, two of which were covered with the Chadian national flag and three with bloodied white sheets. The head doctor, Joseph Ampil, later confirmed to AFP that five individuals had “died from gunshots.” Puffs of black smoke could be seen in some parts of the city and the crack of teargas grenades could be heard. Barricades were set up in several districts and tyres were set alight in the main avenues to block traffic.

In an opposition stronghold, streets were deserted and littered with tree branches and piles of bricks. Schools and university establishments were closed, and many traders in the city centre lowered their shutters. The headquarters of Prime Minister Saleh Kebzabo’s UNDR party was also attacked by demonstrators “and partially burned down,” UNDR Vice President Celestin Topona told AFP. France, Chad’s former colonial power, condemned the violence, noting it featured “the use of lethal weapons against demonstrators.”

“France is not playing any part in these events, which lie strictly in Chad’s domestic political domain,” the foreign ministry said. “False information about France’s purported involvement is baseless.”

The Chadian Red Cross said it had deployed 10 teams to provide first aid and taken “dozens” of injured people to hospital. There was no immediate official word on casualties.

### October 20 date

The violence comes on the heels of a national forum organised by military strongman Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno that extended his stay in power. The 38-year-old five-star general took over in April 2021 after his iron-fisted father, Idriss Deby Itno, in power for three decades, was killed during an operation against rebels.

The younger Deby has since angered many at home and embarrassed backers abroad by staying in power beyond his initially promised deadline, which would have expired on Thursday. “They’re firing on us. They are killing our people,” Succes Masra, whose Transformers party was among groups that had called the protest, said on Twitter. “The Soldiers of the one-and-only General who refused to honour his word and on the day when the 18 months are up—this is how he intends to install the (Deby) dynasty.”

Deby’s junta had originally declared it would restore civilian rule after 18 months in power and he initially promised not to take part in elections that would follow. But as the 18-month deadline neared, a nationwide forum staged by Deby reset the clock.

On October 1, it approved a new “maximum” 24-month timeframe for holding elections. It also named Deby “transitional president” and declared he could be a candidate in the poll. Deby was sworn in October 10, and later appointed a so-called government of national union headed by Kebzabo, a 75-year-old former journalist and one-time opposition figure.

One protestor, Abass Mahamat, 35, told he had chosen to voice his anger at “this facade of a dialogue which entrenches the system.” “In 31 years, we haven’t see any positive change in our country.”

### Troubled state

The vast, arid Sahel state has had a long history of coups and political turmoil since it gained independence from France in 1960. During his long stay in power, the elder Deby fought off several attempts to unseat him by rebels crossing from Libya and Sudan. He was supported by France, which deemed him a strong ally in its campaign against jihadism in the Sahel. — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

## Business

# Pound, London stocks jump as Truss announces resignation

## US and European markets rally, dollar soars

**LONDON:** The London stock market and the pound bounced on Thursday after British Prime Minister Liz Truss announced her resignation following disastrous policies that rocked the markets for weeks.

The pound traded around 0.4 percent higher against the dollar to \$1.1273 after Truss ended six tumultuous weeks in power-but analysts said gains were pared by the ongoing uncertainty. The FTSE 100 index was up 0.1 percent while the country's borrowing costs eased on the news, as the yield on 30-year government bonds, known as gilts, fell to 3.94 percent.

"Sterling and gilts rallied as the sorry reign of Liz Truss came to an end," said Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson. "After a flurry of activity we are seeing retracement of these initial moves as markets realize that there's still huge uncertainty about whether the Tory party can survive in power."

Wilson warned the government's "economic policies were already dead in the water so the market doesn't have a huge amount of genuine new information to move on." The government had teetered on the brink of collapse after the resignation of home secretary Suella Braverman Wednesday.

On Thursday, Truss announced that she "cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected."

It comes days after the sacking of finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng and the dismembering of her government's debt-fuelled budget that had sparked chronic markets turmoil. "Although the resignation

of Liz Truss as Prime Minister leaves the UK without a leader when it faces huge economic, fiscal and financial market challenges, the markets appear to be relieved," said Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics.

The recovery seen Thursday was due to "the markets... further pricing out the risk premium that the Truss government generated." There was still plenty of caution towards the UK.

"While this has brought about a brief respite to the political risk premium it's hard to see how any replacement will be able to coalesce around any form of unity of policy in this dumpster fire of a government," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

### Strong dollar, China fears

Elsewhere, US and European markets rallied a day after losses over persistent concerns over soaring inflation, interest rate hikes and looming recessions. Wall Street opened higher while eurozone markets were also higher in afternoon deals. The haven dollar soared above 150 yen for the first time since 1990 before falling back slightly-stoking speculation that Japanese authorities could intervene again to support the battered currency.

The greenback also rallied to a record high at 7.2790 against the offshore yuan, with the US unit boosted by the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate hikes. Asian markets finished the day in the red, with selling also fuelled by concerns about the



**LONDON:** The London stock market and the pound bounced on Thursday after British Prime Minister Liz Truss announced her resignation following disastrous policies that rocked the markets for weeks. —AFP

Chinese economy as COVID cases spike in the country and leaders stick to lockdown strategies.

A decision to delay the release of China's third-quarter economic growth data this week added to

unease. Oil extended Wednesday's rally that came in reaction to a drop in US petroleum stockpiles, and despite President Joe Biden's decision to release 15 million barrels from US strategic reserves. —AFP

## Ukraine curbs electricity use

**KIEV:** Ukraine began curbing electricity consumption on Thursday as it raced to carry out repairs on infrastructure destroyed by Russian bombing as winter approaches. Energy-saving measures were put in place across the country after Russian missile and drone strikes destroyed at least 30 percent of the country's power stations in a week.

Following blackouts in parts of the capital Kyiv overnight, the city's mayor Vitali Klitschko urged businesses to limit screens and signage lights "as much as possible". "Even small savings and a reduction in electricity consumption in every home will help stabilize the operation of the national energy system," he said on social media.

Ukrainians have responded defiantly to the attacks. "It's not going to change our attitude, maybe we will only hate them more," said Olga, 22, a resident of Dnipro in central Ukraine. "I would rather sit in the cold, with no water and electricity than be in Russia," she said.

### Sanctions on Iranian drones

Russia invaded Ukraine in February and quickly seized more than 20 percent of the country but has lost ground after a series of battlefield defeats in recent weeks. Moscow has retaliated by annexing the areas it holds and launching a wave of strikes on energy facilities, including with what Kyiv and Western powers said are Iranian drones. Russia and Iran have denied the use of such drones in Ukraine but the EU on Thursday imposed sanctions on three Iranian generals and an arms firm accused of supplying them. "This is our clear response to the Iranian regime providing Russia with drones, which



**KHERSON, Ukraine:** This file photo taken on May 20, 2022 shows an aerial view of the city of Kherson, amid the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine. —AFP

it uses to murder innocent Ukrainian citizens," Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala tweeted.

Russian foreign ministry spokesman said the West was seeking to put "pressure" on Tehran, while Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba welcomed the "prompt action" from Brussels.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Russia's "scorched earth" attacks only strengthened the Western alliance against Moscow. But Russian lawmaker Andrey Gurulev told state television the attacks were "extremely effective" and would "collapse" Ukraine.

In his nightly address Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of energy "terror". After a meeting with energy com-

panies, he said preparations were under way "for all possible scenarios with a view to winter".

The government was "working on the creation of mobile power supply points for critical infrastructure", he added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also on Wednesday declared martial law in four annexed areas and heightened security in Russian regions bordering Ukraine. The move came after Kremlin proxies in the Russian-occupied Kherson region in southern Ukraine said they were leaving the area in the face of a Ukrainian counter-offensive. Moscow-installed officials also said they would be organizing an "evacuation" of tens of thousands of civilians from the area. —AFP

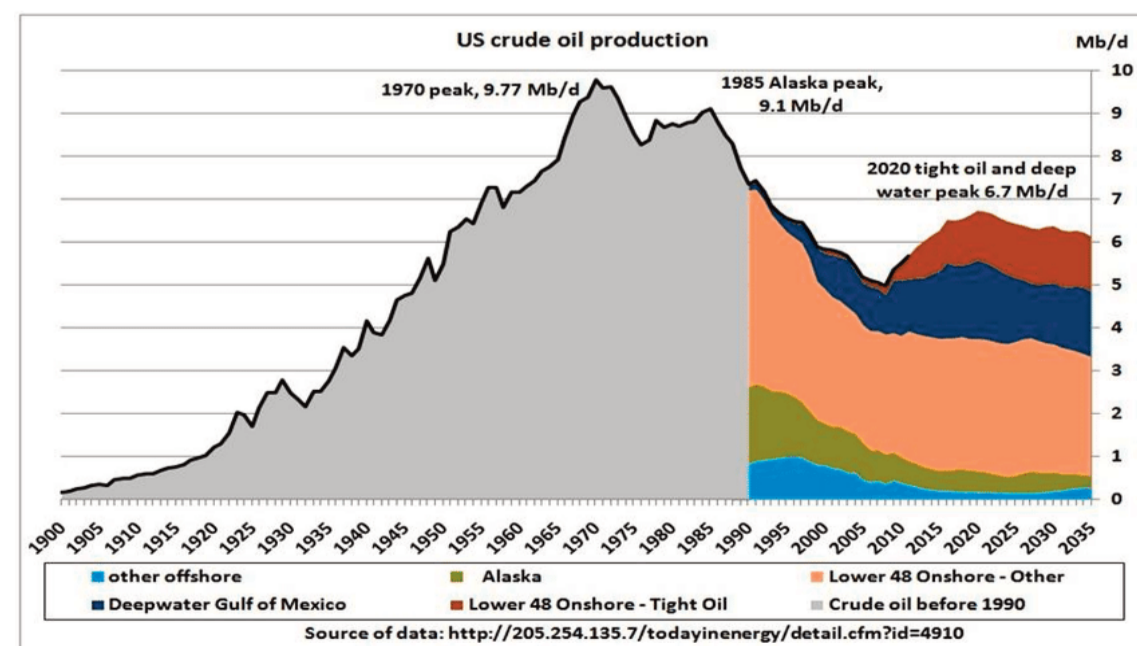
## US should boost domestic oil production: Biden

**WASHINGTON:** President Joe Biden called Wednesday on US energy companies to increase oil production and to lower retail gasoline prices as he announced a new release from strategic US reserves in a bid to dampen fuel prices. "Families are hurting," Biden said in remarks from the White House.

High fuel prices are threatening the US economy and also feeding voter anger at the administration three weeks before midterm elections to decide control of Congress. Biden has struggled to find solutions to a problem rooted in Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the recent decision by the Saudi-led OPEC+ cartel to cut its own oil production.

Biden said his order to release the final 15 million barrels of a 180 million barrel pledge from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would "continue to stabilize markets and decrease the prices at a time when the actions of other countries have caused such volatility." However, he also urged the US oil industry to get more oil out of the ground, insisting this did not counter his presidency's priority of pushing the United States into a clean energy future.

"We need to responsibly increase American oil production without delaying or deferring our transition to clean energy," he said. In addition to urging a boost in production, Biden repeated his frequent call



for fuel companies to lower prices paid by motorists, arguing that prices at the pump are not declining in step with overall drops in the price of crude oil.

"My message to the American energy companies is this: you should not be using your profits to buy back stock or for dividends, not now-not while a war's raging," he said. "You should be using these record-breaking profits to increase production and refining. Invest in America for the American people-bring down the price."

Biden confirmed he was putting the final 15 million barrels on the market from a record release of US strategic oil reserves, with more releases possible if energy prices spike. "We're going to continue to responsibly use that national asset," he said. The decision to make the biggest ever dip into the emergency oil reserves-usually kept for responding to situations such as hurricane-related shutdowns at oil refineries-was one of the few tools Biden has to make a direct impact on oil supplies. —AFP

## EU leaders fight for common ground on energy prices

**BRUSSELS:** EU leaders were engaged in tough talks on Thursday on how to handle Europe's energy shock, with capitals at loggerheads over imposing a cap on gas prices pushed skywards by the war in Ukraine. The bloc's 27 member states have been squabbling for months over measures to lower energy bills, and will arrive at their Brussels summit in a chilly mood.

Countries such as Italy are pushing hard for a swift and ambitious cap on prices, in the teeth of opposition from Germany, the EU's biggest economy. The political pressure to act is huge with strikes and protests over the cost of living spreading across Europe - notably in France and Belgium - and businesses fearing bankruptcy because of the high bills.

If this summit does not result in a "clear political signal that we...no longer tolerate high gas prices", it will be "Europe's failure", Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said on Monday.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has tried to satisfy the diverging views with a series of proposals that it hopes will help Europeans pay for their heating as winter approaches. But these have been dismissed as timid by those wanting a clear ceiling on gas prices despite the opposing view - championed by Germany, but also Denmark and the Netherlands - that this would choke off supply or encourage consumption.

The push for a common approach has been further hampered by discord between France and Germany, which burst into the open Wednesday when they delayed a regular meeting between cabinet ministers. Breakthroughs in the EU are difficult to achieve when the bloc's biggest powers do not see eye to eye and French President Emmanuel Macron and Chancellor Olaf Scholz were set to meet ahead of the summit to mend ties.

"There has been a lot of progress, but no fundamental breakthrough," a senior EU diplomat involved in the negotiations said ahead of the two-day summit.

"Priorities differ: Germany has chosen security of supply because it can afford the high prices, but many countries cannot keep up with the cost," the diplomat added.

The Commission's proposals include an idea to allow joint purchases by the EU energy giants in order to command cheaper prices to replenish reserves. Another proposal is to give the Commission the power to establish a pricing "corridor" on Europe's main gas index to intervene when prices get out of control. Meeting in Brussels, the EU leaders will haggle over the Commission's proposals, with some countries seeking something much more far-reaching than what is on offer.

But German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Thursday again rejected any attempt by the EU to cap prices on gas imports saying it "carries the risk that producers will then sell their gas elsewhere." —AFP



Business

# KFH reports KD 205.8m net profit up to end of Q3 2022, an increase of 22.4%

## Net finance income reached KD 508.5 million, an increase of 14.8%

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported net profit for its shareholders of KD 205.8 million up to the end of Q3 of 2022, an increase of 22.4 percent compared to the same period last year. Earnings per share up to the end of Q3 of 2022 reached 21.90 fils, an increase of 19.9 percent compared to the same period last year.

Net financing income up to the end of Q3 of 2022 reached KD 508.5 million; an increase of 14.8 percent compared to the same period last year. Net operating income up to the end of Q3 of 2022 reached KD 463.4 million; an increase of 27.2 percent compared to the same period last year.

Cost to income ratio up to the end of Q3 of 2022 improved to 33.6 percent compared to 38.3 percent in the same period last year, supported by higher total operating income during the period. Financing receivables as of the end of Q3 of 2022 reached KD 12.47 billion, an increase of KD 1.1 billion or 9.8 percent compared to end of last year. Investment in Sukuk for Q3 of 2022 reached KD 3.1 billion, an increase of KD 348 million or 12.7 percent compared to the end of last year. Total assets for Q3 of 2022 reached KD 22.67 billion, an increase of KD 880.1 million or 4 percent compared to end of last year.

Depositors' accounts reached KD 15.86 billion at the end of Q3 this year. In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 17.68 percent which is above the minimum limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid financial position of KFH.

### Strong performance

Al-Marzouq explained that the financial results KFH achieved in the first nine months of 2022 confirm the successful strategy of the Bank and its strong financial and operational performance. He added that KFH achieved growth in all key indicators and maintained remarkable ratios in terms of capitalization, maximizing profitability, ROA, ROE, optimization, improving asset quality ratios as well as the coverage ratio of provisions for non-performing debt.

### Largest market cap

Al-Marzouq stressed that KFH ranked first among the largest listed companies on Boursa Kuwait in terms of a market capitalization exceeding KD 11 billion. At the same time, he expressed his pride at the successful listing and trading commencement of KFH shares on Bahrain Bourse as part of the successful completion of KFH's acquisition of AUB-Bahrain which represented a historic chapter and the beginning of the journey for KFH as the largest Kuwaiti bank and the world's second largest Islamic bank in terms of assets.

the market in a manner that befits Kuwait and its ancient heritage, paying off the debts of a number of defaulting debtors, in addition to community initiatives in various fields such as health, education, environment, persons with special needs, and more.

Moreover, Al-Marzouq pointed out that KFH participated in various societal campaigns in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, with whom it has a strategic partnership to implement relief and community initiatives inside and outside Kuwait. Among these campaigns were an initiative

ing entity, and the cross-listing of KFH shares on Bahrain Bourse and Boursa Kuwait, which would improve the opportunities for capital resources, enhance liquidity in financial markets, as well as enhance the reputation and standing of the institution.

### Digitalization

Al-Rushood added that KFH is moving forward towards executing its strategy of focusing on core banking business in parallel with enhancing its efforts towards digitalizing its financing and banking services,

global recognition of KFH's achievements in various aspects. In terms of Islamic finance and banking services, Al-Rushood said that KFH won "World's Best Islamic Financial Institution 2022" award from Global Finance, in addition to "Best Bank in Kuwait" award from Euromoney. As for sustainability, Al-Rushood pointed out that KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to receive the Global Sustainability Assessment System GSAS- Gold Level Certificate which is normally granted to projects compliant with sustainability standards.



Hamad Al-Marzouq

- Net operating income reached KD 463.4 million, an increase of 27.2 percent
- Financing receivables reached KD 12.47 billion, an increase of 9.8 percent
- Total assets reached KD 22.67 billion; an increase of 4.0 percent
- KFH tops listed companies on Boursa Kuwait with a market cap exceeding KD 11 billion
- The beginning of the journey for KFH as the largest Kuwaiti bank and the world's second largest Islamic bank



Abdulwahab Al-Rushood

- Sustainable profit strategy succeeded in achieving a strong and ongoing growth
- KFH meets the aspirations of Millennial and Gen Z as they are at the heart of KFH strategy
- Automation has become a significant component of KFH's operational activities

### The national economy

Al-Marzouq said that KFH is a key pillar in supporting the national economy and the development plans in Kuwait and the region through its leading role in providing a wide range of financing instruments, adding that KFH also plays the role of lead arranger of major syndicated facilities for institutions and governments.

### Pioneering societal role

Al-Marzouq pointed out that KFH is a cornerstone in social initiatives, and it has proven its commitment and leadership in CSR by participating in various community, relief and humanitarian initiatives inside and outside Kuwait. He highlighted some of KFH's initiative such as restoring the damaged parts of Al-Mubarakiya to rehabilitate

to treat cancer patients and a medical initiative in Jordan to perform more than 200 major and delicate surgical operations in collaboration with Kuwaiti doctors and consultants. KFH also cooperates with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kuwait through a memorandum of understanding and cooperation agreements.

### Sustainable growth

KFH Acting Group CEO, Abdulwahab Iesa Al-Rushood said that the sustainable profits strategy succeeded in achieving a strong, sustainable and balanced growth, stressing that various factors contributed to supporting this growth such as the success of the acquisition of AUB-Bahrain, leading to the formation of a giant bank-

customer experience and providing easy and safe products and services. At the same time, he added that KFH is focusing on accelerating its plans to provide innovative banking solutions that meet the aspirations of Millennial and Gen Z who are at the heart of KFH's strategy.

He went on to say that the technology of Robotics Process Automation (RPA) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are key components in KFH's banking operations and in improving the increased performance and efficiency of operations, thus resulting in a wide range of innovative digital solutions, and strategic partnerships and agreements with Fintech companies.

### Global recognition

Al-Rushood expressed his pride at the

In the Human Resources field, Al-Rushood stated that KFH received an honorary award from the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in GCC for KFH's excellence in the nationalization and qualifications programs at the private sector level in Kuwait. In addition, KFH won "Best Advance in Employee Engagement" and "Best Advance in Business Automation" from Brandon Hall Group.

In conclusion, Al-Rushood expressed his appreciation for the trust of shareholders and customers and the support of the Board of Directors and thanked the regulatory authorities, praising the efforts of employees and all partners and stakeholders. He emphasized that KFH is keen to continue its efforts to maintain its leadership worldwide.

Praise be to Allah

بيت التمويل الكويتي  
Kuwait Finance House



## Financial Results up to the end of Q3 of 2022

		30/09/2022	30/09/2021	%
<b>Net Profit for Shareholders</b>	"KD Million"	205.8	168.1	22.4
<b>Earnings per Share</b>	"Fils"	21.90	18.26	19.9
<b>Net Financing Income</b>	"KD Million"	508.5	443.0	14.8
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	"KD Million"	463.4	364.3	27.2
		<b>30/09/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Financing Receivables</b>	"KD Million"	12,466	11,355	9.8
<b>Total Assets</b>	"KD Million"	22,668	21,788	4.0
<b>Depositors' Accounts</b>	"KD Million"	15,858	15,867	(0.1)
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	"KD Million"	1,999	1,932	3.5

## Business

# Britons skipping meals in cost-of-living crisis: Poll

## Many risk fuel poverty after UK curbed energy price freeze

**LONDON:** Millions of Britons are skipping meals in current the cost-of-living crisis, a consumer group warned Thursday, having already forecast that many risk fuel poverty after the UK curbed its energy price freeze. The news came after data showed UK inflation jumped back above 10 percent in September on rampant food prices, as economic troubles pile up for beleaguered Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss, who was forced to resign on Thursday.

Half of UK households are cutting back on the number of meals, consumer group Which? said citing a survey of 3,000 people. A similar proportion are finding it harder to eat healthily compared with before the crisis, while almost 80 percent are finding it difficult financially.

"The devastating impact of the cost-of-living crisis is, worryingly, leading to millions of people skipping meals or struggling to put healthy meals on the table," said Sue Davies, head of food policy at Which?.

Separately, the consumer group stated Wednesday that the UK government's decision this week to curb its energy price freeze would leave millions unable to adequately heat their homes. In a series of humiliating budget U-turns, new finance minister Jeremy Hunt announced Monday that he would pull the plug on the flagship energy price freeze in April instead of late 2024.

"The government's decision to end universal ener-

gy support in April risks throwing millions of households across the country—not just the most financially vulnerable—into fuel poverty," warned Rocio Concha, head of policy and advocacy at Which?. "The government must clarify how they will support those struggling to make ends meet beyond the spring and ensure that as energy prices remain incredibly high, consumers are not left out in the cold."

The price freeze was aimed at protecting consumers from sky-high domestic fuel costs, which have rocketed on key energy producer Russia's war on Ukraine. Britain has meanwhile been blighted by strikes this year, as workers protest over wages that has failed to keep pace with runaway inflation.

The retail prices index—an inflation measure which includes mortgage interest payments and is used by trade unions and employers when negotiating wage increases - leapt to 12.6 percent in September from 12.3 percent in August, data showed Wednesday. Frances O'Grady, general secretary of umbrella grouping the Trades Union Congress (TUC), demanded this week that Truss step down.

"I have a message for Liz Truss: Working people are proud of the jobs we do. We work hard. We work the longest hours in Europe," she told the TUC's annual gathering in the English seaside resort of Brighton. "Yet thanks to your party's 12 years in government, millions are struggling to make ends meet." —AFP



**LONDON:** The UK's Office for National Statistics said its estimates suggest that inflation would have last been higher 'sometime around 1982.' —AFP

## Spain minister says EU energy crisis measures too 'timid'

**MADRID:** The EU's proposals to rein in soaring energy prices are too "timid" and could lead to a "breakdown in confidence" in European institutions, Spain's Energy Minister Teresa Ribera said Wednesday during an interview with AFP on the eve of an EU leaders summit. Energy prices and inflation have surged across the 27-nation European Union as Moscow slashed gas supplies apparently in response to EU sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

As winter approaches, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has been under intense pressure to tackle soaring heating bills for household and businesses. On Tuesday it unveiled its latest proposals which put the emphasis on joint purchasing among EU countries in order to better command lower prices to refill gas reserves. "The proposals are, in my view, still too timid: we are still missing concrete measures regarding the vast majority of subjects," Ribera said.

While there has been a "real effort" to tackle the energy crisis over the past year, it is "frustrating to see" that "Europe's reaction in the face of this challenge is slow and laboured," she added. Spain, the fourth largest eurozone economy, has been one of the loudest voices within the bloc calling for a vigorous reform of the EU's energy market. The commission's latest plan—which will be taken up at a two-day summit of EU leaders which begins Thursday in Brussels—does not include an immediate gas price cap.

A large group of EU countries, led by Italy, have pushed hard for some form of price cap, which is opposed by Germany which fears scaring off alternative suppliers that have stepped in to replace Russia as the bloc's main source of gas. "I think it is important to go a bit faster on this issue," Ribera said. "We shouldn't have to ask the Commission four times the same thing to have a proposal. But I trust that the Commission will speed up and make the proposals. It would be risky not to take the decisions in time."

### 'Tough situation'

The skyrocketing energy prices have fuelled large protests in several European nations against rising inflation and to demand higher wages. "The energy crisis causes a tough situation for families and for the productive fabric. If we do not respond quickly enough, there may be a breakdown of confidence in the European institutions," Ribera said. "The current situation is a very important stress test for Europe," she added.

Ribera said she was "moderately" optimistic that Spain will be able to convince France to lift its opposition to the construction of a new gas pipeline across the Pyrenees mountains. With Russia withholding gas deliveries to most of Europe in reaction to sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, there has been a resurgence of interest—especially from Germany—in a link to bring in much-needed supplies from Spain to the rest of the continent. Plans for such a pipeline, known as MidCat, emerged a decade ago but were dropped in 2019 over regulatory and funding issues. —AFP

## US economic outlook 'pessimistic': Fed

**WASHINGTON:** Economic prospects are becoming "more pessimistic" in the United States on growing worries of weaker demand, the Federal Reserve said in a report Wednesday, citing heightened inflation and rising interest rates. The Fed's latest "beige book" survey of economic conditions comes on the back of its aggressive interest rate hikes to cool surging consumer prices, all while trying to avoid tipping

## French oil refinery strikes begin to ease

**PARIS:** After three weeks of blockades, strikes at sites owned by French oil giant TotalEnergies were starting to ease on Wednesday, although uncertainty remains over fuel supply as the country heads into the autumn holiday break. In recent weeks several of France's seven refineries and one fuel depot were out of action as striking members of the hard-left CGT union rejected a pay offer from the hydrocarbon industry leader that other unions accepted.

But on Wednesday the CGT said the strike at the Donges refinery in the west of the country was suspended, as well as at two other oil sites in France, one in the north and one in the south. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said the situation "continues to improve markedly". The blockades will continue at the Normandy and the Rhone sites. Strike action at two Esso-ExxonMobil refineries ended last week, after a pay deal between management and moderate unions which represent a majority of workers. "We hope that management will heed the demands of the strikers in order to bring this conflict to an end," Benjamin Tange of the CGT union told AFP.

The CGT had announced on Wednesday morning that it had proposed a "protocol for ending the conflict" to the management of TotalEnergies. According to the union, the proposal was rejected by management, a statement not confirmed by the company when questioned by AFP.

The union proposal called for "negotiations on employment and investment" as well as guarantees



**PARIS:** After three weeks of blockades, strikes at sites owned by French oil giant TotalEnergies were starting to ease on Thursday. —AFP

that those who went out on strike would not be punished. The CGT—which launched the industrial action three weeks ago—has been pushing for a 10-percent pay rise for staff at TotalEnergies, retroactive to the start of this year. It says the French group can more than afford it, citing TotalEnergies' net profit of \$5.7 billion in the April-June period as energy prices soared with the war in Ukraine, and its payout of billions of euros in dividends to shareholders.

But the strike action has forced many filling stations to close and had a knock-on effect across all sectors of the economy. Faced with the fuel shortages, many people have started to cancel holidays

ahead of the upcoming school break, which has been impacting on an anticipated boost for the country's tourism sector.

Energy Transition Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher said the government is "doing everything so that people can go on a peaceful vacation".

Some 20 percent of service stations were still short of petrol or diesel on Wednesday, according to the health ministry. To try and ease the shortage, the government has used requisitioning powers to force some strikers back to open fuel depots—a move that has infuriated unions but been upheld in the courts. —AFP

## BMW to invest \$1.7bn in EV production in US

**BERLIN:** German carmaker BMW said Wednesday it will invest \$1.7 billion in the production of electric vehicles in the United States. The plan includes \$1 billion towards expanding the company's Spartanburg US manufacturing plant and \$700 million for a new battery assembly facility, BMW said in a statement. "The BMW group continues the roll-out of its electromobility plan with a new investment in the US," the company said. The Spartanburg plant in South Carolina is already BMW's biggest factory, producing 1,500 BMW X vehicles a day. The new high-voltage battery assembly facility will be located in Woodruff, South Carolina, BMW said.

The German group has also signed an agreement with Chinese battery manufacturer Envision AESC, which will "build a new battery cell factory in South Carolina" with an annual capacity of up to 30 GWh.

The group plans to produce at least six fully electric BMW X models at the Spartanburg plant by 2030. The aim is for the factory to become "a major driver for our electrification strategy," said Oliver Zipse, chair of BMW's management board. The move is part of a shift towards electrification at BMW and in the German car industry as a whole. BMW already sells the i3 model but it has nonetheless lost market share to Tesla. The German luxury brand is aiming to have two million electric vehicles on the road by 2025, promising 13 new electric models and a revamp of its Mini series.



**BERLIN:** German carmaker BMW said it will invest \$1.7 billion in the production of electric vehicles in the United States.

However, the new investment comes amid tensions over President Joe Biden's landmark "Inflation Reduction Act", which includes tax breaks for US-made electric cars and batteries. European Union officials have said the policy could put e-cars made elsewhere at an unfair disadvantage. German Economy Minister Robert Habeck on Wednesday warned that the US plans "must not destroy the level playing field between our two economies" and called for "a strong

answer from the European side". Speaking after talks with his French counterpart Bruno Le Maire, Habeck said companies were being "drawn away from Europe to the United States because of the strong subsidies paid". The US is also an attractive potential production base for German manufacturers struggling with soaring energy costs in the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Gas prices remain low in the United States thanks to abundant domestic production. —AFP

lockdowns in China and rocketing energy prices sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. And consumer prices remain elevated, fueling expectations of a further rate hike by the Fed at its policy meeting next month.

For now, retail spending has been relatively flat with consumers spending more on essentials, said the report on Wednesday. Auto dealers also saw slower sales due to limited inventories, higher vehicle costs, as well as rising interest rates.

While manufacturing generally held steady as supply chain disruptions eased, some districts reported a "cooling in labor demand" with firms hesitant to add to payrolls as worries of a down-

turn intensified.

The IMF said this month that major economies including the US will continue to stall, pegging US growth this year at 1.6 percent. Although price growth remained elevated, the Fed's report said Wednesday, "some easing" has been seen, with declines in commodity, fuel and freight costs.

"Looking ahead, expectations were for price increases to generally moderate," the report said.

Commercial real estate slowed in construction and sales too, with scattered reports of declining property prices. —AFP

Business

# Turkish central bank cuts rates for 3rd month despite weak lira

## Turkey's annual inflation rate soars over 83%

ISTANBUL: Turkey's central bank on Thursday cut its policy rate for the third consecutive month despite plunging lira and an annual inflation rate that has soared over 83 percent. The central bank said it was cutting its one-week repo rate to 10.5 percent from 12 percent, with a surge in consumer prices it said was "driven by the lagged and indirect effects of rising energy costs" caused by Russia's war on Ukraine.

The decision comes right after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the central bank would keep cutting rates every month for "as long as I am in power". Erdogan wants interest rates to lower down to single digits by the end of the year as he prioritizes economic growth eight months before a general election-which could promise to be the closest since he came to power nearly two decades ago.

Turkish decision makers have insisted on following this unconventional economic model at the expense of an astronomical inflation. Erdogan, a vocal opponent of higher borrowing costs, has called high interest rates his "biggest enemy".

Earlier this month he vowed that while he remained in power, "the interest will continue to come down with each passing day, each passing week, each passing month."

As a result, Turkish lira keeps losing its value against the US dollar and is down 28 percent since January. "Erdogan's economic re-election strategy is clear... use money from Russia and (the) Gulf to fund FX intervention to defend the lira, cut policy rates as far as possible to get credit and growth going," BlueBay Asset Management analyst Timothy Ash said.

The powerful Turkish leader has responded to the economic crisis by an overhaul of his foreign policy and repairing ties with his former rivals in the Arab world, including oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Additional trade-focused deals with Russia have helped shore up Turkey's dwindling foreign currency reserves and potentially given Erdogan enough breathing room to ride out the economic storm until the June election. However, Washington has been warning Turkish companies and banks trading with Russia for several months they could face possible sanctions. US assistant secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes Elizabeth Rosenberg traveled to Ankara and Istanbul this week, the Department of the Treasury said. Rosenberg's meetings "affirmed the importance of close partnership between the United States and Turkey in addressing the risks caused by sanctions evasion and other illicit financial activities." — AFP



TOKYO: A weaker yen inflates profits for Japanese exporters, but can also weigh on the country's trade balance.

## Yen sinks to 150 per dollar, lowest since 1990

TOKYO: The falling yen hit 150 per dollar for the first time since 1990 on Thursday, driven down by the contrast between Japanese monetary easing and aggressive US interest rate hikes. The currency has plunged from February levels of around 115 as the Bank of Japan sticks to its longstanding ultra-loose policies, designed to encourage sustainable growth in the world's third-largest economy. At the same time the US Federal Reserve has sharply increased borrowing costs in an attempt to quell sky-high inflation fuelled by factors including the war in Ukraine. The Japanese unit sank to as low as 150.08 per dollar, before easing back soon after. Analysts say the yen will continue to slide as long as the two policies differ, with more dramatic Fed interest-rate hikes likely as US prices increase faster than expected.

And speculation is growing that Japan could move to prop up its currency again after spending 2.8 trillion yen in September (then around \$20 billion) on an intervention that involves selling dollars and buying yen. Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki

called volatile fluctuations in forex markets "absolutely intolerable" on Thursday, reiterating verbal warnings that authorities will take an "appropriate response" to promote stability. Earlier this week, Suzuki declined to confirm whether any unannounced "stealth" interventions had recently taken place. "It's probably fair to say that... the Japanese government is engaged in a game of chicken with the market" on the yen, Jane Foley, head of FX strategy at Rabobank, told AFP.

"There isn't a limit," she said, explaining that in the short term, "interest rate differentials suggest there is a strong drag on the dollar-yen to go higher." A weaker yen inflates profits for Japanese exporters, but can also weigh on the country's trade balance. Japan is heavily reliant on imported energy and also buys in other goods including much of its food. September's intervention "managed to stabilize the dollar-yen rate for a while, because traders are frightened of intervention", which can cause them to lose money, said Foley. But the effect of such interventions will be limited if the gap between Japanese and US monetary policy remains, she added. "It's very unlikely that anything is going to change from policy at least until the spring," when key wage negotiations take place in Japan, she said. Japan scrapped its COVID-19 border restrictions and reopened to tourists this month, and many visitors will find shopping, eating out and domestic travel a bargain thanks to the weak yen and years of stubbornly low inflation.—AFP



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



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 20 OCTOBER 2022

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No.	Ticker	Sector	Price Movement & Performance											Valuation Multiples *			
			Open Price	Close Price	Week High	Week Low	Range	Volume	WTD Change	WTD %	YTD %	Support Level	Resistance Level	P/E	P/B	Yield	Beta
101	National Bank of Kuwait	Banking	1,022	1,055	1,055	1,006	49	23,032,020	35	3.43%	11.11%	1,038	1,055	17.4	2.03	2.3%	0.99
102	Gulf Bank	Banking	321	340	343	317	26	19,954,187	20	6.25%	27.96%	338	346	17.8	1.55	2.0%	1.24
106	Kuwait International Bank	Banking	196	193	196	186	10	37,899,179	-2	-1.03%	-7.93%	186	194	34.8	0.61	2.0%	1.17
107	Burgan Bank	Banking	215	220	221	207	14	12,792,489	3	1.38%	-7.97%	217	222	18.6	0.81	2.2%	1.30
108	Kuwait Finance House	Banking	774	811	811	754	57	95,685,607	39	5.05%	7.22%	796	815	27.5	3.47	1.4%	1.17
109	Boubyan Bank	Banking	796	808	815	771	44	4,952,655	12	1.51%	13.43%	803	813	52.6	3.20	0.6%	1.08
204	National Investments	Financial Services	231	240	248	228	20	5,850,505	10	4.35%	9.59%	237	244	9.0	0.95	18.9%	1.80
205	Kuwait Projects	Financial Services	117	120	124	112	12	16,727,749	1	0.84%	-15.49%	116	122	307.7	0.63	4.2%	1.02
252	Al Imtiaz Investment	Financial Services	74	76.9	77	72	5	1,965,624	3.4	4.63%	-34.83%	72.8	78.0	-	0.45	12.0%	1.23
401	Kuwait Real Estate	Real Estate	102	112	112	99	13	41,657,453	11.6	11.55%	-35.55%	108.0	119	13.6	0.82	2.7%	1.10
413	Mabaneer	Real Estate	846	869	879	811	68	2,397,539	29	3.45%	16.16%	850	875	18.4	1.98	1.5%	1.05
501	National Industries	Financial Services	216	236	236	207	29	32,359,472	20	9.26%	-2.06%	232	247	5.4	0.99	5.0%	1.50
505	Gulf Cable	Industrials	1,110	1,120	1,150	1,080	70	1,034,425	-4	-0.36%	28.59%	1,090	1,176	10.4	1.04	5.4%	0.98
514	Boubyan Petrochemical	Basic Materials	804	812	817	790	27	865,018	7	0.87%	-4.69%	790	820	9.2	1.66	7.5%	0.94
526	Al Qurain	Basic Materials	254	248	262	210	52	12,541,865	6	2.48%	-28.53%	210	256	9.5	0.61	7.3%	1.06
603	Agility	Industrials	674	743	744	665	79	39,579,024	74	11.06%	-5.65%	738	769	57.1	1.27	2.3%	1.48
605	Zain	Telecommunications	581	596	596	570	26	22,775,660	16	2.76%	0.17%	595	599	14.1	2.17	5.6%	0.80
623	Human Soft Holding	Industrials	3,253	3,280	3,333	3,210	123	387,856	20	0.61%	1.74%	3,350	3,440	7.6	3.63	12.3%	0.69
642	ALAFCO	Industrials	171	181	188	168	20	5,183,938	8	4.62%	-16.97%	167	184	-	0.67	0.0%	1.16
654	JAZEERA	Consumer Discretionary	1,706	1,700	1,739	1,660	79	1,735,970	-32	-1.85%	31.78%	1,700	1,780	13.7	12.29	2.7%	1.41
818	Ahli United Bank	Banking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
821	Warba Bank	Banking	225	237	241	224	17	22,264,370	13	5.80%	-13.50%	229	240	28.1	1.30	0.0%	1.08
823	Mezzan Holding	Consumer Staples	360	370	375	359	16	5,675,192	6	1.65%	-35.93%	360	380	37.9	1.08	4.3%	0.50
824	Integrated Holding	Industrials	342	346	369	335	34	2,272,180	-2	-0.57%	-6.49%	345	358	26.5	1.43	2.9%	0.76
826	Shamal Az-Zour	Utilities	190	192	192	188	4	1,859,510	2	1.05%	-15.79%	189	195	14.7	2.16	9.4%	0.47
827	Boursa Kuwait	Financial Services	2,129	2,290	2,319	2,081	238	565,939	202	9.67%	13.37%	2,287	2,350	24.5	7.89	2.9%	0.87
830	AL GHANIM	Consumer Discretionary	790	797	797	781	16	2,429,113	7	0.89%	-	780	800	12.5	3.68	-	0.47

\* As of end of week closing

# Warming waters 'key culprit' in Alaska crab mass die-off

Climate change is a prime suspect in a mass die-off of Alaska's snow crabs, experts say, after the state took the unprecedented step of canceling their harvest this season to save the species. According to an annual survey of the Bering Sea floor carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, estimates for the crustaceans' total numbers fell to about 1.9 billion in 2022, down from 11.7 billion in 2018, or a reduction of about 84 percent. For the first time ever, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced the Bering Sea snow crab season will remain closed for 2022-23, saying in a statement efforts must turn to "conservation and rebuilding given the condition of the stock."

The species is also found in the more northward Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, but they do not grow to fishable sizes there. Erin Fedewa, a marine biologist with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, told AFP the shocking numbers seen today were the result of heatwaves in 2018 and 2019. The "cold water habitat that they need was virtually absent, which suggests that temperature is really the key culprit in this population decline," she said.

Historically an abundant resource in the Bering Sea, their loss is considered a bellwether of ecological disruption. There are thought to be several ways



This undated handout photo shows a mature male snow crab on the deck of a survey vessel in Alaska. Climate change is a prime suspect in a mass die-off of Alaska's snow crabs after the state took the unprecedented step of canceling their harvest this season to save the iconic species.— AFP photos

that warmer temperatures have depleted the species. Studies have pointed toward a higher prevalence of Bitter Crab Disease as the temperature heats up. The crustaceans, named for their love of cold water, are also under greater metabolic stress in warmer waters, meaning they need more energy to stay alive.

"A working hypothesis right now is that the crabs starved, they couldn't

keep up with metabolic demands," said Fedewa. Young snow crabs in particular need low temperatures to hide out from their major predator, Pacific cod, and temperatures in regions where juveniles typically reside jumped from 1.5 degrees Celsius in 2017 to 3.5 Celsius in 2018 (35 degrees Fahrenheit to 38 degrees Fahrenheit) - with studies indicating 3C might be an important threshold.

## Overfishing not blamed

More research is underway and findings should be published soon, but in the meantime, "everything really points to climate change," Fedewa said. "These are truly unprecedented and troubling times for Alaska's iconic crab fisheries and for the hard-working fishermen and communities that depend on them," Jamie Goen, executive director of Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers said in a statement, lamenting that second and third generation crab-fishing families "will go out of business."

The industry was also hit by the cancellation of Bristol Bay red king crab fishing for the second year in a row. Fedewa also noted that overfishing isn't a big factor in the population collapse of snow crabs. Fishing removes only large adult males, she said, "and we've seen these declines across all sizes of snow crab, which really suggest some bottom-up environmental driver is at play."

Male Alaska snow crabs can reach six inches in shell width, but females seldom grow larger than three inches, according to NOAA. In some good news, this year's survey saw significant increases in the immature crabs compared to last year - but it will take four or five years before the males among them grow to fishable size. Following the heat-wave years, temperatures have returned to normal, and "the hope is that leaving



This undated handout photo shows Erin Fedewa, a marine biologist with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, next to baskets of snow crabs on the back deck of a survey vessel in Alaska.

crabs untouched will allow them to reproduce, there'll be no mortalities, and we can just let the stock try to recover," said Fedewa. A hope that is pinned on no further heatwaves.— AFP

## At the gateway to the Arctic, a world in turmoil

Sled dog breeder David Daley lives at the gateway to the Canadian Arctic, occupying a front-row seat to the march of global warming, and he senses calamity ahead. "For all the devastation that we're doing to her, she's not going to sit still, our planet Mother Earth will punish us," Daley says. Daley's hometown of Churchill is an isolated settlement at the edge of the Hudson Bay where global warming unfolds at triple the pace of much of the rest of the world, causing the Arctic ice to gradually disappear.

A member of the Metis people, one of three Indigenous groups in Canada, the 59-year-old grandfather lives close to nature, surrounded by his 46 dogs, at the point where the tundra ends and the boreal forest begins. But every year, he fears that the snow will arrive late, and the impact that has on his sled dogs. "They're just waiting for winter like the rest of us right now," Daley said. "This is like a culture that's dying."

In summer and winter, Daley travels through this region where rocky terrain, moss, tall grasses and black spruce forests prevail. At night, the displays of light known as the aurora borealis often flicker in the high-latitude skies. Daley has been hunting here all his life and has seen the wildlife change up close, some species vanishing and others arriving.

"There was hardly any moose here when I was a kid. Now there's moose



An aerial view of the CCGS Amundsen, a Canadian research ice-breaker navigating near an ice floe along Devon Island, in the Canadian High Arctic.

The installation is now deserted, and local concerns today concentrate more on polar bears.

Due to global warming, ice no longer covers the Hudson Bay for as long each winter, forcing the polar bears to spend more time on land and nearer to humans. Often hungry and weak, the bears wander closer to settlements. Venturing around the town requires precautions: a gun, bear repellent and the need to walk in groups after dark or in poor visibility.

Everyone in Churchill has a story about a run-in with a polar bear. "I don't remember feeling unsafe during summertime. No, no. I used to play on the rocks," said Danielle Daley, the 33-year-old daughter of David Daley. "Today, it's different. I won't let my kids play on the rocks." The slender young woman recounts her fright at seeing a bear run past her house in July, followed closely by the Manitoba Natural Resources bureau patrol vehicle with its sirens wailing.



An aerial view of the CCGS Amundsen, a Canadian research ice-breaker navigating near an ice floe along Devon Island, in the Canadian High Arctic.— AFP photos

everywhere," said Daley, who uses his Indigenous knowledge to earn money as a tourist guide. "When I was a kid hunting, fishing and trapping here, there were no pine martens. "There's sharptail grouse moving in now where I've never... harvested one till last year." His observations echo scientific studies: Global warming is endangering Arctic species, especially by opening the doors to other animals from further south. Both animals and vegetation are migrating north. For Daley, humans have "no choice," they must "adapt" as animals are forced to do.

## Proving polar bears

Adaptation includes a newfound need for closer coexistence with the emblematic predator of the Arctic region: the polar bear. During the Cold War, a joint Canadian-US military installation in Churchill stood guard against a possible Soviet attack coming over the North Pole.

It's even more complicated in the fall, when the bears are starving after months of failing to find food on land, without a seal in sight. "We're at the beginning of the busiest time of year for us when the bears will be coming through Churchill on their way north to the first ice on the Hudson Bay," said Ian Van Nest, a wildlife officer. For Halloween night, October 31, a special set-up is put in place, Van Nest said. Clad in a bullet-proof vest, with a rifle slung over his shoulder and a walkie-talkie on his belt, the stern-faced Van Nest and his fellow officers go on patrol.

They even deploy helicopters to spot roaming bears and ensure they do not come near children collecting candy. "Otherwise we could use cracker shells. It's a loud bang and a flash that'll haze the bear away as well," Van Nest said. The town is also equipped with new radars that can detect polar bears within two kilometers of its most outlying homes, even

at night or thick fog. Around Churchill, the polar bear population has been in decline since the 1980s but still hovers around 800, about the same number as human inhabitants of the town.

## 'Opportunities are there'

Not everyone sees these climate-related changes in a bad light. "You've got to look for the wins in all of this," said Churchill Mayor Michael Spence, a member of the Cree, the most populous Indigenous group of the First Nations in Canada. An increase in tourism, along with development of the port, have gone hand in hand with rising temperatures. "The opportunities are there for local people to have... economic growth," said Spence, who grew up locally. This remote corner of Manitoba province is inaccessible by car from the rest of Canada, yet a few thousand tourists find their way each year, by air or rail, drawn by the increased presence of the polar bears.

And the melting sea ice allows ships to access the city's port, the only deep-water port in the Canadian Arctic, for more months each year than before. The mayor dreams of transitioning Churchill into a bustling port for grain grown in increasingly more northern areas, and eventually for minerals, more easily extracted in the far north due to thawing. A large part of Canada's mining potential is found in the far north, including deposits of diamonds, gold, tungsten, uranium, and rare earth elements.

But the thawing of the soil can also hamper mining prospects. Railways that once delivered raw materials to port have become less stable, and even at times useless. In 2017, a major melt led to flooding that damaged rail lines, and rail transport was cut off for more than 18 months. Since then, the port has been largely idle, handling only a few ships per year. At the back of the gigantic silos, old rail cars rust amid wild grass.

## Poverty

For some residents of Churchill, grinding poverty relegates concerns about global warming to the background. Dilapidated homes, some hastily patched up, line the streets alongside prefabricated buildings on cinder blocks, seemingly unsuited for winter temperatures that can plunge below -40 degrees Celsius (-40 degrees Fahrenheit). Abandoned cars, vans, snowmobiles and quads are a frequent sight, often stripped for spare parts. In the early period of European colonization, Churchill was an important outpost of the fur trade. Today, both poverty and the region's Indigenous roots are apparent. Fully 60 percent of the population is Indigenous (Inuit, Metis and First Nation groups like Cree and Dene), while in Canada as a whole the number is only five percent and in Manitoba 18 percent. Unemployment, substandard housing and discrimination prevail.

About 64 percent of children here live below the poverty line. UN climate experts already said in their March report that these people's intimate knowledge must be taken into account in the fight against climate change. At November's COP27 climate summit in Egypt, some activists will press for policies that take into account Indigenous ancestral practices, since their lands host 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. David Daley dreams of an awakening. "We must, as Indigenous people, lead the reconciliation with our mother, the Earth," he says.— AFP



A female polar bear and her cub look for something to eat on the shoreline of the Hudson Bay near Churchill.

## Polar bear hell: An ice pack that keeps receding

sprawled on rocky ground far from sea ice, a lone Canadian polar bear sits under a dazzling sun, his white fur useless as camouflage. It's midsummer on the shores of the Hudson Bay and life for the enormous male has been moving in slow motion, far from the prey that keeps him alive: seals. Every year from late June, when the bay ice disappears - shrinking until it dots the blue vastness like scattered confetti - the bears must move onto shore to begin a period of forced fasting.

But that period is lasting longer and longer as temperatures rise. The whole annual rhythm of the polar bear is in peril, and birth rates are dropping as they scavenge for food. "There could be a beluga whale carcass they might be able to find, (or a) naive seal near shore, but generally they're just fasting. They lose nearly a kilogram of body weight every day that they're on land," said Geoff York, a biologist for Polar Bears International (PBI). An AFP team joined him on an expedition.

In the Arctic, global warming is occurring three or four times faster than elsewhere in the world, recent studies indicate. According to a 2020 report published in the journal Nature Climate Change, this means the near-extinction of this iconic animal is approaching: From

1,200 individuals in the 1980s, the polar bear population in western Hudson Bay has dropped to about 800 today.

These days, this super predator of the Arctic sometimes has to feed on seaweed, as a mother and her cub were seen doing not far from the port of Churchill, the Manitoba town and self-declared "polar bear capital." They are also moving closer to the cities. In Churchill, the bears a few years ago began frequenting the waste disposal site, a source of easy - but harmful - food for them.

Since then, the town has taken precautions. The dump is now guarded by cameras, fences and patrols. Across Churchill, people leave cars and houses unlocked in case someone needs to take refuge quickly after a bad encounter with this large carnivore. The emergency number for the wildlife protection unit is posted on many walls. Some areas, like schoolgrounds, are more closely monitored. When they get an urgent call, Ian Van Nest, the provincial officer of the unit, and his colleagues jump into their pickup truck armed with a rifle and a spray can of repellent, wearing protective vests.

Sometimes the bears can be scared off with just "the horn on your vehicle," Van Nest said. Other times the animals need to be sedated, then kept in cages until winter rolls around and they are freed. The fate of the polar bear should alarm everyone, said Flavio Lehner, a climate scientist at Cornell University, who notes that the Arctic is a good barometer of planetary health. And since the 1980s, data show, the bay's summer ice pack has decreased by nearly half.— AFP



A polar bear swims to catch a beluga whale along the coast of Hudson Bay near Churchill.— AFP

## Lifestyle | Features

## Fela Kuti, who used 'music as weapon', honored in Paris

The son of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti spoke of his father's bravery in using "music as a weapon" ahead of an immersive exhibition opening at the Paris Philharmonic on Thursday. "Instead of picking up a gun, music was the only tool he had. It was a weapon to use against authority, against colonisation and corrupt African governments," said Femi Kuti, 60, himself a hugely successful musician. The Paris Philharmonic is paying homage to Fela Kuti by recreating the atmosphere of his sweaty, politically-charged nightclub in Nigeria, The Shrine, that became a beacon for global stars in the 1970s including Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney.

Kuti died from AIDS complications in 1997, but his pioneering work remains as potent as ever, frequently cited by today's stars such as Flea from Red Hot Chili Peppers, or Beyonce and Jay-Z who sampled his hit "Zombie" on "Homecoming Live". "I'm not surprised. Great people like Miles Davis already talked about Fela," said Femi Kuti of his father's continued popularity. "Afrobeat was the basic element of hip-hop, it's where hip-hop got its sauce from."

Fela's politics have also remained potent. "When we started working on



Nigerian musician Femi Kuti, son of legendary afrobeat musician and activist Fela Anikulakpo-Kuti, performs on stage with his children at the New Afrika Shrine in Lagos. — AFP

this exhibition project, the Black Lives Matter movement emerged and Fela's fight in the 70s and 80s found resonance there," said Alexandre Girard-Muscagorry, one of the curators of the immersive exhibition. Kuti was harassed throughout much of his life by the military authorities in Nigeria for his relent-

less criticism of their corruption and violent misrule. There was a particularly vicious reaction after he refused to take part in an official music festival in 1977, instead organizing a parallel event that became much more popular and attracted international stars including Stevie Wonder.



Grant Kirkhope, Music Composer, performs music for Mario + Rabbids Kingdom Battle Donkey Kong DLC during the Ubisoft E3 conference at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

## How gaming firm mashed 'Rabbids' into 'Mario' world

It took 300 staff working in five cities about five years, but the second edition of one of the most ambitious mash-ups in video games is set to arrive on Thursday: "Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope". The game merges Nintendo's Mario, the Italian plumber who has given his name to an entire universe of games, with Ubisoft's Rabbids, a series focused on the adventures of a species of screeching, hyperactive rabbit-like animals.

Nintendo, like other media companies, is highly protective of its creations. Only fellow Japanese studio Sega has been entrusted with characters from "Mario" before, for special editions games celebrating the Olympic Games where they compete with "Sonic the Hedgehog". "Nintendo told us very early on: 'This is your game, this is your vision, we respect it,'" Ubisoft's Xavier Manzanares, who is overseeing the new game's development, told AFP. "That's where it's interesting, so we had real creativity, really interesting room for manoeuvre."

The first game in the series, "Mario + Rabbids: Kingdom Battle", has garnered more than 10 million players since its release in 2017, said Manzanares. "I don't think we would have bet on that in 2017," he said. "It attracted a lot of attention because there are not many brands that do a pair-up with 'Mario', that's for sure."

## A history of mash-ups

The idea of fictional universes colliding—characters from one popping up in another—is far more developed in cinema franchises and comic books than in video

games. Superheroes, for example, have a long history of showing up in a rival's storylines. In video games, Nintendo has created mash-ups featuring its own characters, like the "Super Smash Bros" series that brought together the likes of Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others. Occasionally two studios join forces, like in the "Kingdom Hearts" series, which matched up "Final Fantasy" of the Japanese publisher Square Enix with characters owned by Disney.

This is much closer to the idea of Spiderman and Superman walking into each other's storylines, as happened in 1970s crossover comics and many times since. Julien Pillot, an economist specializing in cultural industries, told AFP this kind of collaboration in video games was rare and tricky to pull off. Issues of rights and royalties cause headaches, he said, and the studio loaning its characters is likely to make onerous demands to ensure its brand is protected.

## 'New universes'

Ubisoft, though, said it had been given real leeway, even to create new crossover characters in the form of "Sparks". They are star-shaped creatures combining "Rabbids" with "Lumas", characters from the game "Super Mario Galaxy". "For us, it was important not to have 'Rabbids' on one side and 'Mario' on the other in two separate silos," said Manzanares.

He said the aim was to "really to create a new universe with both". The French firm's developers have been working across two principal locations in Milan and Paris with support from other studios in China, India and Montpellier in southern France. Manzanares played down the challenges involved in such a creative endeavor being carried out across so many locations. "We've been working like this for a long time, whether it's on the games 'Far Cry', 'Assassin's Creed' or 'Just Dance'," he said. — AFP



Nintendo co-Representative Director and Creative Fellow Shigeru Miyamoto (left) and Ubisoft Co-founder and CEO Yves Guillemot talk about 'Mario Rabbids Kingdom Battle' on stage during the Ubisoft E3 conference at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

## Robotic suit gives paralyzed children a gift of walking

Wearing a robotic exoskeleton designed specially for children, an eight-year-old boy with cerebral palsy walked through a therapy room in Mexico City, smiling triumphantly at the once-unthinkable feat. David Zabala uses a wheelchair due to his neurological condition, which also left him deaf and reliant on sign language. But thanks to the Atlas 2030 exoskeleton, which won its creator a European Inventor Award this year, he was able to walk and stand in front of a mirror where he drew smiling faces with colored marker pens.

"He's taking his first steps. That's a joy for him," said the boy's mother, Guadalupe Cardoso, 41. "At first it scared him and his hands were very tense, and now I see that he's already holding the marker pen and starting to draw or (play with) the ball," Cardoso added. It makes the exhausting, near two-hour journey from their home in the south of Mexico



David Zabala, an 8-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, is assisted by physical therapists during a rehabilitation session with the robotic exoskeleton Atlas 2030 at the Association for People with Cerebral Palsy (APAC) in Mexico City. — AFP

## London rapper Little Simz wins prestigious Mercury Prize

London rapper Little Simz on Tuesday won Britain's prestigious Mercury Prize for album "Sometimes I Might Be Introvert", beating off competition from "One Direction" singer Harry Styles, among others. The 28-year-old said she was "very, very overwhelmed" as she picked up the £25,000 (28,700 euros, \$28,300) prize at the London ceremony, and paid tribute to her brother and collaborator Inlo.

"We created this album together, there were times in the studio I didn't know if I was going to finish this record, I was feeling all the emotions and really going through it and he stuck by me and pushed me to deliver," she said. The artist, real name Simbiatu 'Simbi' Abisola Abiola Ajikawo, explores personal and political themes on her fourth album.

She told the Guardian outlet that the album expressed her feeling of "being this introverted person that has all these crazy thoughts and ideas and theories in my head and not always feeling like I'm able

## 'Out of Africa'

Soldiers responded to his counter-festival by burning down his home and pushing his mother out of a first-floor window, causing injuries which led to her death a year later, Femi Kuti said. "He was a voice for the voiceless, the only opponent who was brave enough to tackle the hardcore military dictators at that time and he paid a very high price," said Femi Kuti.

But it was ultimately the genius of his music that made him so popular, creating something entirely new with its mix of free-jazz, soul, funk and Yoruba. McCartney was one of many inspired to come to The Shrine in Lagos, where he recorded his album "Band on the Run". "Fela came out of Africa with this incredible sound that caught the ears of everybody," said his son. "To use this music as a political weapon and message - that caught the attention of the world and especially France, maybe because of the connection to its own rebellions." — AFP

## Hackers threaten to release Aussie celebs' health data

Hackers have threatened to leak the stolen health data of 1,000 famous Australians in a cybersecurity incident described by the government on Thursday as a "huge wake-up call". Medibank, one of Australia's largest private health insurers, said Thursday that the hackers were claiming to have stolen 200 gigabytes of data.

"The criminal has provided a sample of records for 100 policies," it said in a statement to the Australian stock market. "This claims data includes the location of where a customer received medical services, and codes relating to their diagnosis and procedures." The insurer announced a trading halt as details of the hack emerged on Wednesday morning. The hackers threatened to leak or sell the data, starting with 1,000 high-profile Australians, unless Medibank paid a ransom. The personal information of some nine million Australians - almost a third of the population - was exposed last month in a hack targeting telecoms company Optus. The Optus hack was one of largest data breaches in Australian history. — AFP



David Zabala, an 8-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, is assisted by a physical therapist and his mother, Guadalupe Cardoso Ruiz (center), during a rehabilitation session with the robotic exoskeleton Atlas 2030 at the Association for People with Cerebral Palsy (APAC) in Mexico City. — AFP

City to the therapy center totally worth it, she said.

The exoskeleton was designed by Spanish professor Elena Garcia Armada to enable children who use wheelchairs to walk during muscle rehabilitation therapy. The mechanical joints of the battery-powered titanium suit adapt intelligently to the motion of each child, according to the European Patent Office, which presented Garcia with the European Inventor Award. Giving paralyzed children the opportunity to walk "not only extends their life expectancy and enhances their physical well-being, but also improves their self-esteem," it said.

## 'Changing lives'

Mexico is the third country, after Spain and France, where the Atlas 2030 has been used to treat children. The suit helps "to achieve in record time rehabilitation goals" that would take months to achieve with conventional therapies, said Guadalupe Maldonado, director of Mexico's Association for People with Cerebral Palsy.

The benefits include muscle strengthening, improvement of the digestive and respiratory systems and above all a major mood boost, Maldonado said. The private organization, founded in 1970, has already seen positive results two weeks after acquiring its first exoskeleton, she said. A second device, worth around \$250,000, is due to arrive in Mexico City next month.

The association's initial goal is to offer rehabilitation to about 200 children with cerebral palsy. "We want to continue working and empowering, so that more children in the city and the country have access to this type of rehabilitation... that radically changes their lives," Maldonado said. The sessions also give joy to the therapists, who carefully fit the exoskeleton using its special corset, cuff and shoes and celebrate the children's progress with smiles and applause. "It motivates us a lot as therapists that we will be able to achieve many things in the future," said Arturo Palafox, 28. — AFP

to express it if it's not through my art". The award ceremony at the legendary Apollo venue in Hammersmith, west London was broadcast by the BBC, and featured performances by all of the acts, although Styles had to pre-record his.

## Critical seal of approval

Created in 1992 as an alternative to the more mainstream Brit Awards, the prize is seen as a seal of critical approval and a springboard to wider fame. But Styles, already a global superstar, also made the final cut for his album "Harry's House", the fastest-selling UK album of 2022 so far. Brit Award winner Sam Fender was another high-profile artist on the shortlist for his second album "Seventeen Going Under", which tackles the issue of social deprivation in his native North East England.

Recognising the best British or Irish album of the last 12 months, the Mercury has previously gone to acts like Pulp, Arctic Monkeys and PJ Harvey. Also included in this year's 12-artist shortlist were art pop singer Self Esteem, previously of indie band Slow Club, for her album "Prioritise Please", a celebration of femininity. Folk singer Gweno, whose album "Tresor" is sung mostly in Cornish also made the list, along with indie duo Wet Leg, post-metallers Nova Twins and Scottish jazz act Fergus McCreadie.



British rapper Simbiatu Abisola Abiola Ajikawo aka Little Simz poses on the red carpet upon her arrival for the BRIT Awards 2022 in London. — AFP

McCreadie told BBC Radio 6 Music: "It is great to be part of that for Scottish music, to have this recognition, hopefully it can embolden musicians in Scotland." Guitarist Bernard Butler, who won the second ever Mercury Prize with iconic indie band Suede in 1993, reappeared on the shortlist again, this time for his collaboration with actress Jessie Buckley. The shortlist was completed by post-punk act Yard Act, soul singer Joy Crookes and rapper Kojey Radical. Last year's winner was Arlo Parks, for her debut album "Collapsed In Sunbeams". — AFP

## Sports

# Pelicans pummel Nets to open NBA season; Suns thump Mavs

## Timberwolves overpower Thunder 115-108

LOS ANGELES: Zion Williamson and the New Orleans Pelicans opened their NBA season with a punishing 130-108 victory over the star-studded Nets in Brooklyn on Wednesday. Brandon Ingram scored 28 points and Williamson—playing his first regular-season game in more than 17 months—scored 25 as he returns from the foot injury that sidelined him for a season. “It’s crazy,” said Williamson, the 2019 top draft pick who at 22 has already battled a raft of injuries. “Simply playing the game I love, that I didn’t get to play for a long time, it was a breath of fresh air.”

“There’s a lot of room for improvement,” Williamson added. “I’m still learning my teammates... I’m just excited to go.” Williamson helped the Pelicans build an 18-4 lead midway through the first quarter, easily outpacing Brooklyn’s Ben Simmons—another former top draft pick who has also battled injuries. Australian Simmons made his debut for the Nets, who acquired him from Philadelphia last season as he battled a back injury for which he had surgery in May.

Nets star Kevin Durant, who stayed put in Brooklyn after rocking the league with a trade demand in June, kept the hosts in touch, scoring 21 of his 32 points in the first half. But the Pelicans out-scored the Nets 40-28 in the third quarter to take control for good. They never trailed and led by as many as 26 points, parlaying 21 offensive rebounds into 36 points. Ingram was a model of efficiency, racking up his 28 points on 10-of-17 shooting. In contrast, Kyrie Irving connected on just six of 19 shots for 15 points and Simmons scored just four points before fouling out.

The second night of the season saw a couple of nail-biters, as the Suns erased a 22-point third-quarter

deficit to edge the Dallas Mavericks 107-105 in Phoenix. In Memphis the Grizzlies thwarted the New York Knicks’ comeback bid for a 115-112 overtime victory. The Mavs, led by 35 points from Luka Doncic, appeared to be on cruise control against a Suns team they eliminated in last season’s playoffs.

Despite the struggles of star point guard Chris Paul, the Suns found a way back, slicing the deficit to one point with 1:25 left in the third quarter. The Suns took the lead on Cameron Payne’s basket late in the fourth, and after Doncic tied it up at 105-105 with 32.8sec remaining, got the win thanks to Damian Lee’s off-balance jumper in the waning seconds. Devin Booker’s 28 points led five Suns players in double figures, that included reserve Lee, who scored all 11 of his in the final period.

### Gobert shines for T’Wolves

Ja Morant scored 34 points and the Grizzlies held on against the determined Knicks, who erased a 19-point deficit and forced overtime on Cam Reddick’s three-pointer. Memphis were up 115-112 late in the extra session when Tyus Jones missed two free throws and the Knicks got another chance, but Evan Fournier missed the three-point attempt. “It was down to the team that was getting stops and coming down and executing,” Morant said. “I felt like we did that very well, even though the game was still close... we’re a resilient team and it showed.”

Familiar faces in new places included three-time Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert, who scored 23 points and pulled down 16 rebounds in his Minnesota debut to help the Timberwolves beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 115-108. In Detroit, last



NEW YORK: Brandon Ingram #14 of the New Orleans Pelicans looks to pass as Kyrie Irving #11 of the Brooklyn Nets defends during the first half against the Brooklyn Nets at Barclays Center on October 19, 2022. —AFP

season’s top draft pick Cade Cunningham scored 24 points to lead the Pistons to a 113-109 victory over Orlando, but the Magic could celebrate an impressive debut for this year’s No. 1 draft pick Paolo

Banchero. The 19-year-old scored 27 points with nine rebounds and five assists—the best debut numbers for a top draft pick since LeBron James in 2003. —AFP

### News in brief

#### QPR take Championship lead

LONDON: QPR powered to a 3-0 win against Cardiff on Wednesday as speculation mounted that boss Michael Beale is set to leave the Championship leaders to take charge of Wolves. Lyndon Dykes scored twice at Loftus Road and Kenneth Paal bagged his first QPR goal while Cardiff defender Jack Simpson was sent off. The comfortable victory could prove to be Beale’s last with the west London club as he is in the frame to take over at Premier League strugglers Wolves less than four months into his first managerial role. Beale’s departure would be a huge blow for QPR, who hired Steven Gerrard’s former Aston Villa assistant in the close-season. Martyn Waghorn scored his first Coventry goal for over a year as the Sky Blues moved off the bottom of the Championship with a 1-0 win over Sheffield United.

#### Fury to defend world title

LONDON: Tyson Fury will defend his world heavyweight title in an all-British trilogy fight against Derek Chisora in London on December 3 after the collapse of negotiations for a prospective showdown with Anthony Joshua. The bout against Chisora, whom Fury beat in 2011 and 2014, will take place at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and will be the “Gypsy King’s” first outing since a routine sixth-round stoppage of another domestic rival, Dillian Whyte, in April. The unbeaten Fury, whose WBC belt will be on the line, tweeted: “Let’s have it then Del Boy!!! See you December 3rd, London!”. Fury’s promoter Frank Warren said he was “thrilled” to be putting on a Fury title defense in front of British fans. “Tyson clearly conquered America across his trilogy with Deontay Wilder and there is also huge demand to stage his fights from sites across the world,” he said.

#### Arsenal thrash Lyon 5-1

PARIS: Women’s Champions League holders Lyon collapsed to a 5-1 home thumping at the hands of Arsenal on Wednesday as Beth Mead starred for the English club, while Barcelona put nine goals past Benfica. Jonas Eidevall’s Arsenal made a dream start against Lyon, as Mead teed up Caitlin Foord to give them a 13th-minute lead. Frida Leonhardtsen-Maunum doubled the advantage midway through the first half, before Melvine Malard pulled one back for the French side who won a record-extending eighth European Cup by dethroning Barcelona last season. But Mead, who finished second in the Ballon d’Or voting earlier this week, scored a brilliant free-kick in the 39th minute. Foord and England’s European Championship-winning hero Mead both scored again in the second period, as Lyon were left humiliated.

#### Prosecutors target Blatter, Platini

GENEVA: Swiss prosecutors said Thursday that they had filed an appeal against the acquittal of former football chiefs Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini over a suspected fraudulent payment. Blatter and Platini, once the chiefs of world and European football respectively, were cleared on July 8 by the Federal Criminal Court in a trial following a mammoth investigation that began in 2015. The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) told AFP that it had filed the appeal before the deadline was reached Wednesday night, confirming a report in L’Equipe. Switzerland’s top prosecutor “has applied for the full annulment of the first-instance judgment,” a spokeswoman for the Office of the Attorney General wrote in an email. The prosecutors reportedly had 20 days to make their intentions clear after the reception of the full verdict from the Federal Criminal Court, based in the southern city of Bellinzona, on September 29. —From AFP

## Padres rally to level MLB playoff series against Phillies

LOS ANGELES: The San Diego Padres erupted for five runs in the fifth inning to erase a two-run deficit on the way to an 8-5 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies that leveled their Major League Baseball playoff series on Wednesday. The victory in San Diego knotted the best-of-seven National League Championship Series at one game apiece with the series shifting to Philadelphia on Friday. The winner of the series will face either the New York Yankees or Houston Astros in the World Series. The Astros took a 1-0 lead in the American League Championship Series with a 4-2 victory in Houston.

Astros pitcher Justin Verlander struck out 11 batters and gave up one run in six innings and Yuli Gurriel, Chas McCormick and Jeremy Pena all belted solo home runs in the victory. Verlander notched his first post-season victory since game one of the 2019 AL Division Series and at 39 became the second-oldest pitcher in post-season history with a double-digit strikeout game, behind Nolan Ryan. The game was tied in the sixth inning when Gurriel and McCormick homered off Yankees relief pitcher

## McIlroy tries to reclaim No1 and defend title

WASHINGTON: Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy enters this week’s CJ Cup on the PGA Tour trying to reclaim the world number one ranking and defend his title on a brand new course. The 33-year-old from Northern Ireland tees off Thursday after a 2021-22 campaign in which he won a record third FedEx Cup playoff crown and finished in the top eight at all four majors, including a runner-up effort at the Masters in his bid to complete a career Grand Slam.

“Feeling pretty good about my game,” McIlroy said. “Two events left and still I feel like I have a little bit to play for. “I’ve put myself in a nice position to try to get back to number one in the world and trying to finish off the European Tour title too. Still plenty of motivation this time of the year.”

McIlroy will be shooting for success in an event that shifts from Las Vegas to Congaree Golf Club in Ridgeland, South Carolina - about 100 miles

## Verstappen and Red Bull fired by twin ambitions

AUSTIN: Newly acclaimed double world champion Max Verstappen has every right to enjoy celebrating his second drivers’ championship success in relaxed Texan style this weekend. But, as he seeks to break another on-track individual record at the United States Grand Prix two weeks after his title triumph in Japan, his Red Bull team boss Christian Horner will be fired by two more serious ambitions.

His first is to defend the Milton Keynes-based outfit’s reputation amid claims that they ‘cheated’ on their way to powering Max Verstappen to his two consecutive drivers’ title successes in 2021 and 2022. The accusation that has tarnished their recent achievements came after Red Bull were found to have been in breach of an official budget cap for 2021 - for

Clarke Schmidt. Pena led off the seventh with a homer off Lou Trivino for a 4-1 lead.

In San Diego, the Padres’ Austin Nola and Juan Soto drove in runs to end Phillies starting pitcher Aaron Nola’s day in the fifth inning. Austin Nola’s single off his younger brother Aaron scored Kim Ha-seong to pull the Padres within 4-3. The Nola brothers became the first pitcher-batter brother duo to face off in MLB post-season history, and Austin Nola said he knew he’d be tested by his brother. “He’s going to come after me and give his best stuff,” he said. “I’m just up there trying to hit something hard, up the middle, and that’s when good things happen.”

Austin Nola reached third on Jurickson Profar’s single and scored on Soto’s double to pull the Padres level. Brandon Drury, who homered along with teammate Josh Bell in the second inning, added a two-out single that drove in Profar and Soto to give the Padres their first lead of the game at 6-4. Designated hitter Bell followed with a run-scoring single that made it 7-4. Manny Machado also homered for San Diego. “That’s what makes it a championship-caliber team,” Bell said. “It’s not just one person we’re relying on. It’s all of us.”

Six of the Padres’ eight runs were scored off Aaron Nola, who had previously allowed just one earned run in 12 2/3 innings in these playoffs. Philadelphia had raced to an early lead with four runs in the second inning off San Diego starting pitcher Blake Snell. Both Soto and Drury were

southeast of Masters course Augusta National. To overtake Scheffler for the world number one spot, second-ranked McIlroy must win and have Scheffler finish worse than a two-way share of second or finish solo second and have Scheffler finish worse than solo 34th.

“If I get back to number one this week, it’s like my ninth time getting back,” McIlroy said. “It sort of illustrates you can have your runs and you can stay there, but I think the cool part is the journey and the journey getting back there. “It’s sort of like a heavyweight boxer losing a world title and it’s a journey to get that title back. I feel like that’s the cool part of it and that’s the journey that I’ve sort of been through over the past 12 months.” McIlroy, who plans three weeks off after the CJ Cup before playing in the European Tour finale at Dubai, last topped the rankings in July 2020 after the PGA’s Covid-19 pandemic comeback.

“It’s a point of pride for all of us out there to be highly ranked and to get to number one in the world at whatever you do is an unbelievable accolade and something that you should be proud of,” McIlroy said. “I have a chance to do it this week, but I’m proud of the fact that I’ve at least given myself a chance again because I was last (there when) we were coming back from the lockdown out of Covid in July 2020 and I feel like my game

which they have yet to learn their punishment, but which prompted one rival team to say they had been cheating.

Horner’s second goal is to ensure that the team stay focused and maintain the stunning form that has seen the Dutchman canter to a runaway second championship by claiming the constructors’ title for the first time since 2013 and fifth in all. While Verstappen goes in pursuit of his second win at the Circuit of the Americas, where he won last year, Horner is expected to be presenting his case for the defence of Red Bull in private paddock meetings and formal news conferences.

According to ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA), Red Bull exceeded a spending limit of \$145 million (dollars) with a “minor breach” of the cap, believed to be five per cent, or \$7.25 million dollars. Details of the team’s wrongdoing, the discussions that surrounded the FIA’s analysis of their accounts and any likely penalties have not yet been released, but McLaren team chief Zak Brown, in a widely-reported letter of October 12 sent to the FIA, said their action “constitutes cheating”. —AFP



SAN DIEGO: Wil Myers #5 of the San Diego Padres is unable to catch a foul ball hit by Matt Vierling #19 of the Philadelphia Phillies (not pictured) during the ninth inning in game two of the National League Championship Series on October 19, 2022. —AFP

charged with errors in the messy inning in which Snell gave up five hits and the Padres heard boos from their home fans. But Snell settled down to pitch five innings without surrendering another run. He struck out six and walked one and was credited with the win. —AFP

and my life has changed considerably since then, so it’s nice to have the opportunity again.”

### Staying No1 is hardest

McIlroy, who said he made a “hard reset” to his game a year ago after a poor showing in Europe’s Ryder Cup loss to the United States, says it is much harder to stay on top than to climb to the summit. “Staying there is harder. You’ve got a bulls-eye on your back, you’ve got to work harder, everyone’s coming after you,” McIlroy said. “The cool thing about it is you get to number one and it feels great in the moment and the bad thing is you almost got to maybe work harder to stay there. “When you’re striving towards something, not that it’s easier to get there, but like once you get there, it’s great. But the hard work is actually staying there.”

Scheffler, last season’s PGA Player of the Year, beat McIlroy at the Masters for his first major title but lost to McIlroy for the FedEx Cup at the Tour Championship in August. “I’m very competitive and I was frustrated with how last season ended. I really want to win the FedEx Cup,” Scheffler said. “I was a little bit worn at the end of the year, so it was definitely nice to be able to go home and check out a little bit and get some quality rest. “I prepared for this one for probably the last couple weeks, so I feel ready to go. I’m not looking too far ahead.” —AFP



MIE PREFECTURE: Red Bull Racing’s Dutch driver Max Verstappen (front) races in front of Ferrari’s Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc during the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, Mie prefecture. —AFP

Sports

# Bayern book last 16 in German Cup; first time in three seasons

Union Berlin, Stuttgart, Freiburg qualify for next round

**HANOVER:** Bayern Munich reached the last 16 of the German Cup for the first time in three seasons, thanks to a 5-2 comeback victory away at Bavarian neighbors Augsburg. Bayern returned to the venue of their only loss in all competitions so far this season, having gone down 1-0 away at Augsburg in mid-September in the Bundesliga. When Danish left-back Mads Pedersen put Augsburg 1-0 up after nine minutes, it looked like the 20-time German Cup winners Bayern could be eliminated in the second round for the third consecutive year.

Former Paris Saint-Germain striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting equalized after 27 minutes to calm Bayern's nerves, with the sides going into halftime locked at 1-1. Sadio Mane had a chance to give Bayern the lead a minute after the break but dragged the ball wide of goal. With pressure building and the home crowd in full voice, midfielder Joshua Kimmich finally gave Bayern the lead early in the second half. Choupo-Moting scored again just minutes later and despite a late own goal for Munich's French defender Dayot Upamecano, Bayern's teenage sensation Jamal Musiala scored a fourth with 10 minutes remaining.

Canadian defender Alphonso Davies added a fifth in injury time to secure Bayern's spot in the next round. Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka credited his team's desire to "take up the fight" after a "disastrous opening ten minutes." Man-of-the-match Choupo-Moting laughed when asked if he was Bayern's new Robert Lewandowski, saying he was not trying to replace anyone. "I know the qualities I have and I trust the qualities I have," Choupo-Moting told Germany's ZDF network.

**Bellingham on the spot**  
Earlier on Wednesday, English teenager Jude Bellingham won and converted a penalty within 10 minutes of being subbed on to guide a nervous Borussia Dortmund to a 2-0 victory over Hannover on Wednesday and a place in the last 16. With visiting Dortmund clinging to a 1-0 lead only thanks to some acrobatic goalkeeping from Gregor Kobel, manager Edin Terzic made four changes in a six-minute period during the second half, including bringing Bellingham on from the bench. Bellingham - who had previously played every minute of Dortmund's season - made an immediate impact, winning a penalty and duly converting it to give the nervous visitors a 2-0 lead.

After the game, Dortmund captain Emre Can admitted "world-class" Kobel - who later won man of the match - kept the visitors in the game. "We did not play a good game, but in the Cup, you just need to get to the next round, therefore it's OK." Dortmund had taken the lead in the 10th minute thanks to the in-form Julian Brandt, who won the ball back in midfield before dinking a back-heeled chip to Youssofa Moukoko in the box. The 17-year-old Moukoko's attempted cross hit the boot of Hannover defender Bright Arrey-Mbi and was deflected in at the near post.

Pushed on by a 49,000-strong home crowd, Hannover gradually gained the upper hand in the first half, with Kobel pulling off two crucial saves from close range in the 30th and 32nd minutes to help Dortmund keep their narrow advantage at half-time. Hannover striker Hendrick Weydant had a clear chance to equalize after 52 minutes but scuffed his shot when presented with an open goal. With the home side in control, Terzic decid-



**AUGSBURG:** Augsburg's Brazilian defender Amaral Borduchi Iago (left) and Bayern Munich's German midfielder Serge Gnabry vie for the ball during the German Cup (DFB Pokal) second round football match between the German first division Bundesliga teams FC Augsburg and FC Bayern Munich on October 19, 2022. —AFP

ed he had seen enough and brought four first teamers from the bench, including Bellingham.

Dortmund were reduced to 10 men with five minutes remaining when forward Karim Adeyemi saw a straight red for bringing down a counter-attacking Derrick Koehn on the edge of the penalty box. The visitors held firm from the free-

kick and held on for victory. Also on Wednesday night, Bundesliga sides Union Berlin, Stuttgart and Freiburg also made it through to the next round, while second division Paderborn defeated Werder Bremen on penalties. Second division sides Sandhausen and Duesseldorf also qualified for the last 16 with wins on Wednesday. —AFP

## Women's football on all-time high ahead of biggest WCup draw

**AUCKLAND:** The draw for next year's FIFA Women's World Cup takes place on Saturday in Auckland with the women's game at an all-time high and the United States and England the teams to beat. Germany, Sweden, France and Spain will also be sides to watch out for when the draw is held in New Zealand's largest city from 7:30pm. The World Cup will be staged at 10 stadiums in New Zealand and Australia from July 20 to August 20, 2023. With 32 teams it will be the largest FIFA Women's World Cup since the tournament began in 1991.

"Given the expanded format in 2023, there's going to be even more excitement globally when the eyes of the football world focus on Auckland this Saturday," said Carli Lloyd, the American two-time World Cup winner who will help conduct the draw. The Women's Euros final in July between hosts England and rivals Germany at Wembley drew 87,192 spectators, a record for either a men's or women's European championship.

Chloe Kelly scored in extra-time to give England a breathless 2-1 victory in front of a sell-out crowd and their first major title in women's football. Sarina Wiegman's side backed that up with a 2-1 win over a young US team, in front of another bumper crowd at Wembley Stadium, earlier this month. The US then lost 2-0 to Spain in another

friendly. But Vlatko Andonovski's team remain the top-ranked side in the FIFA rankings and the team to beat at the World Cup, where they are the holders and most successful side in tournament history with four titles.

**Emerging nations**  
Led by veteran forward Megan Rapinoe, the Americans are going for a third crown in a row. Andonovski said losing to a buoyant England in front of a big crowd was perfect preparation for the World Cup nine months from now. "I wouldn't mind facing them in the (World Cup) final again," he told reporters in London. While women's football is growing fast in countries such as England and is already well established in France, some nations are only really getting started.

The Philippines, Morocco, Republic of Ireland, Vietnam and Zambia will all be competing at the Women's World Cup for the first time. A play-off tournament in February will decide who takes the remaining three spots of the 32. About 800 people, including coaches, FIFA president Gianni Infantino and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern are expected to attend the draw ceremony at the Aotea Centre. "It brings us a step closer to hosting what will be the world's largest women's sporting event ever," said Ardern.

She described co-hosting the tournament with Australia a "key part" of plans to accelerate her country's economic recovery after New Zealand shut its borders at the height of the COVID pandemic. New Zealand's government has invested NZ\$45 million (\$25.5 million) in upgrading sporting facilities and training venues "to ensure that we provide a top-notch sporting infrastructure for the beautiful game".

his squad with five changes and it paid dividends. James Forrest, who had scored a hat-trick in Saturday's 6-1 win over Hibernian, was one of those to drop out and his replacement Liel Abada struck twice. The Israel international opened the floodgates just before half-time by tapping home Greg Taylor's cross. Abada then coolly slotted into the corner on the volley before Reo Hatate's quick feet made it 3-0.

Kyogo Furuhashi rounded off the scoring on the rebound after Abada was denied a hat-trick by inches when he hit the post. "It's not a matter of me just giving guys a game because I feel sorry for them," said Postecoglou. "I'm putting guys in there because I think we can maintain those levels and keep guys fresh for when we need them because



**BURSA:** Germany's players warm up before start of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Qualifier group H football match at Bursa Buyuksehir Stadium in Bursa. —AFP

said Ardern. Australia and New Zealand will host one semi-final each, with the August 20 final at the 83,000-capacity Stadium Australia in Sydney. —AFP

they need a lot of energy to play our kind of football. "The guys have embraced that. They are taking their opportunities every time they play to make an impact."

Rangers made a fast start at Ibrox as Steven Davis opened the scoring after just 10 minutes. However, Giovanni van Bronckhorst's men were booed off at full-time after failing to turn their dominance into more goals. Aberdeen scored three times in the first 35 minutes at Pittodrie as strikes from Luis Lopes and Hayden Coulson, either side of a Kevin Holt own goal, gave the hosts a commanding lead. Darren Brownlie pulled a goal back for the Championship leaders before Ryan Duncan restored Aberdeen's three-goal lead. The semi-finals will take place on the weekend of 14 and 15. —AFP

## Brazil jersey 'hostage to politics' a month from World Cup

**BELO HORIZONTE:** Every four years, there is an explosion of green and yellow in Julio Cesar Freitas's neighborhood as locals cover the streets in the colors of the Brazilian flag. But this year, Freitas felt compelled to add an explanation alongside the sea of decorations outside his family's construction supply shop: "It's not politics, it's the World Cup."

Football-mad Brazil is famously passionate about the World Cup, which it has won more than any other country-five times. But this year, the signs of football fever have taken on a different meaning. Battling to win reelection in an October 30 runoff against veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has adopted the flag and the national football team's jersey as symbols of his own.

Bolsonaro regularly sports the colors of the flag, his rallies are drenched in yellow and green, and he urged supporters to wear the national team Selecao's iconic jersey to vote in the first-round election on October 2, in which he finished a closer-than-predicted five percentage points behind Lula. With Brazilians bitterly divided by the elections, yellow and green have become politicized-sometimes dampening outward displays of World Cup fever in Brazil, whose team head to Qatar as favorites ahead of the November 20 kickoff. The unease is visible in Freitas's neighborhood, Caicara, in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte. The city organizes a decoration contest for every World Cup.

Freitas, whose family has been taking part since 1994, says there were negative reactions this year in the politically divided community after they hung their decorations two weeks ago-rows upon rows of mini triangular flags strung across the street. Two days later, they added the above-mentioned sign. "Unfortunately, the World Cup coincided with the elections this year. I had to put up the sign so people would know the decorations aren't about supporting any candidate," says Freitas, 26. "I could see people were upset," he says. —AFP

## Celtic cruise, Rangers labor into League Cup semi-finals

**GLASGOW:** Celtic will face Kilmarnock in the semi-finals of the Scottish League Cup after the holders thrashed Motherwell 4-0 in the last eight on Wednesday. Rangers were less impressive in seeing off Championship side Dundee 1-0 at Ibrox, but did enough to book a last four clash with Aberdeen, who beat Partick Thistle 4-1.

Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou again rotated

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

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

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733

Automated enquiry about the Civild card is 1889988

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, BERNARDINA PEREIRA** holder of Passport No. P1092031 do hereby change my name to Bernardina (as Given name) Dias (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Bernardina Dias and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#2420)

**I, SIVANAGAMUNIAH GANGI** holder of

Passport No. L6703205 do hereby change my name to SULEMAN (as Given name) SHAIK (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name SULEMAN SHAIK and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#2421)

**I, Md. Akhlaque @ Mohammad Ekhlauque S/o - Md. Gafoor @ Abdul Ghafoor R/O - Chhoti Chakla, Ward No-07, Po-Goasi, P.S-K. Nagar, Distt - Purnea Pin No-854303 (Bihar)**

in my Passport Number (T2412941) my name has been written as Mohammad Ekhlauque S/o Abdul Ghafoor which is wrong while my correct Name is Md Akhlaque S/o- Md Gafoor. (C#2422)

**I, Joyce Anthony Piedade** holder of Passport No. R8665839 do hereby change my name to Joyce (as Given name) Fernandes (As Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name of Joyce Fernandes

and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#2423) - 20-10-2022

**I, Mohamed Aslam Abdul Rajack Jaheer Hussain** holder of Passport No. M6102421 do hereby change my name to Mohammed Aslam (as given name) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Mohammed Aslam and I also undertake to carry out this change in all my documents. (C#2419) - 19-10-2022

## Ballon d'Or winner Benzema on target as Real crush Elche

Real Valladolid thrash Celta Vigo; Real Betis, Cadiz draw 0-0

**ELCHE:** Karim Benzema celebrated his Ballon d'Or win this week with a goal in Real Madrid's comfortable 3-0 win over Elche on Wednesday night, in which they also had three strikes disallowed for offside. Fede Valverde and Marco Asensio scored the other goals as the La Liga leaders cruised to victory. Benzema, though, was the star turn: he hit the back of the net three times in total but had two scratched off while David Alaba also had an effort ruled out.

It has been a spectacular week for Carlo Ancelotti's side. They sealed qualification to the Champions League last 16, beat Barcelona in the Clasico, saw Benzema crowned the world's best player, and then moved six points clear at the top of La Liga with this comfortable victory. Fresh from the glitzy Paris gala on Monday night, reigning champions Madrid brought that same swagger to Spain's east coast and bottom-of-the-table Elche never stood a chance.

"The team played well, they were very good in attack. We had a lot of mobility," said Ancelotti. "It's an important moment in the season, the team is doing well, we don't have doubts, we don't have problems." Benzema appeared to send Madrid ahead in the sixth minute after a slick team move but Vinicius Junior had edged offside in the build-up and it was disallowed. Los Blancos did not have to wait long for the opener, with Valverde continuing his own superb form by blasting home from the edge of the box.

Madrid had picked Elche apart and only a desperate block denied Benzema, but the visitors kept the move alive and when the ball broke to Valverde, he netted his sixth goal of the season across all competitions. The Uruguayan netted in Sunday's Clasico win over Barcelona and has become a key offensive weapon for his team, even though on this occasion he was deployed in midfield, instead of on the right wing.

Ancelotti had previously claimed he would tear up his coaching license if Valverde did not score at least 10 goals this season, and the Uruguayan said he did not want that to happen. "I am concentrating on making it happen, it's a nice pressure and I don't want to be blamed for

him retiring as a coach, it gives me the desire to go looking for goals," Valverde told DAZN. Alaba had a goal ruled out later on in a half in which Madrid dominated, but Elche started the second period strongly, with Lucas Boye slapping a volley narrowly over.

### Benzema strikes

At the other end Benzema bit back with a long-range strike which Edgar Badia beat away. The Elche goalkeeper has made more saves than any of his counterparts in La Liga, and this was another busy night. The officials in the VAR booth were kept busy too, with Benzema seeing another goal disallowed for offside.

After 75 minutes Benzema eventually got one which counted, his fifth of the season in La Liga, set-up by a sweet backheel from Rodrygo to complete a one-two. Madrid substitute Marco Asensio wrapped up the victory in the final stages with a hooked finish from Rodrygo's cross. Elsewhere Mikel Merino's strike earned Real Sociedad a 1-0 win over Real Mallorca to help the Basque side displace Atletico Madrid and move third.

Imanol Alguacil's team have won eight consecutive games between La Liga and the Europa League, despite losing striker Alexander Isak to Newcastle and then his replacement Umar Sadiq to a bad knee injury for the season. However the match was overshadowed by the news that a Real Sociedad supporter had died. A man was taken away from the Reale Arena on a stretcher before the game started, with the club later confirming he passed away. Real Betis, fifth, could only draw 0-0 at 19th place Cadiz, while Real Valladolid thrashed Celta Vigo 4-1. —AFP



**ELCHE:** Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema controls the ball during the Spanish league football match between Elche CF and Real Madrid CF at the Martinez Valero stadium on October 19, 2022. — AFP

## Man United 'too good' for Spurs

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United dealt a blow to Tottenham's Premier League title aspirations with a dominant 2-0 win at Old Trafford, while Liverpool's upturn continued with a 1-0 victory over West Ham on Wednesday. Chelsea's winning run came to an end in a 0-0 draw at Brentford, which allowed Newcastle to close within two points of the top four with a 1-0 win over Everton.

United are now just one point off the Champions League places and could leapfrog Chelsea when the sides meet at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after their most impressive display under Erik ten Hag. "We had some more really good performances like Liverpool and Arsenal but this was the game from start to the end we were really good," said Ten Hag. "I told the team it was very enjoyable to watch."

The Red Devils had 28 shots on goal against a Tottenham side that had been beaten only once in their opening 10 league games of the season. Signs of progress for United since losing their opening two games of the campaign have been hampered by a lack of killer instinct up front. But they finally got their rewards in front of a delighted full house when Fred's deflected effort found the bottom corner two minutes into the second half.

Bruno Fernandes then doubled United's lead with his first club goal since August. Tottenham could have moved to within a point of leaders Arsenal with victory, but their performance had Antonio Conte questioning whether they can compete for the title. "I think we need time," said the Italian. "In only 10 or 11 months you cannot pass from ninth place to become, the year after, a title contender. Especially when you finished 20 points less last season than the monsters in England."

### Darwin delivers

Darwin Nunez has endured a difficult start to life at Liverpool, but the Uruguayan was the match winner as Jurgen Klopp's men moved up to seventh. Nunez powered Kostas Tsimikas' cross into the far corner for the game's only goal on 22 minutes. "He was outstanding," said Klopp. "He is a really big talent and we're really excited about him." However, the Reds had Alisson Becker to thank for the three points as the Brazilian saved Jarrod Bowen's penalty in first-half stoppage time. Alisson was needed once more to deny Tomas Soucek from point-blank range late on as Liverpool held out.

Chelsea missed the chance to close within five points of the top as the in-form Blues were blunted



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United's Brazilian midfielder Antony (left) fights for the ball with Tottenham Hotspur's Croatian midfielder Ivan Perisic during the English Premier League football match on October 19, 2022. — AFP



**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool's Uruguayan striker Darwin Nunez (right) heads home the opening goal under pressure from West Ham United's German defender Thilo Kehrer (center) during the English Premier League football match on October 19, 2022. — AFP

by Brentford. Graham Potter is still to experience defeat as Chelsea boss, but he has goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to thank for maintaining that record. The Spaniard is finally delivering on his tag as the world's most expensive goalkeeper follow-

ing a £72 million move from Athletic Bilbao in 2018 as he twice denied Ivan Toney a winner for Brentford. "Every player needs confidence, this push," said Kepa. "For the goalkeepers it is even more important." — AFP

## Mendis fires Lanka into T20 World Cup Super 12

**GEELONG:** Opener Kusal Mendis slammed a 44-ball 79 as Asian champions Sri Lanka beat the Netherlands by 16 runs to sweep into the Super 12 stage of the Twenty20 World Cup on Thursday, where they were joined by the Dutch despite their defeat. The world's eighth-ranked team plundered 162-6 in Geelong, blasting 102 of them off the final 10 overs, to set a big target which the Netherlands were unable to reach, finishing on 146-9. But the men in orange still went through after United Arab Emirates won their first-ever game at a T20 World Cup to upset Namibia by seven runs.

The Africans would have joined Sri Lanka in the next round rather than the Dutch had they won, but against the odds, the UAE restricted them to 141-8 as they chased 149 for victory. For the Netherlands, it is the second time they have got this far after also making the grade in 2014, when they topped their group and then sensationally beat England. It is the third successive time Sri Lanka have reached the Super 12 and they will be hoping to repeat their heroics from 2014, when Dinesh Chandimal skipped them to the title.

But it was a rocky road to get there, stunned by Namibia in the tournament's opening game before crushing UAE then the Dutch. "We knew that we could be the number one in this group, but we missed out in the first match," said Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka. "The boys have done well though, especially the bowling group. I knew the wicket was two-paced, so we wanted to bowl well in the first 10 overs and then control the game." After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Sri Lanka started slowly with Pathum Nissanka and Mendis plodding to just 22 off the first five overs.

### Great moment

Nissanka was dropped in the fifth over, but came undone on 14 when hostile pace bowler Paul van Meekeren returned to the attack and sent down a yorker. Dhananjaya de Silva followed him back to the pavilion the next ball, out lbw, as Sri Lanka lived dangerously with countless chances falling just short of the fielders.

Charith Asalanka and Mendis knuckled down in a 60-run stand to step up the run rate before Asalanka was caught behind off all-rounder Bas de Leede for 31. Mendis brought up his ninth T20 half-century with a six, then smacked successive sixes in the penultimate over, before he was out going for another boundary, almost carrying his bat. Despite missing injured pace spearheads Dushmantha Chameera and Pramod Madushan, a Sri Lankan attack with replacements Lahiru Kumara and Binura Fernando kept the Dutch at bay early on.

Opener Vikramjit Singh was out for seven off Maheesh Theekshana, then Kumara got the big wicket of rising star de Leede for 14. Opener Max O'Dowd (71 not out) gamely hung on but when captain Scott Edwards was bowled by Fernando after a quick-fire 21, they slumped from 100-4 to 109-8 and the game was all but over. In the later match, Zahoor Khan and Basil Hameed grabbed two wickets each as the UAE reduced Namibia to 69-7 in the 13th over before late fireworks from David Weise (55 off 36 balls) set up a tense last-over finale.

While a crushing disappointment for Namibia, getting a first-ever win was a huge confidence booster for UAE. "A great moment for UAE cricket. We had been doing well in patches, but today everything clicked together," said skipper Chandangapoyil Rizwan. "This win is really big for UAE cricket, it can tell the world that we are here." The final two places in the Super 12 will be decided on Friday with Scotland, Zimbabwe, West Indies and Ireland all still in contention. —AFP