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RABIA ALTHANI 3, 1444 AH FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

**Barca crash out of Champions** 

League despite spending spree





# agree on Kuwait budget

# MP calls for law to challenge verdicts after convicting judges

# **Kuwait Amir** congratulates Saudi King

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, congratulating him on the 8th anniversary of assuming office. His Highness the Amir praised the brotherly relations that the two countries share and commended all

the accomplishments the Kingdom has achieved. He also wished the King good health and the kingdom further development and prosperity under his reign. Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a similar cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, congratulating him. His Highness the Crown Prince commended all the accomplishments the Kingdom has achieved. He also wished the King good health and the kingdom further development and prosperity under his reign. — KUNA

### By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly Budgets Committee met yesterday with Finance Minister Abdulwahab Al-Rasheed to sort out objections on the state budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 raised by lawmakers on Tuesday. Head of the committee MP Adel Al-Damkhi said that it was agreed with the minister to add some KD 420 million to the budget to account for additional payments to employees.

KD 300 million will be allocated to government employees who want to cash their annual leaves after an earlier decision allowing them to do so, Damkhi said. Under the decision, employees can "sell" up to 120 days of accumulated annual leave every calendar year. Damkhi added that the com-

mittee passed a recommendation that Kuwaiti employees in the government should be given priority to cash their annual leave. KD 120 million will be allocated for delayed payments to frontline workers who worked during the coronavirus pandemic.

Based on the new additions yesterday, the budget is likely to post yet another deficit. The initial budget projected a surplus of over KD 300 million due to the sharp rise in oil revenues, but the new additions will wipe out the surplus. Damkhi said that the final report of the budget will be approved on Sunday to be ready for debate seven judges to jail terms and hefty fines after convicting them of accepting bribes from an Iranian businessman.

The court sentenced seven judges to seven years in jail each and fined them hundreds of thousands of dinars. Some of them were dismissed from their jobs. The court acquitted one judge. This is the first time in Kuwait's history that a judge had been sentenced to jail term over bribery charges. The court also sentenced the Iranian businessman to 10 years in jail and fined him KD 500,000. It also sentenced a Kuwaiti businessman to four years in jail and a

at the National Assembly next Tuesday.

In the meantime, MP Mubarak Al-Tasha said he will submit draft legislation allowing people to challenge verdicts issued by judges after the Court of Appeal sentenced

lawyer to 10 years in jail and a fine of KD 112,000. The verdicts can be challenged before the Court of Cassation, whose rulings are final.



CAIRO: Photo shows Egyptian pound and US dol lar banknotes.— AFP

# Egypt, IMF ink loan deal; pound hits new low

CAIRO: Egypt has clinched a \$3 billion loan deal with the International Monetary Fund conditioned on a currency depreciation and state subsidy cuts, the government said Thursday. The Egyptian pound shed 17 percent of its value against the dollar after the staff agreement was announced. Egypt has been battered by inflation and is among the world's top five countries most at risk of defaulting on its foreign debt, according to the international credit rating agency Moody's.

The IMF deal is conditioned on reforms that include further cuts to subsidies, bringing yet more pain for struggling households in the Arab world's most populous nation. In August, global investment firm Goldman Sachs estimated that Egypt would need about \$15 billion in funding to be able to repay its foreign debt, currently estimated at about \$150 billion. In addition to the latest \$3 billion loan, Egypt has also unlocked another \$1 billion from the IMF from a facility dedicated to developing countries, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said Thursday.

The loan program is scheduled to run for four years and is due to be sent to the IMF board of directors for approval in December, Madbouly said. He added that Egypt had also received an additional \$5 billion from "regional and international organizations", without specifying which.

The IMF meanwhile said in a statement that its staff and "the Egyptian authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on comprehensive economic policies and reforms to be supported by a 46-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement of US\$3 billion".

**Continued on Page 6** 

### **Kuwait explores US** investment opportunities

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's ambassador to United States Jasem Al-Budaiwi visited the state of Nebraska this week where he held talks with top Nebraskan officials focused on food security cooperation and investment opportunities in Kuwait. The aim of the visit is to connect with US states to boost the cooperation on all levels, mainly in the fields of food security and agriculture exchange.

During his visit, Ambassador Al-Budaiwi met with several top officials in Nebraska, including the governor of Nebraska Pete Ricketts, the Secretary of State of Nebraska Robert Evnen. Congressman Don Bacon, the University of Nebraska President Walter Carter, CEO of Farm Bureau of Nebraska Mark Mchargue and representatives from Iowa based companies, in addition to Nebraska commodity groups and a group of Gulf War veterans.

Ambassador Al-Budaiwi said the visit was "successful," saving "we hope to exchange expertise and have a closer look at this cooperation," especially

# **Coming decade** 'most dangerous' since WWII: Putin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that the coming decade will be the "most dangerous" since the end of World War II, while accusing the West of seeking to dominate the world. 'Ahead is probably the most dangerous, unpredictable and at the same time important decade since the end of the Second World War," Putin told members of the annual Valdai Discussion Club, adding that the situation is "to a certain extent rev-

Continued on Page 6 olutionary". The Ukraine offensive is only a part of the "tectonic shifts of the entire world order," Putin said. "The historical period of undivided dominance of the West in world affairs is coming to an end. The unipolar world is becoming a thing of the past," he

said. "We are at a historical frontier," he added. Putin added that the West is not able to "singlehandedly govern humanity" but is "desperately trying to do it".

"Most peoples of the world no longer want to put up with it," he said. Putin also said that Moscow is trying to "defend its right to exist" in the face of Western efforts to "destroy" his country. "Russia is not challenging the elites of the West, Russia is just trying to defend its right to exist," he said.

Meanwhile, Russian parliament on Thursday



WASHINGTON: Kuwait's ambassador to US Jasem Al-Budaiwi takes a group photo with Secretary of State of Nebraska Robert Evnen, Congressman Don Bacon and other officials. — KUNA

passed a law allowing ex-convicts to be mobilized into the army and other measures to prop up Moscow's troops in Ukraine. Last month President Vladimir Putin announced the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of reservists in the country to boost his Ukraine military campaign. People who were released from prison but hold a criminal record for serious crimes can now be mobilized into the Russian armed forces.

The decree introducing mobilization previously banned the recruitment of such ex-convicts. The change does not apply to people convicted of sexual assault against a minor, terrorist acts, traffic of radioactive material or crimes against the government, including treason and espionage. The parliament, or Duma, also passed legislation reinforcing

**Continued on Page 6** 

## Zionists and Lebanon seal 'historic' deal

NAQURA: Zionist entity and Lebanon struck a US-brokered maritime border agreement Thursday that opens up lucrative offshore gas fields for the neighbors that remain technically at war. US President Joe Biden hailed the "historic" deal that comes as Western powers clamor to open up new energy production and reduce vulnerability to supply cuts

from Russia. The agreement was signed separately by Lebanon's President Michel Aoun in Beirut and by Zionist Prime Minister Yair Lapid in Jerusalem, and went into effect after the papers were delivered to mediators.

"Both parties took the final steps to bring the agreement into force and submitted the final paperwork to the United Nations in the presence of the United States," Biden said in a statement. Zionists' arch-foe, the Lebanese Hezbollah group, said it would end its "exceptional" mobilization against the country, after threatening to attack Zionists for months should it reach for

**Continued on Page 6** 



NAQURA: A United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) ship patrols alongside Lebanese navy vessels off Lebanon's southern town of Naqura close to the border with Zionist entity. — AFP





# Kuwait joins Saudi-hosted talks to approve Mideast green initiative

# GCC chief, Saudi Interior Minister discuss security cooperation

**RIYADH:** Kuwait's environment body joined allowing countries in the region to cooperate ministerial-level talks in the Saudi capital to approve the charter and governance of the Middle East Green Initiative, which will draw up the intricacies behind the endeavor. Kuwaiti Environment Public Authority chief Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah led his country's delegation to the talks, joining some 20 other officials and ministers from across the Middle East region. The talks are an important step towards approving the Middle East Green Initiative, Abdulaziz bin Saud discussed on Wednesday

and promote environmental protection and development, state-run SPA news agency quoted Saudi Environment Minister Abulrahman Al-Fadhli as saying.

### Security cooperation

In another development, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr Navef Al-Hajraf and Saudi Interior Minister Prince

enhancing GCC security cooperation and coordination. They deliberated several issues of common interest to serve GCC joint action and Gulf peoples' interests, the GCC General Secretariat said in a statement. The meeting was held at the Saudi Interior Ministry headquarters in Riyadh.

#### Kuwaitis honored

Meanwhile, a number of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nationals, including two Kuwaitis, were honored on Wednesday as culture ministers

from within the six-nation bloc held talks to acknowledge their contributions to the region's cultural scene. Kuwaitis Mohammad Al-Farsi and Awatef Al-Bader joined other GCC honorees in a gala organized in the Saudi capital, Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters



Sheikh Fahad Al Kandari with Waleed Al Khashti and Zain employees.

# Zain staff take part in 18th Omrah trip

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, recently concluded the 18th Omrah trip for employees and their families, taking them on a

# Arab's merchandise commitments down to \$100.6: Dhaman

KUWAIT: New commitments to ensure finance and exports to Arab countries against commercial and political risks slightly decreased by 0.1 percent in 2021 to \$100.6 billion, said Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) on Thursday. The value of outstanding commitments for insuring investments, financing, and exports to Arab countries against commercial and political risks fell by one percent to \$219 billion by the end of 2021 - representing approximately 7.4 percent of total global commitments for the same year, Dhaman said in a press release on the occasion of the 3rd quarterly bulletin for 2022.

special visit to the Sacred House in Makkah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The initiative aimed at enriching bonding and closeness between Zain employees out of the workplace.

Zain organizes this trip and other similar programs periodically to cater to its employees' spiritual needs. The trip was joined by many Zain employees who were accompanied by their family members to the Sacred House in Makkah. Such pro-

commitments for insuring investment, finance, and exports in the world by the end of 2021, it added. Insurance of exports to Arab countries in both short and medium-long terms acquired the largest share of new commitments with 93.8 percent, while the share of insurance against political risks reached 4.5 percent, and about 1.7 percent for other additional products, it noted.

The new insurance commitments concentrated geographically in five Arab countries that accounted for 77.6 percent of the total. They include; UAE - 25.1 percent; Saudi Arabia - 17.2 percent; Egypt - 16.1 percent; Qatar - 11 percent and Morocco - 8.1 percent, it said. The Arab Investment & Export Credit

Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) is a multilateral

credit and political risk insurance provider.

Established in Kuwait in 1974, Dhaman comprises all

Arab countries and four joint Arab financial institu-

tions. It provides insurance services against credit and

political risks to facilitate the flow of Foreign Direct

Investment into Arab Countries and to support Arab

exports and imports. — KUNA

grams come in line with the company's internal communications strategy that closely focuses on catering to the Zain workforce's various needs.

Zain employees during the trip.

The travelers were accompanied by Sheikh Fahad Al Kandari, Imam of the Kuwait Grand Mosque, who was present throughout the trip to share his experiences through lectures and seminars about the rituals of Omrah, Islamic history, and more.

# Arab Summit held amid intricate circumstances

ALGIERS: Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative at League of Arab States (LAS), Ghanim Al-Ghanim, stated that the anticipated Arab Summit is held amidst complex

acting secretary general Dr Essa Al-Ansari said. Congratulating the honorees on their accolades, the Kuwaiti official said his compatriots should "serve as an example" to aspiring youngsters in the wider region. — KUNA

Zain considers its employees the main pillar of its overall success, and thus caters to the many different aspects of their lives. This initiative comes as part of Zain's commitment towards its human resources, especially after the positive feedback it received from previous Omrah trips. Zain will always put the development of the cultural and spiritual aspects of its employees at the forefront of its priorities.



Arab countries accounted for 3.7 percent of all new

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and intricate world circumstances, which inflicts dangerous ramifications on national Arab security. Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of preparatory meetings ahead of summit, slated to take place on November 1st and 2nd in Algiers, Al-Ghanim added that this is the first summit to be held after a three-year hiatus due to spread of coronavirus

Al-Ghanim revealed that Kuwait's delegation will be headed by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in response to invitation by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. This reflects Kuwait's political leadership's keenness on ensuring success of

# First ever conference on charity action in Kuwait

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The Surgery Department at Jaber Hospital organized the first Kuwait conference on 'charity action' in the medical field under the patronage of Health Ministry and in cooperation with Association of Doctors, Kuwait Association of Surgeons and Kuwait Medical Association. Head of Surgery Department at Jaber Hospital Dr Suleiman Al-Mazidi said, the conference which was attended by a large number of doctors and representatives from Health Ministry and NGOs including the Red Crescent, was to recognize the humanitarian work Kuwait doctors are doing.

The conference reviewed the charity achievements in the medical field by Kuwaiti doctors around the world. "There are many medical charity organizations that visited more than 30 countries to

Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative at League of Arab States (LAS) Ghanim Al-Ghanim

summit and bolstering Arab efforts, solidarity and joint work, commented Al-Ghanim. The Arab League's permanent representatives and senior officials came together in Algiers earlier today for the preparatory meeting of foreign ministers ahead of 31st Arab summit. — KUNA



treat hundreds of patients every year," Dr Al-Mazidi said, adding that Kuwait Association of surgeons will support the voluntary medical campaigns to promote Kuwait government's reputation in support of humanitarian projects. Meanwhile Urologist Faisal Al-Hajiri said the conference was at the initiative of Jaber Hospital and Kuwait Medical Association. He said volunteers sometimes face harassments in some areas of conflict.



For Individuals Only



# Local

# PACI: Kuwaiti population structure 'mainly youth'

# Public sector employs 83.5% of the national labor

**KUWAIT:** According to the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the Kuwaiti population structure is mainly youth (as on June 30th 2022). The percentage of those aged 24 years and under constitutes about 51.8%, and the rest, or 25 years and older, form 48.2%. The youth bloc is about 779,000 citizens, and the second bloc is 723,000, including 140,000 retirees and 473,000 citizens whose vast majority is in the labor market.

According to the Central Statistical Bureau, the public sector employs 83.5% of the national labor (June 30th 2022) and indirectly provides financial support to the national workers in the private sector. Employees in the public sector score about 366,000 citizens, and about 72,000 citizen workers are in the private sector, down from 73,000 workers in June 2021. This youth bloc, or those 24 years old and under, equals 1.6 times the number of those in the labor market or unemployed after excluding the retirees.

Suppose Kuwait keeps its unsustainable financial policies unchanged without calculating inflation impact on wages and prices of goods and services – in that case, it will need to double expenditures in the current fiscal year at KD 23.1 billion over the next 20 years to meet the necessary needs of the youth bloc if we calculate the inflation impact and the rise in producing an oil barrel costs coupled with the aging of the reservoirs, which doubled the cost of production now five times the charge in 2000.

And if we calculate a significant and potential weakness of the oil market, its prices will decrease. Its production will also decrease due to its being exposed, right or wrong, to a political and other environmental war. We know that the separation between the capacity of public finance and the stability of the labor balance is inevitable and near. A widening gap in the labor balance -that is, blatant accumulating unemployment- is the reason for most countries losing their stability.

Financial sustainability has three enemies. The first is corruption, which has turned into a pandemic during the past decade. The second is waste in public expenditures and what the Audit Bureau gratefully provides is an appreciated and respectable effort. The third is populist projects, which adults accept because they involve exchange for leniency with corruption and waste.

The victims in their work, housing, necessities, and education form about 51.8% of the citizens that are 779,000. Suppose the goal is the state's permanence and stability and ensuring the employment and future of the majority of its citizens. In that case, the remedy is a fierce war against corruption and drying up the sources of waste. Both require a government's will and determination in addition to strict resistance to populist projects, even if a constitutional confrontation occurs to stop them.



What is at stake is the protection of the young population which is more in number and trust. It is also a protection for the current workers and retirees who believe they are safe. There is no guarantee for the payment of workers' wages or for meeting their benefits in the event of retirement with a considerable deficit of their funds. If oil conditions worsen, the harmful repercussions will not hurt a single citizen. No matter how immediate gains, such as a long term in office, or an unsustainable temporary increase in income, they are not worth the formidable cost. — Al-Shall Report

# Summer expected to continue until mid November

**KUWAIT:** Astronomy expert Adel Al-Marzouq said the central Arabian Peninsula and the coast overlooking the Arabian Gulf will witness a rise in atmospheric pressure in the next 10 days. There will be hotspots, which will be distributed to the south, with atmospheric pressure ranging between 1013 to 1018 millibars.

"We are closer to the presence of the Sudanese depression that blows with the western winds, and the possibility of its presence in the coming period is great," he said, adding that this situation led to fluctuating winds - most of them comprising of southern winds shifting to south eastern winds called 'Al-Koss winds'. This is expected to continue until the middle of next month.

Clouds are expected to multiply in the sky and will cover the entire Kuwait - ranging from cloudy



# Expats to be deported for fighting, other misconduct

**KUWAIT:** Sources revealed to Kuwait Times that instructions have been given to the Ministry of Interior to boost security and to deport expats who participate in fighting or any other misconduct. "Deportation cases do not need a decision from the Ministry or the undersecretary as the law does not contradict human rights – especially when it is carried out after thorough investigations," sources added.

The move comes after there has been an increase in violent behaviors and fighting in Hawally, Mahboula, Salmiya and Al-Riggae areas. "The deportation will include a complete ban from visiting Kuwait. Some expats are deported (free) - without them paying for their travelling expenses, but this will no longer be the case. The deportees will be held accountable for the expenses if they are found guilty," sources added. In another case, the Ministry of Interior has decided to deport motorcyclists who used pedestrian bridge. It has been noticed lately that motorcyclists have been using pedestrian bridge illegally there by putting their lives and other people's lives in danger.

to partly cloudy until the mid of November - with almost 7% chance of rain and high humidity. He stated that the weather (during the coming days) will be slightly hot - between 17 and 21 degrees Celsius at night and higher in the day (between 36 and 40 degrees Celsius). The summer is expected to continue until the middle of next month. The winter may be delayed and may begin from December.

"During this period, nights will continue to be

KUWAIT: Photo shows Kuwait Towers along the Arabian Sea coast. The summer is expected to continue until the middle of next month. The winter may be delayed and may begin from December. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

long, and days will remain shorter. Daylight tomorrow is expected to be around 11 hours and will continue until December 21. This indicates the beginning of winter and Capricorn, which begins with the sun being at perpendicular to the sign of Capricorn-located south of the equator. Moreover, the sun will be in the direction of Qibla at 2pm," Al-Marzouq added.



Top officials and participants take a group photo after the meeting in Portugal.



# Globalization threats and security meeting held in Portugal

**KUWAIT:** National Guard Undersecretary Hashem Al-Refaei met with the International Association of Gendarmeries and Affiliated Corps (FIEP) in Portugal under the banner of globalization threats and security to discuss drug, human trafficking, and the dangers of globalization in the world.

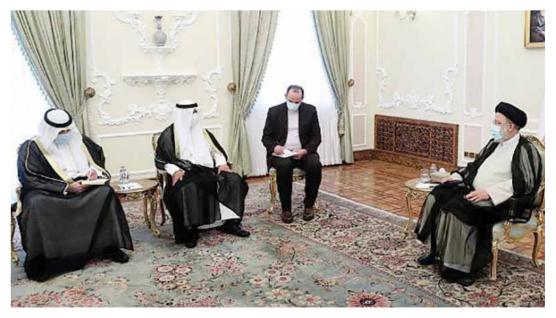
The undersecretary sent the regards of HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and his deputy HH Sheikh Mishal Al-



Ahmad Al-Sabah in remembrance of their support of the National Guard to join the association and tackle the most important challenges they face due to globalization. The dangers necessitate teamwork and cooperation to unify standard so as to face them. The National Guard played an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kuwait.

The second meeting will discuss ways to improve mutual cooperation between countries and members as well as - to exchange experiences when using modern cyber systems in training and communication. The Kuwait National Guard will host the next FIEP meeting in November next year. The meeting was concluded with the affirmation and signing of plans and memos for the next year as well as the subjects that they will be discussing.

# Kuwait ambassador submits credentials to Iran president





TEHRAN: Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Al-Munaikh on Thursday submitted his credentials to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. The Iranian president welcomed the Kuwaiti ambassador in Tehran. — KUNA





# Local

Friday, October 28, 2022

#### Kuwait iste Times THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF **ESTABLISHED 1961** Founder and Publisher YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN Editor-in-Chief ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN : 24833199-24833358-24833432 EDITORIAL ADVERTISING FAX : 24835616/7 24835620/1 CIRCULATION 24833199 Extn. 353/3561 ACCOUNTS 24833199 Extn. 125 COMMERCIAI : 24835618 P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait. Email: info@kuwaittimes.com Website: www.kuwaittimes.com

### **News in brief**

### Kuwait crude oil up

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait crude oil was up 58 cents during Wednesday's trading session to reach \$94.15 per barrel compared with \$93.57 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Thursday. Brent futures were also up 20 cents to \$95.89 pb and West Texas Intermediate jumped 19 cents to \$88.10 pb.



CHITTAGONG: Residents search for their belongings amid the debris of their collapsed huts after the cyclone Sitrang hits Chittagong. — AFP

### Solidarity with Bangladesh

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Foreign Ministry has voiced the country's sympathy and solidarity with Bangladesh over the cyclone that hit the country and left scores dead. In a press statement, the ministry offered condolences to the leadership, government and people and victims' families over the storm. Meanwhile, Bangladesh rescue workers found the bodies of four missing crew of a dredger boat, taking the death toll from Cyclone Sitrang to 28 as millions remained without power, officials said. Cyclones - the equivalent of hurricanes in the Atlantic or typhoons in the Pacific - are a regular menace in the region but scientists say climate change is likely making them more intense and frequent. Cyclone Sitrang made landfall in southern Bangladesh on Monday but authorities managed to get about a million people to safety before the monster storm hit. --- From Agencies

### Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This picture taken on October 27, 2022 shows an aerial view of the landmark Kuwait Towers and the Ras Al-Ard cape of Kuwait City overlooking the Arabian Gulf waters. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# Kuwait denounces Zionist aggressions

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Foreign Ministry has voiced Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of continued incursions and brutal aggressions launched by Zionist occupation authorities against Palestinian cities, including Nablus and Ramallah, which led to the martyrdom and injury of scores of Palestinians. In a press statement, the ministry sounded the alarm about the consequences of this serious military escalation, for which occupation authorities are to blame and which put regional security and stability in jeopardy.

It called on the international community to move immediately and urgently to provide protection to the Palestinian people and to exert efforts to revive the peace process, thus leading to a just and comprehensive solution that ensures an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab peace initiative.

Meanwhile, Zionist forces has detained three alleged members of the Lions' Den militant group in the occupied West Bank, the army said, including the brother of a key Palestinian militant. The arrest of Muhammad Al-Nabulsi and two others in Nablus comes a day after five Palestinians were killed during a military operation in the city. "Muhammad Al-Nabulsi was suspected of possessing weapons, manufacturing explosive devices and involvement in the 'Lions' Den' terrorist group," the army said in a statement.

His brother Ibrahim Al-Nabulsi, nicknamed "The Lion of Nablus", was shot dead by Zionist forces in August and has since become a folk hero among

Palestinian youth. The Lions' Den has emerged in recent months alongside a sharp rise in raids by forces in the northern West Bank. The three arrests on Wednesday follow the killing on Tuesday of Wadih Al-Houh, described by Zionists as the head of the Lions' Den, and four other Palestinians in Nablus.

A further 20 Palestinians were wounded in the operation, the Palestinian health ministry said. In addition to regular raids, the Zionist army has imposed additional checkpoints around Nablus over the past two weeks which have severely impeded daily life. The closures follow the killing of a Zionist soldier in the area on October 11, three days after a military policewoman was shot dead in the annexed east Jerusalem. So far this month 25 Palestinians have been killed in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, territories occupied by Zionists since the 1967 Six-Day War. —Agencies

Kuwait English Times The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf 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



RAMALLAH: Zionist soldiers keep position during clashes with Palestinians at the northern entrance to the city of Ramallah, near the Zionist Beit El settlement in the occupied West Bank. —AFP

# Pakistan's KPBD organizes blood donation drive

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Pakistan Blood Donors (KPBD) organized a blood donation drive on Friday October 14, 2022 at Pakistan English School Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Kuwait Pakistan Blood Donors, established in 2012, is a Pakistani Community-based organization in Kuwait with an aim to spread awareness about the serious matter of blood donation. It has conducted more than a dozen drives yielding thousands of pints of blood since its inception.

Pakistani community in Kuwait expressed their solidarity and gratitude by overwhelming attendance and donations. About 182 pints of blood were collected in a short span of six hours between 1.30 to 7.30 pm adhering to all SOPs prescribed by Ministry of Health, Kuwait. The event was witnessed by the people from different nationalities including Pakistan, Kuwait, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Philippines and Egypt.

Prominent figures from Pakistani business community and other sectors also visited the camp and appreciated the donors and volunteers for their services towards humanitarian cause. The effort was honored by the presence of Farrukh Amir Sial, Community Welfare Attache from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan – Kuwait, which became the reason for encouragement and motivation for the organizers.

Embassy official was warmly welcomed by Chairman - Muhammad Arif Butt, President - Malik Sajid, Vice president - Athar Hussain and team members. Farrukh Amir Sial congratulated the team KPBD on another extremely successful event and conveyed the good wishes by Malik Farooq, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kuwait as he was not present in the country.







'No trust': Clandestine world of Ukraine prisoner swaps Page 6

# ASEAN 'even more determined' to solve Myanmar crisis



NUNAVUT: This handout picture shows researchers drilling holes to collect sediment at the Lake Hazen in Nunavut, to investigate how climate change might increase the risk of 'viral spillover'. A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of 'viral spillover', according to a research. — AFP

# Climate plans would allow up to 2.6C of global warming: UN

# Emissions must fall 45% this decade to limit disastrous global warming

**PARIS:** Country climate pledges leave the world on track to heat by as much as 2.6 degrees Celsius this century, the United Nations said on Wednesday, warning that emissions must fall 45 percent this decade to limit disastrous global warming.

The United Nations Environment Programme, in its annual Emissions Gap report, found that updated national promises since last year's COP26 summit in Glasgow would only shave less than one percent off

progress on emissions cutting had been "woefully inadequate". It said that additional pledges made since the COP26 summit in Glasgow last year would not even cut emissions by one percent by 2030.

Failure left the world "hurtling towards" a temperature rise far in excess of the Paris goals, it added. "It's another year squandered in terms of actually doing something about the problem," the report's lead author, Anne Olhoff, told AFP. "That's not to say that all nations have not taken this seriously. But from a global perspective, it's definitely very far from adequate." The report found that in order for temperature rises to be capped at 2C, emissions would need to fall 30 percent faster by 2030 than envisioned under countries' most up-to-date plans. To limit heating to 1.5C, the gap is 45 percent. Under the 2015 Paris deal, countries are required to submit ever deeper emission cutting plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs.

by 2.6C by 2100. Scientists warn that level would be catastrophic for humanity and for nature.

Conditional NDCs-which rely on international funding to achieve-would probably lead to a 2.4C temperature rise this century, it said. All told, current plans are likely to see a five- to 10-percent reduction in emissions by 2030 — a far cry from the drop of nearly 50 percent required for 1.5C.

believed global energy emissions would peak in 2025 as surging oil and gas prices spurred a drive to renewables.

But UNEP said that while the switch to greener tech in the power sector was accelerating, several industries were lagging behind in the push towards net-zero emissions. For example, in the food sector, which is responsible for around a third of emissions, dietary changes and cutting food loss could help

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global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The world has warmed nearly 1.2C since the start of the Industrial Revolution and already faces increasingly ferocious climate-enhanced weather extremes like heatwaves, storms and floods.

The Emissions Gap report examines the difference between the planet-heating pollution that will still be released under countries' decarbonization plans and what science says is needed to keep to the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to between 1.5-2.0C.

A day after the UN's climate change agency said governments were still doing "nowhere near" enough to keep global heating to 1.5C, UNEP found UNEP found that "unconditional" NDCs-which countries plan regardless of external support-would probably lead to Earth's average temperature rising



KHARTOUM: Demonstrators march in a protest in the area of Bashdar in the south of Sudan's capital Khartoum. —AFP

ing," protester Mawaheb Ibrahim told AFP.

# Sudanese protest to call on UN to end tribal conflicts

**KHARTOUM:** Around 150 Sudanese protesters rallied Thursday in front of the United Nations headquarters in Khartoum to denounce ethnic clashes that have killed more than 200 people this month in Blue Nile state. Demonstrators held banners reading "No to deaths", "We want to live in peace", demanding an end to the violence that erupted in early October over reported land disputes between members of the Hausa people and rival groups, an AFP journalist said.

Since the start of the year, ethnic conflicts in Sudan have killed 600 people and displaced more than 210,000 others, the UN says. Access to land is highly sensitive in the impoverished country, where agriculture and livestock account for 43 percent of employment and 30 percent of GDP, according to UN and World Bank statistics. "Today, we protest to tell the international community to put an end to violence in Blue Nile because the Sudanese authorities are doing nothThe health minister in Blue Nile state, which borders South Sudan and Ethiopia, said Thursday a total of 237 had been killed in the violence last week in the Wad al-Mahi area, about 500 kilometers (300 miles) south of Khartoum. "This is not the final toll because there are still bodies in the rubble of homes," he added. Some "40,000 people, mainly women, children and elderly people, have found refuge in schools in Roseires and Damazin", the two closest major cities, he said. "International organizations must help us, in particular to provide them with medicines because there are sick people among them," he said.

A high-ranking member of the Hausa, Mohammed Nureddine, told AFP that "entire houses have been burned". There are "besieged inhabitants, some of whom are injured, but no one can access them" as tensions continue to rage in the area, he said. Sudan has been grappling with deepening political unrest and a spiraling economic crisis since last year's military coup led by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The military power grab upended a transition to civilian rule launched after the 2019 ouster of strongman Omar al-Bashir, who ruled for three decades. A surge in ethnic violence in recent months has highlighted the security breakdown in Sudan since the coup. —AFP

### 'Missed opportunity'

UNEP said that in 2020, carbon pollution fell more than seven percent, largely thanks to Covid-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions. A fall of that magnitude is needed every year this decade to stay on track for 1.5C. But it said greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 could end up being the highest on recordsome 52.8 billion tons-because countries threw themselves into fossil-fuelled pandemic recoveries.

"We see a full bounce-back in emissions after COVID," said Olhoff. "It's a missed opportunity in terms of utilizing these unprecedented recovery funds to accelerate a green transition." Separately, the International Energy Agency said on Thursday it

# Mother and two children killed in Venezuela landslide

**CARACAS:** A mother and her two children were killed in a landslide in Venezuela, an official said, as a deluge of rains has unleashed disasters affecting thousands across the country in recent weeks. The deaths add to a national toll of over 70, including 54 killed in a landslide in the town of Las Tejerias in Aragua state.

"In the state of La Guaira, a landslide occurred

reduce the sector's footprint by more than 30 percent by 2050.

Olhoff said the financial sector was "part of the problem rather than part of the solution" to climate change, with hundreds of billions funneled annually to fossil fuel projects. UNEP suggested the introduction of an effective carbon price under a global cap and trade system that would push investors to consider the environmental impact of their portfolios. It also called for central banks to make more funds available and help create global low-carbon technology markets. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Thursday's report showed the world "cannot afford any more greenwashing". —AFP

over a house causing the collapse and the regrettable loss of life of a girl, a boy and their mother," interior minister Remigio Ceballos told state TV Wednesday. The rains also caused a fire when lightning struck a fuel tank at the key El Palito refinery complex in the northern state of Carabobo. The flames were "controlled without incident."

Streets in several of Venezuela's northern and coastal states are flooded due to overflowing rivers, and landslides have obstructed highways. After a landslide killed three in the city of Maracay this month, President Nicolas Maduro said "all this is climate change." "This year the rainfall has been very difficult for the whole country." Maduro said that in 2022, he has seen the worst natural disasters in his nine and a half years in office. —AFP



LAS TEJERÕAS, Venezuela: Handout picture released by the Venezuelan Presidency showing Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, speaking through a megaphone next to his wife Cilia Flores, as he visits Las Tejerias, in the state of Aragua, for a second time week after a landslide killed more than 50 people. —AFP

### International

# **'No trust': Clandestine world of Ukraine prisoner swaps**

## 'There is simply no trust between us at all'

**MYKOLAIV, Ukraine:** The five captured Russian soldiers stumbled out of the Ukrainian van with their heads covered in black balaclavas. Vitaliy Danila's hand was trembling by the time he filmed himself a few tense moments later with the dazed faces of five Ukrainian captives whose release he had just secured in return. It was the 16th prisoner swap the regional traffic police chief had safely concluded along the southern front of the war Russia started in Ukraine eight months ago.

Each one of them could have ended in a bloodbath. "When there is a battle and you see tanks firing and you are standing in a field conducting an exchange..." Danila said before trailing off.

The swap he filmed had occurred a day earlier and was just about to be formally announced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's office. But the towering policeman was still living the moment-and realizing again how close to death he had come while bringing his total of recovered captives to 170. "The first few times I did this, I thought this was my one-way ticket to the grave. We didn't know who we would be meeting or if it was a trap," he recalled at a secret location in the war-ravaged southern port of Mykolaiv.

"There is simply no trust between us at all," he said of the soldiers conducting the actual swaps on the battlefield.

### 'Anything can go wrong'

World headlines occasionally light up with news of mammoth Russian-Ukrainian exchanges that often involve high-value captives. These have included 200 fighters who survived the Russian siege of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol and more than 100 women who returned from Russian

captivity last week. Less noticed are the more routine swaps of just a few prisoners-many of them gravely wounded-that the sides have been able to arrange behind the scenes.

How these occur in the middle of a war zone between two foes are a slight mystery, even to Danila himself. "Anything can go wrong," he said. "We just have to avoid opening fire at each other. Everyone has to come out alive."

### Secret operation

Danila said the first swaps were conducted in March, without formal state approval and in complete secrecy. The Russians had just been thwarted in their attempt to seize Mykolaiv and were regrouping at a rear base. The fighting was falling into a deadly rhythm and the captives were piling up on both sides. The Russians made the first move.

"We got word that their side is not against an exchange. They established contact with us about a few prisoners," he said. "At this point, it was impossible to go through official channels. Very few people knew about it." He said the exchange lists are now approved by Ukraine's GUR military intelligence directorate and the SBU security service.

But the first ones were done without any pauses in fighting at an agreed location in the very middle of the front. "I looked at my men, we all agreed we should do this, and drove off," Danila said.

### 'All a lie'

Danila said his biggest challenge was talking to the enemy without losing his cool. "We talk to them on the spot. We discuss the details of the exchange. All sorts of things can happen," Danila said. But he does not believe a word the Russians tell him and treats each exchange like a military mission.

"The way they act, pretending like they want to help and things like that-that is all a lie," he said.

This mistrust stems in large part from the repeated targeting of civilians who were allowed to flee the war zone along established routes in the

first weeks of war. Those routes were secured along back channels similar to the ones Danila uses today. "You have to keep your cool. No emotions," said Danila of his mindset during the exchanges. "Emotions can ruin everything. So everyone who takes part-these are my guys that I know won't take out their guns and open fire. I trust each of them with my life." — AFP

# Kenya's new cabinet sworn in two months after vote

**NAIROBI:** Kenyan President William Ruto's cabinet was sworn in on Thursday, two months after he narrowly won a bitterly-fought but largely peaceful election. The 22-member line-up will be tasked with tackling the cost of living crisis and other economic issues in the East African country, the cornerstone of Ruto's election campaign manifesto.

"You will have my support because you



NAIROBI, Kenya: Newly sworn-in Cabinet Secretaries (left to right) Aden Duale, Minister of Defense, Eliud Owalo, Minister of Information, Technology, & Digital Economy, and Musalia

### N Ireland moves closer to fresh elections

Donetsk region, deliver a press conference in Kyiv on October 26, 2022. — AFP

**BELFAST:** Northern Ireland on Thursday appeared headed for a second election this year after the leader of the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party said his grouping had not changed its position on contentious post-Brexit trade rules. DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson told reporters insufficient action had been taken to address their concerns on the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol parties was to "get back to Stormont... because the people of Northern Ireland deserve a fully functioning and locally elected executive", his official spokesman said.

UK government efforts to resolve months of political stalemate have failed to secure a breakthrough in recent days. Chris Heaton-Harris, Britain's Northern Ireland minister, held talks with the political parties on Wednesday in a fresh bid to get them to form a new executive.

If no agreement is reached by Friday, London will be legally required to call early elections for the devolved assembly in the volatile province. "If the executive is not formed by 28 October, I will call an election," the minister said in a statement earlier. "Time is running out."



have no other option but to succeed. Failure is not an option, we have a country to look after," Ruto told the new ministers at the event in Nairobi. Ruto vowed to run an inclusive, transparent and accountable government as he aims to transform the regional powerhouse.

"We have no grey areas, we have nothing to hide. We want to serve the people of Kenya," he said.

However, the new cabinet did not achieve the gender parity Ruto had promised on the campaign trail, naming just seven women to the team. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary, are seen after their swearing-in ceremony at the State House in Nairobi on October 27, 2022. — AFP

Mudavadi, a former vice president who broke ranks with defeated presidential candidate and opposition chief Raila Odinga to back Ruto, assumed the newly-created position of prime cabinet secretary.

The 62-year-old will be the most senior government minister and answer directly to the president and his deputy. Alfred Mutua, a former governor whose party also sided with Ruto, will take charge of the foreign ministry.

Kithure Kindiki, a lawyer who served on the legal team that defended Ruto's August election win in court, will head the powerful interior ministry. Kindiki also represented Ruto at his trial at The Haguebased International Criminal Court for his alleged role in orchestrating the 2007-2008 post-election unrest that killed at least 1,100 people and displaced more than 600,000. — AFP governing post Brexit trade.

The party would therefore not be supporting the nomination of ministers to the executive, he said, speaking before a special sitting of the Northern Ireland assembly at Stormont. "We need to remove the rubble of the protocol that has undermined our economy, that has inhibited our ability to trade within our own country and changed our constitutional status without our consent, a protocol that every day is harming businesses and driving up the cost of living for every single person in Northern Ireland," he said. New British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's message to the Northern Ireland has been without a functioning government since February, when DUP collapsed the executive over its staunch opposition to post-Brexit trade rules there. It wants the protocolagreed by London and Brussels as part of Britain's 2019 Brexit deal-overhauled or scrapped entirely. They say it weakens the province's place within the United Kingdom.

Many unionists also argue the pact is threatening the delicate balance of peace between the pro-Irish nationalist community and those in favor of continued union with Britain. —AFP

# Egypt and IMF ink loan deal; pound...

### **Continued from Page 1**

Egypt has been dependent on bailouts both from the IMF and from Gulf allies, particularly since the 2013 ouster of Islamist late president Mohammed Morsi. The Egyptian tourism sectoralready battered by jihadist attacks and the coronavirus pandemic-and the major wheat importer's food industry have lately been hit hard by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. With the latest depreciation,

### Kuwait explores US investment...

### **Continued from Page 1**

in food security that is considered a "global challenge." He added that Nebraskan officials expressed their appreciation for Kuwait's stance towards US and the coordination in food security and many other domains. He affirmed Kuwait's keen interest in the food security, shedding light on Kuwait's Supreme National Committee to enhance the food and water security system that was created in May 2022 by Kuwait's Cabinet which is aimed at preventing any consequences from global crises that might affect the food security system. "This visit reflects Kuwait's desire to intensify and boost its cooperation globally as well as prepare itself in this field," Ambassador Al-Budaiwi said.

On his part, Governor Ricketts said, "Nebraskans are grateful for the strong friendship between the US and Kuwait. Kuwait is a key ally for our nation in the Middle East and an important trading partner for Nebraska," he added. He thanked Ambassador Al-Budaiwi for visiting Nebraska "to discuss opportunities to strengthen our ties with one another."

Furthermore, Congressman Bacon reiterated that "Kuwait is a strong ally of US and an important part-

Egypt's local currency has shed a total of 47 percent of its value since the start of the year, going down to 23 pounds against the greenback as markets closed Thursday, down from 15.6 pounds in a matter of months.

The pound's continued free-fall against the dollar has caused many importers to stop bringing in goods. The pound previously saw a dramatic devaluation in 2016 when it shed need nearly half its value overnight. Inflation has also surged recently, reaching 15.3 percent in September, driven by the skyrocketing food prices. Non-oil private sector activity has continued to contract since 2017, while experts fear an impending real estate bubble as the military continues to launch massive-scale development projects that often lack financial transparency. — AFP

ner in combating international terrorism and strengthening international trade between our two countries. It is an honor to host our friends in the Heartland of America," he remarked. Also, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) Director John Hilgert said "it was an honor to meet with Ambassador Al-Budaiwi alongside some of my fellow Gulf War veterans."

He added "hearing his perspective and the thanks he gave on behalf of the Kuwaiti people reiterated the importance and righteousness of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and America's continued efforts to protect democracy around the globe." Meanwhile, Secretary Evnen said "it was a great honor and pleasure to welcome Ambassador Jasem Al-Budaiwi to Nebraska." "We found much of common interest for the mutual benefit of the people of Nebraska and the people of Kuwait," he added. He continued that Ambassador Al-Budaiwi "was warmly received by Nebraskans wherever he visited, and particularly so with our veterans of Desert Storm. We look forward to future follow-up in the many areas of mutual interest."

President and CEO of the National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce David Hamod said that is a "great opportunity" to introduce Kuwait's Ambassador to the heartland of America. "The middle west is distinguished by its productivity in agriculture, manufacturing, technology, and education, which makes this region a natural partner for the state of Kuwait," he added. — AFP

# Coming decade 'most dangerous'...

### Continued from Page 1

the status of people voluntarily supporting the Russia army during mobilization, in times of war, counter-terrorist operations, or abroad.

"In terms of status, volunteers will be equal to our servicemen under contract," said Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin. "It is only fair: they protect our country," he said, according to a statement on the Duma website. The law will regulate "material and

## Zionists and Lebanon seal...

#### **Continued from Page 1**

offshore gas reserves at the border before the deal was signed. "Our mission is complete," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech.

The deal comes as Lebanon hopes to extract itself from what the World Bank calls one of the world's worst economic crises in modern history, and as Lapid seeks to lock in a major achievement days ahead of a general election on November 1. The exchange of letters was held in the southern Lebanese border town of Naqura, in the presence of US mediator Amos Hochstein and UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Joanna Wronecka, who will now deposit the new maritime coordinates at the UN headquarters in New York.

Biden said that "energy - particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean - should not be a cause for conflict, but a tool for cooperation, stability, security and prosperity. "This agreement takes us one step closer to realizing a vision for a Middle East that is more secure, integrated and prosperous, delivering benefits for all the people of the region." Hours before signing it, Lapid had claimed that Lebanon's technical protection measures for volunteer groups and define social protections for them and their families," according to the statement. Both bills will need to be approved by the upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, before Putin can sign them into law.

More than 200,000 people have joined the Russian armed forces since mobilization was announced, the defense ministry said in early October. But after some public outrage over students, older or sick people being mistakenly ordered to report for duty, Putin ordered that mistakes be "corrected". Putin ordered the establishment of a special coordination council headed by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin to cover the needs of the armed forces during mobilization. — AFP

intention to ink the deal amounted to a de-facto recognition of the Jewish state.

"It is not every day that an enemy state recognizes Zionist entity, in a written agreement, in front of the entire international community," he said. Aoun denied Lapid's assertion, countering that "demarcating the southern maritime border is technical work that has no political implications". The deal comes as political parties in Zionist entity – including Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid – jockey for position in what will be the fifth general election in less than four years.

Veteran right-winger and longtime premier Benjamin Netanyahu has his sights set on a comeback and he dismissed the maritime deal as an "illegal ploy" early this month. London-listed Energean on Wednesday said it began producing gas from Karish, an offshore field at the heart of the border agreement, a day after Zionists gave the green light. Lebanon meanwhile will have full rights to operate and explore the so-called Qana or Sidon reservoir, parts of which falls in Zionist territorial waters, with the Jewish state receiving some revenues.

With demand for gas rising worldwide because of the energy crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Lebanon hopes that exploiting the offshore field will help ease its financial and economic crisis. But analysts caution that it will take time for production to start in Lebanese waters, meaning no quick return for a country that is desperately short of foreign exchange reserves.—AFP



International

# ASEAN foreign ministers 'even more determined' to solve Myanmar crisis

# Over 2,300 people killed in military's brutal crackdown in Myanmar

JAKARTA: Southeast Asian foreign ministers said they were "even more determined" to solve the political crisis in Myanmar during talks in Indonesia on Thursday ahead of the ASEAN leaders' summit in November. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military coup in February last year, but despite its expressions of concern, efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have yet to bear any fruit.

But "ASEAN should not be discouraged, but even more determined to help Myanmar to bring about a peaceful solution", said Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn after the emergency meeting at the bloc's secretariat in Jakarta. Myanmar's junta had declined to send a non-political figure to the meeting.

More than 2,300 people have been killed in the Myanmar military's brutal crackdown on dissent after the coup, according to a local monitor. The United States had urged strong action at Thursday's meeting. Daniel Kritenbrink, the top US diplomat for East Asia, said at an event in Washington that the junta was leading "the complete destruction of all the progress made over the last decade" as Myanmar transitioned to democracy.

"We are not going to sit idly by while this violence continues; we're not going to sit idly by while the junta prepares for what will be completely fake and sham elections that they talk about holding next year." Kritenbrink said Washington had "great respect" for ASEAN, but US officials have expressed frustration in the past at the lack of progress on the bloc's own plan for the crisis, which called for an end to the violence, increased aid and dialogue.

"I think all the ASEAN countries need to hold the regime accountable," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in July. "To date, we have not seen positive movement in that direction."

### 'Deep disappointment'

ASEAN ministers reaffirmed on Thursday their commitment to that five-point plan, first proposed in April 2022. "The situation on the ground remains critical and fragile, and this is not due to the lack of commitments and efforts on the part of ASEAN... but because of the complexity and difficulty of Myanmar's decades-long protracted conflicts," Sokhonn said.

"The time to act is now." Host Indonesia's foreign minister Retno Marsudi said the top diplomats of all ASEAN members had expressed concern about the failure to move ahead.

"The approach to sweep problems under the rug should not be an option in the ASEAN working mechanism," she told a press briefing. Singapore's foreign minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan expressed the citystate's "deep disappointment at the lack of progress" by the junta on implementing the agreed plan, his ministry said in a statement. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing has not been invited to the ASEAN leaders' summit in Cambodia next month-for the second year in a rowand Myanmar's top diplomat Wunna Maung Lwin was excluded from ministerial talks in February and August. But rights groups condemned the bloc's failure to

act, calling it business as usual.



ASTANA, Kazakhstan: President of the European Council Charles Michel (second left) poses for a family photo with the leaders of all five Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan - during the first EU-Central Asia summit in Astana on October 27, 2022. — AFP

# EU chief calls for closer ties with Central Asia

ner for the EU and called for investment in transport infrastructure in the country, which has looked to reduce its dependence on Moscow since the latter sent troops to Ukraine. Michel's visit comes two weeks after Astana hosted several summits attended by Russia-as well as by China and Turkey, who are also seeking to strengthen their influence in the region. Central Asian countries, traditional allies of Moscow, have trod a fine line on the Kremlin's attack on Ukraine, neither condemning nor openly supporting it. Tokayev even clashed with Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly in June, refusing to recognize the self-declared separatist republics controlled by pro-Moscow rebels in eastern Ukraine. Russia has since claimed to have annexed the regions. Meanwhile Astana is seeking new routes for its oil exports, around three quarters of which transit Russia. In early July, Tokayev pledged greater energy cooperation with the EU. In a joint statement on Thursday, Tokayev and Michel said they discussed how to avoid "unintended negative impact on Kazakhstan's economy" of EU sanctions against Russia, imposed over the Ukraine conflict. They also discussed relocating to Kazakhstan "European manufacturing companies", whose products are not subject to sanctions. Rich in hydrocarbons and minerals, Kazakhstan lies at the heart of China's massive new Silk Road project. Like Beijing, Turkey is also advancing its interest in the region, highlighting its ethno-linguistic and religious ties to Central Asia. —AFP



JAKARTA: This handout picture taken and released on October 27, 2022 by the Indonesian ministry of foreign affairs shows the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) countries attending the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAFMM) at ASEAN secretariat general building, in Jakarta. — AFP

"Instead of the kind of wishy-washy language contained in the Chairperson's statement, ASEAN needs to get tough by establishing clear, time-bound human rights benchmarks on Myanmar," said Human Rights Watch's deputy Asia director Phil Robertson. He said that should include releasing political prisoners, ceas-

# Hong Kong pastor, housewife jailed over court applause

**HONG KONG:** A Hong Kong pastor and a housewife were both jailed on Thursday after they were convicted of sedition for clapping in court and criticizing a verdict against a democracy activist, local media reported. The sentence is the latest under Hong Kong's sedition law, once a little-used hangover from the British colonial period that has been embraced by prosecutors as China cracks down on dissent in the city.

Evangelical pastor Garry Pang and housewife Chiu Mei-ying were both convicted of "uttering seditious words" after they used applause and comments in court to criticize a verdict against a jailed democracy activist. Pang, 59, was given a year-long sentence while Chiu, 68, received three months.

Pang was separately convicted of another sedition

ing attacks on civilians, and steps towards dissolving the junta to allow for civilian democratic rule. "Those benchmarks should be accompanied by clear penalties should Myanmar fail to meet them," he said, criticizing ASEAN for not taking "even small actions to show displeasure" with the junta. —AFP

Friday, October 28, 2022

since a crackdown followed huge protests three years ago. "Pang not only openly admitted he clapped, he also criticized the magistrate of being conscienceless ... which incited others to despise the judiciary," magistrate Cheng Lim-chi said, according to local publication The Witness, which covers Hong Kong courts.

Cheng also found that Chiu called the sentencing magistrate "unjust". More than 200 people-the bulk of them activists, former elected lawmakers, unionists and journalists-have been arrested on national security charges since mid-2020. About one-fifth of those arrested have been hit with charges of sedition, which is treated as a national security crime.

Critics say the national security campaign has eviscerated freedoms and begun transforming Hong Kong's legal system, while Beijing says order has been restored in the wake of the demonstrations.

Thursday's verdict came a day after Hong Kong was demoted in the World Justice Project's annual global rule of law index. The city fell three places to 22 out of 140 regions and countries. It was the second-largest drop in the Asia-Pacific region after Myanmar, where the military seized power last year. The Hong Kong government rejected the lower ranking, saying it was "possibly due to the lack of an accurate and overall understanding of the real situation of the city".—AFP

ASTANA: EU chief Charles Michel called on Thursday for closer ties with Central Asia on his first official visit to Kazakhstan, the main economic powerhouse in a region where Russia's influence has come under question. "Central Asia and Europe are coming closer together and becoming more and more connected," Michel said at a press conference with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the capital Astana. The head of the EU Council said Kazakhstan was a "crucial partner" and the EU hoped to "develop our cooperation". Michel's visit comes eight months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has made Moscow's former Soviet neighbors nervous and intensified the Kremlin's clash with the West.

"My visit takes place at a difficult time for Europe and the wider region," Michel said, condemning Moscow's "war of aggression". This is the first EU-Central Asia summit, a gathering Michel described as "much more than just a policy dialogue between two regions". "It's a powerful symbol of our reinforced cooperation," he said.

He singled out Kazakhstan as a major trading part-

# Russia's 'disposable soldiers' fighting for Bakhmut

**KYIV:** With Russian artillery exploding around him, a Ukrainian soldier takes shelter in a tunnel and recounts the scene at the front line in Bakhmut, just a kilometer away. "It's horror over there. The ground is black like asphalt. Everything is destroyed," 38-year-old serv-iceman Yevgen told AFP. "There are bodies everywhere". The eastern Ukraine town, known for its salt mines and vineyards, has been under attack for months by Russian forces, who are mostly on the defensive in other regions across Ukraine.

A driving force behind the offensive is the Wagner mercenary group, say war observers and Ukraine troops. The shadowy force was founded by Kremlinlinked businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin. The 61-yearold has taken an increasingly prominent role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine-leading some to question if he might harbor personal political ambitions. Ukrainian officials say Prigozhin has been sending thousands of soldiers recruited in Russian prisons to the front line, with the promise of a salary and an amnesty. Several Ukrainian soldiers in Bakhmut told AFP these alleged ex-convicts are used as a type of "human bait".

"It starts at around 6 pm, when it's getting dark," said Anton, a 50-year-old Ukrainian soldier from the 93th brigade who was resting after an injury. "These soldiers-with no experience-are sent towards our guns and stay there for a few minutes," Anton, nickname "Polyak", told AFP. He estimated seven or eight were sent every night. "Their job is to advance



KYIV, Ukraine: Ukrainian Minister of Defense Oleksii Reznikov delivers a news conference in Kyiv on October 26, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

towards us, forcing us to fire on them, to reveal our positions," said Sergiy, a major in the 53rd brigade. "After that, they fire artillery or send more experienced commandos towards our positions."

### 'Number of your prison'

Most of these fighters-dubbed "disposable soldiers" by the Ukrainians-are killed, they said. Some are wounded and captured. Sergiy said he found one alive one morning. In a video he said he took and showed to AFP later on the same day, a Russian captive is seen lying on the ground in a room, his right arm and left leg injured, being interrogated by the major.

"What is the number of your prison?" the major is heard asking in the video. "Kopeika", the man says, giving the nickname of a prison in Voronezh in western Russia. The Russian mercenary then says he joined Wagner one month earlier and received training in three different places, including a Russian-occupied area in eastern Ukraine. The man is heard saying that all his fellow fighters were ex-inmates recruited by Wagner. AFP could not independently confirm the contents of the video.—AFP count for comments on his YouTube channel about democracy protests. The two regularly attended activists' trials, which have filled Hong Kong's courts

# Key Brazil state provides snapshot of divisive election

**SAO PAULO:** Nikolas Ferreira is a young, ultra-conservative who preaches about politics in churches and on social media. Celia Xakriaba, an Indigenous activist, focuses on the climate emergency. The two recently-elected lawmakers in Brazil's Minas Gerais state are fighting for polar opposite visions of the country's future for their respective candidates, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The stakes are high: Since 1989, no president has won an election without victory in Minas Gerais, home to the second-highest number of voters in the country of 215 million people.

#### Nikolas Ferreira: influencer with the most votes

Ferreira, a baby-faced 26-year-old lawyer, was elected to Congress with 1.5 million votes in legislative elections held alongside Brazil's first-round presidential vote. This represents more votes than any other legislative candidate in the country. For months he has declared himself at "war" with the "silent threat of communism" he claims a Lula victory will bring.

"Are we going to turn it around or not? Yes or no to abortion? Yes or no to the legalization of drugs?" Ferreira said as he worked up an audience during a recent Bolsonaro rally in the state.

The two have appeared together at least three times during the campaign, during which both Bolsonaro and Lula have given outsized attention to Minas Gerais voters. Dark-haired and articulate, Ferreira addresses his audience much like an evangelical pastor. "There are believers who are voting for the devil. There are believers who are voting for Lula," he told the Jovem Pan radio station. A graduate of a Catholic University in Minas Gerais, Ferreira claims that Brazilian universities are in the grip of a "Marxist ideology" out to destroy the traditional family.

He pushes his views in provocative speeches and videos shared with millions of followers on social media, a magnet for conservative youth. Electoral authorities removed his content falsely claiming that Lula was proabortion or the legalization of drugs. Local media has reported that Ferreira is under investigation after he exposed a transgender child for using the female toilet in a school. "I am not controversial. I am just following what I believe in," he said in a recent interview.

Celia Xakriaba, 32, is convinced she is living through a "historic moment." With more than 100,000 votes, she became the first indigenous deputy in Minas Gerais, as a candidate for the left-wing Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL). "Our absolute priority will be environmental issues," she told AFP during one of her campaign appearances in support of Lula in Belo Horizonte.—AFP



BANGKOK: Thai plastic surgeon Nopparat Rattanawaraha (center) describes his ordeal of being kidnapped in Mali, during a press conference at Nopparat Cosmetic Clinic in Bangkok on October 27, 2022. — AFP

## Thai doctor recounts Mali kidnap ordeal

**BANGKOK:** A Thai plastic surgeon on Thursday described drinking pond water to survive during three weeks of captivity at the hands of gun-toting kidnappers in Mali. Nopparat Rattanawaraha, who also runs a popular YouTube channel where he posts travel clips, returned to Thailand after being released on payment of a reported \$150,000 ransom.

The 49-year-old was back at work just a day after flying back to the kingdom, and recounted the dramatic moment he was seized while driving from Burkina Faso into Mali with a driver and guide. After falling asleep in the car, Nopparat said he woke up to find himself surrounded.

"It was like a movie. There were five or six men carrying guns surrounding me but I couldn't understand them," he told Channel 3 television station. "They told me to kneel down, put my hands behind my back and covered my eyes." The kidnappers took him to a remote location and he tried to stay calm and friendly, he said.

"They were not aggressive, they didn't injure me. They spoke to me nicely," he said, though food and drink were limited. "I had to eat whatever there was. If there was no water, I needed to drink from the pond. Sometimes I could smell oil in it," he said.

Helping him through was his homemade survival kit-a plastic bag containing mosquito repellent arm bands and herbal inhalers popular in Thailand.

In the third week of captivity, he was allowed to use the phone to speak to his mother and girlfriend, who spoke to the kidnappers to hear their ransom demands.

It has not been confirmed who paid the ransom, but the Thai police and foreign office helped to organize his return. Nopparat said that while he did not feel immediately traumatized by his experience, he thought he would need professional counseling.—AFP



BUSINESS

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

# **BNK Motion will live up to Kuwait riders' expectations: Al-Kharafi**

BNK expands into motorcycles and bikes segment, opens new showroom at Sirbb Circuit



KUWAIT: Motorbike enthusiasts arrive at the newly-opened BNK Motion showroom on Wednesday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**By Faten Omar** 

**KUWAIT:** BNK, the official dealership of Piaggio Group Motor Works in Kuwait, continues to expand across the country.



BNK Motion inaugurated a new showroom on Wednesday at Sirbb Circuit in the Shuwaikh area. The store offers end-to-end sales, service, and spare support.

Speaking on the occasion, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, the Founder and CEO of BNK Holding, said "We are extremely delighted to open the store of Motoplex for Piaggio Group at the beginning of the motorcycle season. I hope we can live up to Kuwait riders' expectations".

He added, "BNK Automotive entered the field of cars at the beginning, and now we announce our development and expansion into BNK Motion for Motorcycles and Bikes. Hopefully, we will consider new brands for the new store soon".

### Showroom offers end-to-end sales and services support

Ashraf Tamim, General Manager at BNK Automotive and BNK Motion, told Kuwait Times that the new showroom considers a '3S Facility' which means it has spare-parts, services and sales in one center.

He revealed that the new BNK Motion store brings together all the brands of Piaggio Group's top-selling dealers, consisting of Aprilia, Moto Guzzi, and Vespa, all under one roof. "The showKUWAIT: Founder and CEO of BNK Holding Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi at the showroom

room also offers service at the same place, which makes it an integrated center for motorcycles".

Tamim affirmed that the showroom will meet all the requirements of the riders in Kuwait, where it presents various models from scooters to racing bikes. He noted, "The showroom at Sirbb Circuit will be of assistance to people who want to ride a bike without going out onto the public road. It is a rare thing to have a place with all that full options with qualified paths to drive bikes".

"The BNK Motion aims to take motorcycles closer to customers of Kuwait who can check out on different ranges of premium motorcycles. In addition, the timing is right for the showroom's launch as it coincides with the riding season. I am quite confident that bike lovers will benefit from this showroom not only in sales but also from a service point of view," Tamim pointed out.

The event provided an opportunity for people to learn more about different brands of motorcycles and Vespa scooters. In addition, various accessories, apparel, and spare-parts were on display at the showroom. The attendees and motorcycle riders were provided food and beverages.

During the launch event, riders expressed their keen interest in the showroom that provides full services to both beginners and professional riders and provides high-quality Italian motorcycles to Kuwaiti riders. BNK's vision is to create an enjoyable and exceptional driving experience for the Kuwaiti community. BNK brands are a collection of style, simplicity, safety, and innovation. The brands are recognized for setting trends across the globe.





KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Deputy Editor-in-Chief Dr Ziad Al-Alyan (left)and Saleh Al-Alyan check out a motorcycle at <u>BNK Motion.</u>



## Business

# ECB unveils another jumbo rate hike to tackle inflation

# Concerns grow that eurozone is hurtling towards a painful recession

**FRANKFURT:** The European Central Bank on Thursday rolled out another bumper rate hike to combat soaring inflation, despite growing concern that the eurozone is hurtling towards a painful recession.

The ECB's 25-member governing council repeated last month's unprecedented move and opted for another increase of 75 basis points, leaving its three main rates sitting in a range of between 1.5 and 2.25 percent. The hike was widely expected and comes as the Frankfurt institution faces pressure to rein in record-high inflation, mainly driven by skyrocketing energy costs in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine. Eurozone inflation stood at 9.9 percent in September, nearly five times the ECB's two-percent target.

In its statement, the ECB warned that inflation "remains far too high" in the 19-nation currency club, blaming "soaring energy and food prices, supply bottlenecks and the post-pandemic recovery in demand". Like other central banks, the ECB is fighting back with a series of rate hikes intended to dampen demand by making credit more expensive for households and businesses. But higher borrowing costs also dampen economic activity, and signs are multiplying that the eurozone outlook has deteriorated. In its determination to bring down price pressures, the ECB "has turned a

# US economy grows for first time this year in third quarter

**WASHINGTON:** The US economy rebounded in the third quarter, expanding for the first time this year in welcome news for President Joe Biden days ahead of midterm elections, government data showed Thursday. Economic issues have become a flashpoint in the United States, with decades-high inflation weighing on growth and squeezing households.

Fears of a downturn have intensified in the world's biggest economy after two quarters of negative growth, commonly viewed as a strong signal that a recession is underway-a trend that would have global consequences and domestic political



FRANKFURT: President of the European Central Bank Christine Lagarde holds a press conference on the eurozone monetary policy following the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on October 27, 2022. — AFP

blind eye on recession risks", said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

### Political grumbling

Moscow's move to curb gas supplies to Europe has triggered an energy crisis on the continent, fuelling fears of power shortages and sky-high heating bills this winter. If Russia completely cuts off gas flows to Europe, the

costs. But gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of 2.6 percent in the July to September period, according to the latest Commerce Department data.

"Our economic recovery is continuing to power forward," said Biden in a statement. But he added that officials need to "make more progress" on bringing down high costs for American households. The better-than-expected performance was helped by strong trade, even as housing investment plunged and weaker consumer spending on goods casts a pall on growth as higher prices bite. Industrial supplies and materials, notably petroleum and products, kept exports robust.

In consumer spending, an increase in services led by health care was "partly offset" by a drop in products like motor vehicles and parts, along with food and beverages, data showed. The leap in exports is "unsustainable," as a strong dollar and weak global growth will pose constraints moving forward, cautioned Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics. A drop in imports that helped net eurozone economy could shrink by nearly one percent in 2023, ECB vice-president Luis de Guindos has warned.

That scenario has become more likely after Russia in late August shut down the crucial Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Europe's economic powerhouse Germany. The German economy is already forecast to shrink by 0.4 percent next year. As European governments race to unveil multi-billion-euro support measures to help citizens through a cost-of-living crisis this winter, the ECB's monetary policy tightening has come under increased scrutiny. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni this week slammed the ECB's "rash choice" to aggressively hike rates, saying it created "further difficulties for member states that have elevated public debt".

French President Emmanuel Macron has expressed "concern" that the ECB was "shattering demand" in Europe. ECB president Christine Lagarde will likely be quizzed about the political grumbling at her 1245 GMT press conference in Frankfurt. Lagarde can also expect questions on how the ECB plans to bring other monetary policy levers in line with its inflation-busting efforts, including unwinding its massive balance sheet.

### Excess liquidity

The governing council on Thursday already moved

trade also marks a reversal of earlier inventory rebuilding, but that is now over, he said. "We're relying on better consumption, rising government spending, and... investment to keep GDP in the black," he added. Overall, personal consumption expenditures-a key segment of the economy-grew 1.4 percent, slower than before.

The US economy shrank 0.6 percent in the second quarter, according to revised numbers, after a larger decline in the first three months this year.

Biden has insisted that the economy is on the right path, but analysts warn of risks ahead, as households grapple with soaring prices and draw down on their savings.

### Risks ahead

Republicans have blamed Democrats for worsening price spikes through runaway spending, though inflation is a global issue that presidents have limited power over. Analysts see a slowdown in growth in the coming quarters, with the possibility of a to limit the benefits gained by eurozone banks from super-cheap loans issued at ultra-low rates during the pandemic. The interest rate for so-called TLTRO III loans would rise, the bank said, and lenders will be offered "additional voluntary early repayment dates". As an unintended consequence of the ECB's rate hikes, lenders are currently able to make an easy profit by parking their excess TLTRO cash at the ECB and pocketing the new, higher deposit rate.

Friday, October 28, 2022

This is not considered a good look at a time when many consumers and companies are struggling, and the ECB had signalled it wanted to make the loan scheme less generous. "The optics are bad against the backdrop of a historical shock to households' income, and political pressure cannot be ignored," said Pictet Wealth Management economist Frederik Ducrozet. The ECB is also considering how best to shrink its five-trillion-euros bond portfolio, after years of hoovering up government and corporate debt to drive up stubbornly low inflation. But the statement made no mention of any decisions on the issue. Given the economic uncertainty and the risk of rattling financial markets, analysts say the start of any "quantitative tightening"-letting the bonds mature or actively selling them-is some way off. — AFP

recession in 2023. While there is still some momentum in household spending and a rebound in business investment, there is also "ongoing weakness in residential investment," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

There are particular risks to consumption "as households continue to face challenges from high prices and likely slower job growth going forward," she added in an analysis. Households have been reeling from decades-high inflation this year, with prices soaring on supply chain snarls due to Covid-19 lockdowns and fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent food and energy costs rocketing.

To lower price pressures, the US central bank has embarked on aggressive interest rate hikes, walking a tightrope as it tries to avoid tipping the economy into a recession.

Already, there are signs of stress, such as a weakening in the housing sector, which is more sensitive to interest rates. — AFP





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شركة الصفاة للإستشمارة AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

# WEEK ENDED ON 27 OCTOBER 2022

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alsafatinvestment

in al-safat-investment-company

			Price Movement & Performance										Valuation Multiples *				
No.	Ticker	Sector	Open Price	Close Price	Week High	Week Low	Range	Volume	WTD Change	WTD %	YTD %	Support Level	Resistance Level	P/E	Р/В	Yield	Beta
101	National Bank of Kuwait	Banking	1,059	1,055	1,063	1,046	17	30,078,140	0	0.00%	11.11%	1,055	1,064	17.4	2.03	2.3%	1.01
102	Gulf Bank	Banking	344	340	348	333	15	11,085,358	0	0.00%	27.96%	338	346	17.8	1.55	2.0%	1.26
106	Kuwait International Bank	Banking	195	189	196	188	8	19,837,242	-4	-2.07%	-9.83%	186	194	34.1	0.60	2.0%	1.17
107	Burgan Bank	Banking	221	217	226	216	10	5,351,743	-3	-1.36%	-9.22%	212	217	21.7	0.79	2.2%	1.30
108	Kuwait Finance House	Banking	824	801	829	793	36	81,473,520	-10	-1.23%	5.90%	796	807	27.1	3.31	1.4%	1.16
109	Boubyan Bank	Banking	811	811	820	799	21	3,648,975	3	0.37%	13.85%	803	813	52.7	3.21	0.6%	1.09
204	National Investments	Financial Services	247	234	249	233	16	3,890,501	-6	-2.50%	6.85%	227	237	8.7	0.93	19.2%	1.80
205	Kuwait Projects	Financial Services	122	120	123	115	8	12,664,339	0	0.00%	-15.49%	116	122	307.7	0.63	4.2%	1.01
252	Al Imtiaz Investment	Financial Services	78	73.9	79	74	6	5,059,138	-3.0	-3.90%	-37.37%	72.8	78.0	-	0.44	11.8%	1.23
401	Kuwait Real Estate	Real Estate	113	107	115	106	9	33,790,293	-5.0	-4.46%	-38.43%	99.5	108	13.3	0.80	2.7%	1.11
413	Mabanee	Real Estate	875	869	885	847	38	2,219,913	0	0.00%	16.16%	850	875	17.9	1.91	1.5%	1.05
501	National Industries	Financial Services	240	229	244	228	16	26,964,406	-7	-2.97%	-4.96%	221	232	5.3	0.97	4.8%	1.49
505	Gulf Cable	Industrials	1,146	1,136	1,176	1,116	60	888,999	16	1.43%	30.42%	1,090	1,176	10.5	1.05	5.3%	0.98
514	Boubyan Petrochemical	Basic Materials	817	793	826	788	38	1,474,017	-19	-2.34%	-6.92%	790	820	8.9	1.62	7.6%	0.93
526	Al Qurain	Basic Materials	250	260	264	240	24	3,855,192	12	4.84%	-25.07%	256	275	9.6	0.62	7.2%	1.05
603	Agility	Industrials	748	767	774	730	44	39,917,459	24	3.23%	-2.60%	739	769	59.4	1.32	2.2%	1.50
605	Zain	Telecommunications	597	597	599	583	16	12,584,119	1	0.17%	0.34%	595	599	14.1	2.17	5.5%	0.80
623	Human Soft Holding	Industrials	3,280	3,328	3,331	3,280	51	559,826	48	1.46%	3.23%	3,315	3,350	7.7	3.68	12.0%	0.69
642	ALAFCO	Industrials	183	163	190	163	27	40,239,053	-18	-9.94%	-25.23%	163	167	-	0.69	0.0%	1.17
654	JAZEERA	Consumer Discretionary	1,700	1,659	1,715	1,630	85	1,183,542	-41	-2.41%	28.60%	1,645	1,680	13.6	12.14	2.7%	1.41
818	Ahli United Bank	Banking		//-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- /	-	-	-	-
821	Warba Bank	Banking	241	240	244	237	7	24,953,818	3	1.27%	-12.41%	240	243	24.1	1.31	0.0%	1.09
823	Mezzan Holding	Consumer Staples	370	366	373	359	14	5,529,024	-4	-1.08%	-36.62%	360	375	37.8	1.08	4.3%	0.50
824	Integrated Holding	Industrials	357	324	357	324	33	7,086,746	-22	-6.36%	-12.43%	324	345	24.8	1.34	3.1%	0.74
826	Shamal Az-Zour	Utilities	192	190	193	189	4	2,115,105	-2	-1.04%	-16.67%	189	195	14.5	2.14	9.5%	0.47
827	Boursa Kuwait	Financial Services	2,300	2,221	2,340	2,200	140	366,799	-69	-3.01%	9.95%	2,180	2,233	23.9	7.71	2.9%	0.93
830	AL GHANIM	Consumer Discretionary	797	796	804	782	22	1,281,393	-1	-0.13%		780	800	12.5	3.68	-	0.46





# IEA expects global energy emissions to peak in 2025

# Prices surge due to Russian invasion of Ukraine

**WASHINGTON:** The International Energy Agency said Thursday it believes global energy emissions will peak in 2025 as surging prices due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine propel investment in renewables.

Only last year the IEA said there was "no clear peak in sight" in energy emissions, but the new higher investment in wind and solar is setting up demand for all fossil fuels to peak or plateau, leading to a drop in emissions. "The global energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is causing profound and long-lasting changes that have the potential to hasten the transition to a more sustainable and secure energy system," the IEA said as it released its latest annual World Energy Outlook report.

Based on the latest measures and policies announced by governments in the face of soaring energy prices, the IEA forecasts global clean energy investment to rise by more than 50 percent from today's levels to \$2 trillion per year by 2030. Those measures will propel sustained gains in renewables and nuclear power. "As a result, a high point for global emissions is reached in 2025," the IEA said.

Global energy-related CO2 emissions are then set to fall back slowly from a high point of 37 billion tons per year to 32 billion tons by 2050, it added.

The Paris-based organization, which advises energy-consuming nations, said that its forecast sees demand for all types of fossil fuels peaking or hitting a plateau. Coal use, which has seen a temporary bump higher, will drop back in the next few years as more renewables come online.

Natural gas hits a plateau at the end of the decade, instead of the previous forecast of a steady rise.

Oil demand levels off in the mid-2030s and then gradually declines towards mid-century due to

# **TotalEnergies's** 'superprofit' renews tax debate

PARIS: TotalEnergies said Thursday surging global oil and gas prices helped it post a massive jump in profits in the third quarter as France is riven over taxing windfall profits of energy companies.

Net profits at the French company soared 43

uptake of electric vehicles, instead of the earlier estimate of a steady increase. Overall, the share of fossil fuels in the global energy mix in the IEA's stated policies scenario falls from around 80 percent to just above 60 percent by 2050.

### Energy markets 'changed'

"Energy markets and policies have changed as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, not just for the time being, but for decades to come," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol in a statement as the report was released. But that will still leave the world on track for a rise in global temperatures of around 2.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, which would likely trigger severe climate change impacts. The IEA also has a scenario to arrive at zero net emissions in 2050, which is seen as necessary to hit the 1.5C warming target enshrined in the Paris climate pact.

That would require clean energy investments to rise to \$4 trillion per year by 2030, instead of the current forecast of \$2 trillion. "The IEA, with all its expertise and authority is clear: clean energy investments must triple by 2030, and gas is a dead end," said Laurence Tubiana, head of the European Climate Foundation and France's former climate ambassador.

'The current European energy crisis clearly proves the dangers of gas: high price, volatility, geopolitical dependence," she added. "We are approaching to the end of the golden age of gas," the IEA's Birol said at a later news conference.

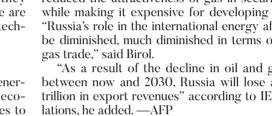
The IEA's analyses show "that we are seeing a turning point in the history of energy and this crisis indeed accelerates clean energy transitions," he added. However Birol noted that energy security, not climate change, is "the biggest driver for renewable" energy development currently. Another moti-

vation is that governments want to ensure they have got in on the manufacturing of new renewable energy technologies. "The three drivers, when they come together, is the reason I am optimistic we are going to see an acceleration of clean energy technologies," Birol said.

Convention Center on October 26, 2022. — AFP

#### Russia takes \$1tn hit

The IEA's analyses also concluded that this energy crisis has also harmed Russia's long-term economic outlook. By reducing natural gas supplies to



WASHINGTON: People listen as the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency Fatih Birol speaks

during the opening session of the fifth IAEA Nuclear Power Ministerial Conference at the Washington



companies. Zahran said that KFH's focus remains on credit rating for Kuwait was last set at A1 with stable Robotics Process Automation (RPA) and Artificial reported at AA- with stable outlook. Intelligence (AI) in banking operations to enhance

European nations it has not only pushed them to accelerate their transition to renewables, but reduced the attractiveness of gas in security terms while making it expensive for developing markets. "Russia's role in the international energy affairs will be diminished, much diminished in terms of oil and

"As a result of the decline in oil and gas sales between now and 2030, Russia will lose about \$1 trillion in export revenues" according to IEA calcu-



He pointed out that the Central Bank of Kuwait raised its key discount rate by 25 bps to 3.0 percent on September 21, 2022, bringing borrowing costs to the highest since September 2019.

Al-Mukhaizeem indicated that Standard & Poor's credit rating for Kuwait stands at A+ with stable outlook. Moody's

automation and digitalization including use of outlook. Fitch's credit rating for Kuwait was last

# Zahran highlights KFH's strong performance

KUWAIT: Acting Group Chief Executive Officer (AGCEO), Group Chief Financial Officer (GCFO), at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Shadi Zahran, highlighted the bank's financial performance during 9M-2022.

Zahran explained, during KFH earnings webcast of Q3-2022, that by the grace of Allah, KFH has reported net profit attributable to shareholders of KD 205.8 million for 9M 2022; with an increase of 22.4 percent compared to same period of last year. He said that earnings per share for 9M 2022 reached 21.9 fils; with an increase of 19.9 percent compared to same period of last year. Net financing income for the 9M of the year reached KD 508.5 million; with an increase of 14.8 percent compared to same period of last year. Zahran added that KFH achieved strong financial results despite of challenging macro-economic environment with high inflation, economic slow-down and fear of recession. Our strong results are driven by our customer centric approach with focus on high quality products and services, diversification, and sustainability of earnings. Zahran pointed out that KFH achieved growth in all key performance indicators including earnings, liquidity, capitalization, besides the continuous improvement in asset quality. KFH achieved a key milestone and successfully completed acquisition of Ahli United Bank B.S.C. transaction effective date was 2nd of Oct 2022. The acquisition of AUB is a transformational transaction for KFH and brings significant benefits to all stakeholders, including:

percent from the same period last year to \$6.6 billion, with record performances for its natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) activities. The firm has now earned \$17.3 billion over the first nine months of the year, more than the \$16 billion in profits it posted last year. Total's bumper earnings may add fuel to the raging debate over what the French call superprofits by energy firms due to the spike in prices thanks to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

France's opposition wants to impose a windfall tax to help fund measures to protect consumers from energy price hikes, but President Emmanuel Macron reiterated his opposition to such a measure in a prime-time television appearance on Wednesday evening.

TotalEnergies, which has been plagued by strikes in France that have led to petrol shortages at pumps, announced it would pay its workers a bonus. "In this favorable environment, taking into account income and production taxes of \$26 billion worldwide, the company is implementing a balanced value-sharing policy with an exceptional one-month-salary bonus in 2022 to all its employees worldwide," it said in a statement.

TotalEnergies also confirmed its announcement from last month to return to shareholders 35 to 40 percent of cash flow, and maintained its interim quarterly dividend at a higher rate from last vear

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire welcomed the company's bumper profits. "I say so much the better," he reacted, noting that it would allow the firm to continue until mid-November its discount of 20 cents per liter at the pump, which comes in addition to the 30 cents per liter discount paid for by the state. "When a French company succeeds, I think all of us should be satisfied with its success and we should all be proud of having a big energy company like Total," he said on BFM Business television channel.

While TotalEnergies reached a pay hike deal with a majority of unions, one has held out and two refineries remain on strike despite the government forcing some employees back to work under threat of jail time. Some 14 percent of French filling stations partially or completely lacked supplies as of Wednesday, down from more than a third last week.

While oil and gas prices have recently cooled, they are still much higher than before Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February. TotalEnergies noted that the average LNG price last quarter was up 50 percent from the previous quarter as European nations scrambled to replace Russian supplies and fill up their storage facilities ahead of winter.

Its gas and renewables unit made a record net operating profit of \$3.6 billion, a jump from \$1.1 billion in the previous quarter. That came despite a drop in its LNG production and sales from the previous quarter due to repair operations, with the company making spot purchases to maximize its facilities to process LNG and seize market opportunities. - AFP

• Strengthen KFH's leadership position in two home markets and Islamic banking industry

· Earnings accretion for KFH shareholders

· Propels KFH's regional footprint with access to new markets (including UK and Egypt),

· Enhancement of business segments mix and geographic distribution

Significant operational efficiencies

Zahran said that KFH's focus remains on automation and digitalization including use of Robotics Process Automation (RPA) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in banking operations to enhance performance and efficiency. To achieve this KFH has entered into strategic partnerships and agreements with several innovative digital solutions providers and Fintech

# **Ex-convict Samsung** heir takes top job after pardon

SEOUL: The once-disgraced heir to the sprawling Samsung empire was on Thursday named top executive of its most important business, two months after South Korea's president pardoned him for embezzlement and corruption convictions. The board of Samsung Electronics, one of the world's biggest smartphone and chipmakers, confirmed Lee Jaeyong's formal ascent-though he had already been de facto leader since his father's heart attack in 2014.

Critics have said Lee taking the reins so soon after his year and a half in jail is yet another example in South Korea's history of convicted business leaders getting off the hook on economic grounds.

The Samsung Electronics board promoted Lee to executive chairman to give the company "stronger accountability and business stability" due to the "current uncertain global business environperformance and efficiency.

To achieve this KFH has entered into strategic partnerships and agreements with several innovative digital solutions providers and fintech companies.

KFH has proven its commitment and leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by participating in various community, relief, and humanitarian initiatives inside and outside Kuwait. These include:

· Restoration of the damaged parts of Al-Mubarakiva to rehabilitate the market in a manner that befits Kuwait and its ancient heritage,

• Paying off the debts to release defaulting debtors,

• In addition to community initiatives in various fields such as health, education, environment, persons with special needs, and more.

· KFH also participated in various social campaigns in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, with whom we have a strategic partnership to implement relief and community initiatives.

#### Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

Meanwhile, Group Chief Strategy Officer (GCSO) at KFH, Eng Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem, covered highlights of the Kuwait operating environment with an overview on KFH. He also shared KFH's strategy, as well as Q3-2022 results. Al-Mukhaizeem added that the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) October 2022 forecasts Kuwait to register 8.7 percent GDP growth in 2022, the highest growth among all the GCC countries, and better than their forecast in April 2022 which was 8.2 percent. The notable expected growth is supported by the high oil prices and large reserve funds. Despite the high inflation period Globally, Kuwait inflation registered a slowing down for the fourth straight month to 4.15 percent in August of 2022 from 4.24 percent in the previous month.

ment", the company said in a statement Thursday. Samsung is the most powerful of South Korea's "chaebols", family-controlled empires that dominate business, and it contributes an estimated fifth of the country's GDP.

Lee was imprisoned after convictions for fraud and embezzlement following a sweeping investigation that also brought down President Park Geunhye in 2017. After serving 18 months, just over half of his original sentence, Lee was released on parole in August 2021. He immediately returned to work at Samsung.

In May, Lee was excused from a hearing in a separate fraud trial so he could host US President Joe Biden at a Samsung chip plant in South Korea. Lee-who has a net worth of \$7.2 billion, according to Forbes-received a presidential pardon in August 2022 with the expectation that he would "contribute to overcoming the economic crisis" in South Korea, the government said.

But critics slammed Lee's elevation to chairman, with local civic group Solidarity for Economic Reform calling it "flawed on many fronts". "It is a far cry from responsible management for him to be named Samsung Electronics' chairman when his ille-

### Jamal Al-Humiari

Deputy General Manager Group Financial Control at KFH, Jamal Al-Humiari presented the financial performance of KFH group for the nine months period ended 30 September 2022. Al-Humiari said that the Group has achieved net profit after tax attributable to Shareholders for the period ended 30th September 2022 of KD 205.8 million higher by KD 37.7 million or 22.4 percent compared to 9M-21 of KD 168.1 million.

The higher profits are mainly from increase in total operating income and lower provisions partly offset by net monetary loss resulting from application of IAS-29 "Financial reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies" on the financial statements of Kuwait Turkish Participation Bank (KTPB).

Alhumiari said that the financing income has witnessed an increase by KD 128.4 million or 19.3 percent compared to same period last year mainly due to increase in vield and average profit earning assets. Net financing income at KD 508.5 million increased by KD 65.5 million or 14.8 percent compared to same period last year mainly due to increase in financing income by KD 128.4 million offset by increase in finance cost and distribution to depositors by 62.9 million.

Net Operating income at KD 463.4 million increased by KD 99.1 million or 27.2 percent compared to same period last year; mainly from increase in net financing income by KD 65.5 million, increase in Investment income by KD 26.1 million and increase in fees and commissions by KD 10.3 million. Looking at the operating income profile, Al-Humiari explained that the contribution of net financing income slightly declined from 75 percent in 9M-2021 to 73 percent in 9M-2022. This is mainly due to the increase in contribution of investment income to total operating income.



SEOUL, South Korea: Samsung Electronics' new Chairman Lee Jae-yong (C) leaves after his trial related to violation of Capital Market Financial Investment Business Act, at the Seoul Central District Court in Seou on October 27, 2022. —AFP

gal acts brought considerable damage to the company even though he was pardoned by the president," the group said in a statement. —AFP



# Lifestyle Features

# **'SPARE' - PRINCE HARRY TO RELEASE MEMOIR IN JANUARY**

rince Harry will release a tell-all memoir in January, his publisher said Thursday, with the highlyanticipated account of life in the British monarchy and after he quit royal duties landing just four months after the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The book by Harry-who now lives in California with his wife Meghan Markle-comes at a sensitive time. There has been intense speculation that prince could draw back the veil on palace life and offer damaging revelations, or pull his punches in the aftermath of Elizabeth's death as Britain adjusts to its new head of state, King Charles III.

Titled "Spare," the memoir will hit the shelves on January 10, 2023. "We are excited to announce the remarkably personal and emotionally powerful story of Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex," Penguin Random House said on Twitter.

On its website, the book is described as a window into how the prince responded to the death of his mother Diana 25 years ago, and how his life has been affected since. "With its raw, unflinching honesty, Spare is a landmark publication full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief," Pengun



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, speak during the 2021 Global Citizen Live festival at the Great Lawn, Central Park in New York City. — AFP photos

Random said.

Diana, Princess of Wales, died in a high-speed car crash in Paris on August 31, 1997. Britain was plunged into an outpouring of grief that jolted the monarchy, which was seen by some as out of touch.

In addition to the title refering to Harry's apparent bid to lead a more simple, less ritzy lifestyle, it also alludes to his status as the "spare" to

his older brother Prince William's role as "heir" to the British throne.

Harry and Meghan stunned his family by announcing they were quitting royal duties and moving to the United States in early 2020. From there, they launched a series of broadsides criticizing their life in the institution, including claims of racism and the Crown's failure to support them amid relentless tabloid attacks.

Their public criticisms exacerbated tensions with William-with whom he is reported to be barely on speaking terms-and their father, King Charles. Harry and Meghan now live with their two children, Archie and Lilibet, in Santa Barbara, California.

### 'Highs and lows'

In July last year, Harry announced he was penning a memoir that would expose the "mistakes" and "lessons learned" across his life. "I'm writing this not as the prince I was born but as the man I have become," Harry said at the time.

"I've worn many hats over the years, both literally and figuratively, and my hope is that in telling my storythe highs and lows, the mistakes, the lessons learned-I can help show that no matter where we come from, we have more in common than we think."

He said he was "excited for people to read a firsthand account of my life that's accurate and wholly truthful." But any additional unflattering and candid remarks-beyond those Harry made during a high-profile interview with Oprah Winfrey last year-about the royal family after the queen's death might backfire.

"Prince Harry has gotten cold feet about the memoir's contents at vari-



ous points, book industry executives with knowledge of the process told The Times, and the project has been shrouded in rumors, delays and secrecy," The New York Times reported.

Harry will use proceeds from the memoir, which will be released in 16 languages, to donate to British charities, the publisher added. - AFP

## **King Charles plans** to sideline Harry, Andrew as royal stand-ins: Reports

pritish King Charles III on Thursday was reportedly planning to extend the pool of royals allowed to act for him in his absence, effectively sidelining non-working royals Prince Harry and the Duke of York. Charles is expected to amend the "Regency Act" to add his brother Edward. the Earl of Wessex, and his sister Anne, the Princess Royal, The Daily Telegraph and the BBC reported, quoting sources.

The Telegraph reported the amendments could go before parliament "within weeks", quoting "royal insiders" as saying it was a "logical step". Buckingham Palace has not commented officially. Currently the list of royals who can temporarily take over on the 73-year-old monarch's behalf if he is away or ill only includes Charles's wife Camilla, heir to the throne Prince William, Harry, Andrew and his daughter Beatrice, who is not even a working royal. A longer list would allow the Palace to bypass Harry, who has quit as a working royal and lives in the US, and Andrew, who has retired from public life over his friendship with convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein and allegations of sex with a minor, without directly excluding them. Daily Express royal reporter Richard Palmer tweeted that amendments "to create more stand-ins for the King is now a priority, sources have confirmed". He said this would mean "the King never has to ask non-working royals such as Harry, Andrew or Beatrice to stand in for him". The role includes signing documents and receiving ambassadors, the BBC said. The regency issue was raised in the House of Lords Monday, with Labour peer Stephen Benn questioning the current situation where Andrew and Harry can exercise these powers. "Is it not time for the government to approach the King to see whether a sensible amendment can be made to this Act?" Benn asked. Senior Tory peer Nicholas True appeared to confirm such discussion, saying that the government "will always consider what arrangements are needed to ensure resilience in our constitutional arrangements". He added that "in the past we have seen that the point of accession has proved a useful opportunity to consider the arrangements in place". Queen Elizabeth II suffered ill health during the last year of her life. She asked Charles to deputise for her at events such as the opening of parliament, showing that the legislation is "still very relevant". Benn said. - AFP

# **Bees shown to** 'count' from left to right for first time

ees order numbers in increasing size from left to right, a study has shown for the first time, supporting the much-debated theory that this direction is inherent in all animals including humans. Western research has found that even before children learn to count, they start organising growing quantities from left to right in what has been called the "mental number line".

However the opposite direction has been found in people from cultures that use an Arabic script which reads from right to left.

"The subject is still being debated between those who think the mental number line has an innate character and those who say it is cultural." said Martin Giurfa, a professor at the Research Centre on Animal Cognition at Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse, France. There has been recent evidence that newborn babies and some vertebrate animals, including primates, organise numbers from left to right. Giurfa led a study, published last week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), aiming to find out if the same holds true for insects, via an experiment on bees. "It has already been shown that bees are able to count-at least up to five." Giurfa told AFP. They also process information differently in the two hemispheres of their brains, he added. This trait they seem to share with humans, and is thought to be a potential reason for the "the existence of the mental number line," Giurfa said.

### A numbers game

For the experiment, the researchers had individual honeybees fly into the first of two compartments of a wooden box. Sugar-water was then used to entice the bees to select a number affixed to the middle of the back of the second compartment.

The number stayed the same for each individual bee, but varied randomly across the group from between one, three or five, in shapes of circles, squares or triangles.

Once the bees were trained to fly towards their set number, the researchers removed it and put another number on both sides of the second compartment, leaving the middle blank.

They then removed the sugar-water reward and observed which way the bees went. For example, if the bee was trained to select the number three, and was now faced with two number ones on either side and nothing in the middle, which way did they fly?

Around 80 percent of the time the bees chose the option on the left-the "correct choice" if brains order numbers from left to right, Giurfa said. But if those same bees were given two number fives to choose from, they went right, again supporting the mental number line.

# Kanye West 'escorted' out of Skechers offices

anye West was "escorted" by two executives out of the Skechers corporate offices after the rapper showed up uninvited, the shoe company said in a statement Wednesday. West-known formally as Ye-has made headlines in recent weeks for racist and anti-Semitic statements that have cost him several lucrative fashion collaborations.

He arrived "unannounced and without invitation" at the Los Angeles offices, Skechers said, adding that he was "engaged in unauthorized filming." The hip hop star appeared at a Paris fashion show this month wearing a shirt emblazoned with "White Lives Matter," a slogan created as a backlash to the Black Lives Matter movement. Days later, he was locked out of Twitter and Instagram for threatening to "Go death con 3 on JEWISH PEO-PLE," using a reference to US military readiness. "Skechers is not considering and has no intention of working with West," the company said Wednesday. "We condemn his recent divisive remarks and do not tolerate anti-Semitism or any other form of hate speech.3 "Considering Ye was engaged in unauthorized filming, two Skechers executives escorted him and his party from the building after a brief conversation," it added. German sportswear giant Adidas on Tuesday announced it was ending its partnership with West, followed later that day by American



And bees trained to go for number one went to the right for a number three, while bees targeting a five went left for their three. So if animals do in fact think of numbers from left to right, why is this not true for all humans?

Giurfa said it was more complicated than directly choosing between nature and nurture. Even if the mental number line "is innate, culture can still modify it, even reverse it-or on the contrary accentuate it," he said. Bees, on the other hand, have to stick to what nature dictates. - AFP

apparel company Gap, which said it was taking "immediate" steps to remove his products.

Paris-based fashion house Balenciaga ended ties with West last week. One of Hollywood's biggest talent agencies, CAA, said on Mondav it was dropping West, while film and TV producer MRC said it was shelving an already finished documentary about the artist.

West's ex-wife Kim Kardashian posted a message condemning hate speech on social media this week without mentioning her former husband. West, 45, has been outspoken about his struggles with mental health issues. – AFP





Moroccan rapper ElGrande Toto (R), also known as Taha Fahssi, holds a press conference with his lawyer Abdelfattah Zahrach in Rabat. — AFP photos

ordered the musician detained after complaints were filed by several artists, a journalist, and a policeman.

in Rabat.

But on Wednesday he was released after the artists withdrew their complaints, the judicial source told AFP. A source within the rapper's circle however said the journalist and the policeman had maintained their complaints.

He also paid a 20,000-dirham (\$1,800) fine and apologised again for his comments, the source said, adding that he remained under investigation for alleged "insults, defamation and threats". The rapper had already apologised at a packed press conference in Rabat on Sunday.

Moroccan media say he remains under investigation for social media posts and public statements that may "contain elements punishable by law". The rapper was the most in demand Arab artist in the Maghreb in 2021 on Spotify, with more than 50 million downloads. His YouTube channel meanwhile maintains 2.7 million subscribers, with popular videos drawing tens of millions of views. - AFP

oroccan rapper ElGrande Toto was released from police custody on Wednesday but remains under investigation for alleged "insults, defamation and

Moroccan

released

rapper Toto

the artist made public statements about using cannabis.

The Casablanca-born rapper, whose real name is Taha Fahssi and who is a massive star in the Arabicspeaking music world, had in late September told reporters after one of his concerts, "I smoke hash - so what?... It doesn't mean I set a bad example.

That sparked anger in conservative Morocco, where recreational use of the drug is illegal despite the country being the world's top producer, according to the United Nations. On Monday, a Casablanca prosecutor

# threats", a judicial source said, after



# Lifestyle Features IN EASTERN UKRAINE, THE PLIGHT OF ANOTHER VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

When occupying Russian forces came knocking on doors in his small village in east Ukraine in late April to check the identities of residents, 64-year-old retiree Volodymyr Zelensky was terrified.

12

Then, one of the Russian soldiers glanced at his passport and burst out laughing. "It's okay guys, the war is over," the soldier said. "We can go homewe got their president!" Born in 1958 in the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, then part of the Soviet Union, to a coal miner and a construction worker, Zelensky, a namesake of the Ukrainian leader, served as a driver in the Soviet army and then worked in construction.

Since Russia invaded its neighbour in February, Zelensky, who has no known relationship to the Ukrainian president, has spent most of the war hiding from bombardment in the basement of his house.

"I had quit smoking four years before, but I started again," Zelensky said. AFP is not disclosing the name of his village for security reasons.

### 'Don't look like him'

His wife Valentina Zelenska, 72, evacuated to western Ukraine at the start of the war, but Zelensky refused to leave the home he purchased 20 years ago. Here, he could finally breathe "the purest



Ukrainian pensioner Volodymyr Zelensky shows his passport during an interview with AFP in a recently liberated village of the Donetsk region. — AFP photos

air" after years in a mining town, plant vegetables on his own plot, enjoy time on the patio, and fish in the local pond.

Zelenska returned home after Kyiv's forces expelled the Russians from the village late last month. But it is now being pounded by Russian artillery, and she is alarmed whenever a blast outside blows the plastic sheet on their gutted window inwards.

"She hasn't gotten used to it," said her husband, wearing corduroy trousers and a jumper with a zip collar. With the help of a flashlight, he retrieved an old photo album, and found a photo of himself as a man in his 40s in khaki uniform. "I don't think I look like the president. Not at all," he said. His wife disagreed.

"But you do look like him!" she said from her stool on the other edge of the living room. He laughed. "Which president are you talking about? Biden?" he asked. 'People can't take it anymore' -

His wife said Zelensky was a common

last name in Ukraine, as well as in Russia. But she admits she had never known any other Volodymyr Zelensky until Ukraine's current leader, a former comedian, was elected president in 2019.

Zelensky, the retiree, voted for his namesake in the election. "He presents well, he is young, intelligent," he said. But now Zelensky says he is disappointed that the president is not doing more to negotiate an end to the war with Russia.

"The people here can't take it anymore," he said. Like many residents of his generation in the eastern Donbas

ts and Zelensky wanted to give his wife a d. bunch of flowers. But in a village ravaged by fighting and cut off from the rest of the world, there were none to be found. - AFP

region, Zelensky considers Ukraine to be

his homeland. But the former Soviet sol-

dier is also nostalgic for his years under

the Soviet regime, which he says brought

marriage anniversary on Wednesday,

It was the couple's twenty-second

peace and prosperity to his generation.

Visitors looks at the Johannes Vermeer's painting "Girl with a Pearl Earring" at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague. Dutch police arrested three people after climate activists targeted Johannes Vermeer's painting "Girl with a Pearl Earring". — AFP photos

### **Climate activists**



The museum added: "We have immediately inspected the painting, which was done by our restorers. Fortunately the painting... was not damaged." The painting would return on display "as soon as possible". "Art is defenceless and to try and damage it for whichever cause, we strongly condemn it," the Mauritshuis added. The Hague police said on Twitter that they had arrested three people in a museum for "public violence against goods". Dozens of people were gathered inside the museum waiting for news, while security guards told them not to get too close to the other paintings, an AFP reporter said. The entrance to the room where the "Girl with a Pearl Earring" normally hangs was blocked off by a large reproduction oil painting and a guard said it would likely be closed for the rest of the day. Two police vans were parked outside the museum while investigations continued. - AFP

### 'Ar-JIN-tina'- K-pop star sparks fan craze in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires has been gripped by "Jin" fever, with fans thronging to catch a glimpse of the K-pop superstar making what could be his last public appearance in a while. Ahead of signing on for military service in South Korea, 29year-old BTS singer-songwriter Jin is set to make a guest appearance Saturday with Coldplay on the Argentine leg of the British rock band's tour.

He is plugged to appear for a just single track-the first-ever live performance of "The Astronaut" co-written with Coldplay's Chris Martin. The promise of one song was enough to set off a craze, and since news broke of Jin's one-off appearance, hundreds of fans have set up camp outside the River Plate stadium hosting 10 concerts by Coldplay, who tweeted on would enlist in the military, putting an end to a debate about whether they should be exempt from mandatory service of about two years.

The group, credited with generating billions for the South Korean economy, must sign up by December. They have said they hope to reconvene by 2025.

Outside the stadium, the make-shift tent camp is decorated with shrine-like homages to Jin, with photos of the singer on home-made placards, decorated phone covers, blankets and scarves.

Finding a room to rent in Buenos Aires, a city of three million, has become a test in recent days. And social networks have exploded, with Jin occupying six of the top ten trends on Argentine Twitter with more than half-a-million tweets on Tuesday alone.

Popular hashtags include "#Welcome to Arjintina." "When they announced he was coming, we came here and started camping," Rocio Vega, 23, told AFP. "We are tent one. And then more girls joined us. So far there are 18 tents" with about 40 ticket-holders sleeping in and around each one Vega and others care little that the concert will be broadcast on the screens of 3,500 cinemas on more than 75 countries. Jin must be seen in flesh and blood. "This will be his real sendoff," said Vega, who had bought tickets to see Coldplay on October 25 and 29, and another for Saturday when she learnt Jin would be there. Sumilda Garcia, an 18-year-old student who smiles at the mere mention of Jin's name, said sleeping in intermittent rain was a small price to pay for the chance of seeing her idol in real life. "At night, we sit and talk about the possibility of seeing him... It is a mix of emotions, between happiness, a lot of adrenaline, anxiety to be able to see him, to have him close." - AFP

Friday, October 28, 2022

# target 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'

Dutch police arrested three people after climate activists targeted Johannes Vermeer's painting "Girl with a Pearl Earring" at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague on Thursday. Two people glued themselves to the famed painting and adjoining wall, while another threw an unknown substance, but the artwork was behind glass and undamaged, the Mauritshuis said.

Social media images showed activists wearing "Just Stop Oil" T-shirts and saying "how do you feel", while museum visitors shouted "shame" and "you're stupid". The attack comes after environmental activists poured tomato soup over Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" at the National Gallery in London and smeared mashed potato over a Monet

# Rihanna to make return with track for 'Black Panther'

fter launching high-fashion collections, a lingerie line, a makeup brand, becoming a billionaire and having a baby, megastar Rihanna is making a highly anticipated return to music this week, her reps said Wednesday.

After six years without releasing a new solo song, the 34-year-old on Friday will drop a new single entitled "Lift Me Up," which will be on the soundtrack for the Marvel sequel "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever." It's her first solo single since 2016's "Love on the Brain."

Rihanna is releasing the new song on her Westbury Road label in conjunction with Roc Nation, Def Jam Recordings and Hollywood Records.

The singer behind the hits "Diamonds" and "Umbrella" posted a brief preview of the new track, which featured humming over strings.

The news comes only weeks after the NFL announced Rihanna would be headlining the coveted Super Bowl halftime show in February, a long-awaited return painting in Germany.

"Around 2 pm (1200 GMT) two people glued themselves to the Girl with a Pearl Earring by Johannes Vermeer," the Mauritshuis said in a statement to AFP. "One person glued his head to the painting, which was behind glass, and the other person glued his hand to the green wall next to the painting. A third person threw an unknown substance at the painting."

### to the stage for the pop phenom.

Rihanna's fierce fan base has been clamoring for her ninth album, which she has said will be "reggae-infused" and has hinted since 2019 is nearly finished.

But the Barbadian-born artist has focused on other ventures, including becoming the first Black woman to head a fashion house for the French powerhouse LVMH, which owns legacy brands including Fendi and Givenchy. She welcomed her first child with rapper A\$AP Rocky in May. — AFP



# Fossil fuel reliance is 'stupid': UN

US Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday it would be "stupid" for the world to keep relying on fossil fuels, saying they triggered today's climate emergency. "If the world, and then particularly if Europe, had invested massively in the past two decades in renewable energy, we will not be facing the energy crisis that we are facing today," Guterres said in an interview with the BBC.

"And the prices of oil and gas would not be as high as they are today," he added in response to a question on the war in Ukraine and its consequence of stimulating some fossil fuel production.

"As we did not invest sufficiently in renewables, we are now paying the price," said Guterres. He added: "The most stupid thing is to bet on what has led us to this disaster." With UN climate talks opening early next month in Egypt, the UN chief urged countries to do more to fight global warming. The UN said in a report released Wednesday that the world's current climate pledges are far off track to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius and will steer a planet already wracked by increasing floods, heatwaves and storms towards catastrophic warming.—AFP Thursday: "Jin is here!"

More than a thousand devotees flocked to the airport in the vain hope of catching a glimpse of Jin's arrival Tuesday, but he slipped out through a back exit. "It... means a lot now that he is going to go to do military service," university student Agustina Jenzi told AFP outside the stadium-among those who came with tents, yoga mats, food and drink for the long wait.

"It's nice for him to experience this. I don't know whether he passed by here and saw us... he should know that there are a lot of people here." The local branch of the global "BTS army" hope to get as close to the stage as possible when the gates open for Saturday's concert.

#### 'To have him close'

Ten days ago, the agency representing BTS said the band's seven members



People arrive to River Plate's Monumental stadium for the second show of the British pop rock band Coldplay in Buenos Aires. Coldplay performs its second of ten shows in Argentina today. South Korean K-Pop boy band BTS member Kim Seok-jin (C), also known as Jin, will perform with the British pop rock band his new solo single, "The Astronaut", on Friday October 28. — AFP photos





## Sports

# **Reinvigorated All Blacks in** confident mood for Japan Test

# 'I think we took a lot of confidence about understanding our own game'

**TOKYO:** All Blacks head coach Ian Foster said third cap. "To be playing number 12 for the All Blacks Thursday that his players were ready to show that their troubles were behind them as they kick off their northern hemisphere tour on Saturday against Japan.

New Zealand have endured a turbulent year that has included a home series loss to Ireland, a heavy defeat in South Africa and a maiden loss on home soil to Argentina. But they got their act together to clinch the Rugby Championship, winning their last three Tests including a 40-14 thumping of Australia.

The All Blacks play Japan in Tokyo before moving on to Europe to face Wales, Scotland and England, and Foster said his team were "learning how to play for longer periods in a Test match".

The Rugby World Cup in France begins in less than a year's time. "We certainly were a team that started the Championship a little bit slow but I think we've got the energy levels of the group right now," said Foster.

"I think we took a lot of confidence about understanding our own game by the end of the Championship." Foster handed first Test starts to fullback Stephen Perofeta and centre Roger Tuivasa-Sheck against Japan, with Beauden and Jordie Barrett unavailable after the death of their grandmother.

The three Barrett brothers, including lock forward Scott, did not arrive in Tokyo until Thursday after attending the funeral in New Zealand. Auckland Blues fly-half Perofeta made his debut as a substitute in the final minute of the All Blacks' home defeat to Argentina. Rugby league convert Tuivasa-Sheck lines up alongside Braydon Ennor in the midfield, with centre Anton Lienert-Brown-in the squad for the first time this year-on the bench. "It's massive for myself and my family," said Tuivasa-Sheck, who will win his

is a pretty big achievement and I'm pretty excited for the weekend." Sam Whitelock will miss the match after the lock's arrival in Japan was delayed by an inner ear condition caused by playing with his children on a trampoline.

Brodie Retallick will win his 99th cap, partnering Tupou Vaa'i in the second row. Scrum-half Finlay Christie lines up alongside Richie Mo'unga in the half-backs. "There are a number of players that didn't get a lot of time in the Rugby Championship that we had always intended to play," said Foster.

"A few little tweaks and changes at the start of the week but it hasn't really changed anything in terms of the quality of the team we're putting out."

### 'Create pressure'

Japan head coach Jamie Joseph named nine veterans of his team's historic run to the quarter-finals of the 2019 World Cup on home soil in his starting lineup for Saturday. Joseph said senior players such as Michael Leitch, Kazuki Himeno and Kotaro Matushima were important in "the messages they're giving to the other players who haven't played a lot of rugby'

"What we believe is that if we can create pressure on the All Blacks, then we can create a winning opportunity," said the New Zealand-born coach. "It's difficult but I guess we take confidence from the fact that we've done that before when we've put our game together at the right time."

Japan (15-1): Ryohei Yamanaka; Kotaro Matsushima, Dylan Riley, Ryoto Nakamura, Siosaia Fifita; Takuya Yamasawa, Yutaka Nagare; Tevita Tatafu, Kazuki Himeno, Michael Leitch; Jack



URAYASU, Japan: New Zealand's Damian McKenzie attends a training session in Urayasu, Chiba prefecture, ahead of the rugby Test match between Japan and the All Blacks in Tokyo on October 29. - AFP

Cornelsen, Warner Dearns; Jiwon Gu, Atsushi Sakate (capt), Keita Inagaki

Replacements: Takeshi Hino, Craig Millar, Shuhei Takeuchi, Kanji Shimokawa, Faulua Makisi, Naoto Saito, Seunsin Lee, Gerhard van den Heever

New Zealand (15-1): Stephen Perofeta; Sevu Reece, Braydon Ennor, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Caleb

# Youngs backs Genge to lead England

LONDON: England's most-capped player, Ben Youngs, has backed former "rough diamond" Ellis Genge to lead the side in their November international opener against Argentina at Twickenham.

Courtney Lawes and Owen Farrell, two of coach Eddie Jones' more experienced England captains, are both currently recovering from concussions suffered on club duty that have made them doubtful for the match against the

Clarke; Richie Mo'unga, Finlay Christie; Hoskins Sotutu, Sam Cane (capt), Shannon Frizell; Tupou Vaa'i, Brodie Retallick; Nepo Laulala, Dane Coles, George Bower Replacements: Samisoni Taukei'aho, Ofa Tu'ungafasi, Tyrel Lomax, Patrick Tuipulotu, Dalton Papali'i, Aaron Smith, David Havili, Anton Lienert-Brown. — AFP

# **All Blacks** 'disappointed' at women's WCup clash

TOKYO, Japan: Head coach Ian Foster said Thursday his All Blacks were disappointed that they will be playing at the same time as the New Zealand women's World Cup quarter-final.

Leaders in New Zealand have slammed the country's rugby chiefs for the "disgraceful" schedule clash that sees the Black Ferns take on Wales in Whangarei just as the All Blacks face Japan in Tokyo on Saturday.

New Zealand Rugby said on Wednesday that they "did not take into account" that there might be a clash between the two games and that "there was never an intent to overshadow the Rugby World Cup in an way". Speaking in Tokyo on Thursday, Foster said the All Blacks were "disappointed" at the situation. "It was certainly unintended and clearly a mistake was made," he said. "I think the world's got to get over condemning people who make a mistake and own it, and just find a way to enjoy both teams." New Zealand's acting prime minister Grant Robertson said the clash was "really unfortunate", while justice minister Kiritapu Allan wrote on Twitter that it was "avoidable, and frankly, disgraceful". Foster, whose team will travel to Europe to play Wales, Scotland and England after facing Japan, urged fans to find a "creative" solution. "We're certainly massive fans of the Black Ferns and want the best for them, and clearly we're pretty excited about our own game," he said. "The good thing is that pretty creative people will be able to find ways to watch both." — AFP



# **Crown Prince Shooting Tourney** kicks off

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Annual Shooting Tournament kicked off on Thursday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. The



tournament is due to last until November 5, with the participation of Kuwaiti and Gulf, male and female shooters in the categories of shotgun, rifle, pistol, and Olympic archery. Chairman of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Duaij Al-Otaibi expressed, in a statement that the tournament is a great opportunity for shooters, adding that the committee organizing the event have completed the

Duaij Al-Otaibi

# Hooper returns for Australia rugby tour opener

LONDON: Australia's rugby union great Michael Hooper was recalled to the team announced Thursday for this weekend's European tour opener against Scotland at Murrayfield. The 30-year-old flanker, the Wallabies' most capped skipper, withdrew on the eve of August's Test against Argentina in Mendoza, saying he was not in the "right mindset" to lead his country.

He then sat out the remainder of the Rugby Championship before being included in the squad for the tour of Europe. Hooper hasn't played for Australia since their series-deciding loss at home to England in July but now rejoins a back-row that features club colleague Jed Holloway at blindside flanker and Rob Valetini at No 8.

He is one of several changes to Australia's matchday 23, with Queensland captain Tate McDermott earning his first start of the 2022 campaign at scrumhalf, partnering Bernard Foley who will line-up for his first Test against the Scots since 2017.

Ton Banks has been reinstalled at full-back, with



preparations and ready for the event. Al-Otaibi also said that the tournaments that took place during the club's last sport season was a huge success, thanking His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for their continuous support. — AFP

Brumbies flyer Tom Wright on the left wing and Hunter Paisami at inside centre. Up front, Nick Frost is set to make his second start at Test level when the Wallabies take the field at Murrayfield on Saturday, partnering Brumbie teammate Cadeyrn Neville in the second row.

James Slipper will captain the side from loosehead prop in his 124th Test. "We're rapt for Hoops," said Wallabies coach Dave Rennie in a Rugby Australia statement. "He's been outstanding both on and off the field since re-entering the environment and he can't wait to pull on the gold jersey again," the New Zealander added.

Hooper, speaking Wednesday at Australia's training camp in Saint-Etienne, France-the Wallabies' base for next year's World Cup-said: "I'm excited to be back. "I'm realistic that there's going to be some really good days and some days with the realities of travel and rugby and stuff will be difficult...I'm back in this position because I want to be here.

Australia have lost their last three Tests against Scotland, including a narrow 15-13 defeat when the teams last met, at Murrayfield in November last year. Rennie's men have arrived in Europe Australia on the back of three straight losses, two to New Zealand and one to South Africa. Saturday's match marks the start of a tour that also sees Australia playing internationals against France, Italy, Ireland and Wales on consecutive weekends.-AFP

Pumas on November 6.

Neither Lawes nor Farrell has travelled to England's ongoing training camp in the Channel island of Jersey. And while Tom Curry led England in the Six Nations when both British and Irish Lions were absent, there is a growing body of opinion that prop forward Genge, now back at hometown club Bristol, should take over as captain if Farrell and Lawes are unfit to face Argentina-one of England's pool opponents at next year's World Cup in France. Scrum-half Youngs, capped 117 times by England, played alongside Genge at Leicester and is in no doubt of the 27-year-old front-row's qualities.

"When Ellis first arrived at Leicester he was a rough diamond. He had all this raw power and talent which needed shaping in how he played," Youngs told reporters on Thursday.

"He'd do these crazy rhino runs but to see what he is now, he's totally different. He's one of the best looseheads in the world, if not the best.

"His consistency of ball carrying is constant. That's huge growth. Sometimes you have to tip your hat to people because they go and find that growth by working hard."

Youngs, 33, added: "When you're blessed with that power and aggression you've still got to work out how to use it effectively and he's done that. "The Ellis that turned up at Tigers compared to the one that's here today are very different characters. "In terms of leadership he speaks very well. He's very calm, very measured. He's got a great feel with people in terms of how he talks and interacts." — AFP

## **Finch relishes England MCG** showdown

MELBOURNE: Australia captain Aaron Finch said Thursday he couldn't wait to face England in a Twenty20 World Cup clash that is shaping up as a must-win showdown for the Ashes rivals. The cavernous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is set for another carnival atmosphere on Friday night after hosting more than 90,000 raucous fans when India edged out Pakistan in a thriller on Sunday. "It doesn't get bigger than MCG with a full house with a lot on the line," Finch told reporters, with the only dampener being the threat of rain, which affected both matches at the famous venue on Wednesday.

"It will be a great occasion and hopefully the weather clears up and we can have a great game," Finch said. Australia got their title defence back on track in Perth on Monday when they bounced back from their opening drubbing by New Zealand to hammer Sri Lanka by seven wickets on the back of a 17-ball fifty from power-hitting all-rounder Marcus Stoinis. Jos Buttler's England opened with a win against Afghanistan but were then shocked by Ireland on Wednesday in a rain-hit Super 12 match.

"I think the group is wide open, absolutely," said



Head coach lan Foster

Finch of Group 1 where all six teams are separated by just two points with three matches each to play . "Any team can win on their day, that's the thing about T20, you can't take anything for granted in the game."

#### Pressure of expectation

Only the top two teams in the group will qualify for the semi-finals." Afghanistan, they are a really skilful, talented side. Ireland have got the skills there. Sri Lanka on their day can beat anyone as well. It's a tough group to get through no doubt," said Finch.

Australia's Adam Zampa missed the Sri Lanka game with Covid but Finch expected his leading T20 spinner to be back to face England, reporting he was "feeling a lot better". Opener Finch struggled to 31 off 42 deliveries against Sri Lanka but played down concerns about his form. "I don't feel any more pressure than I ever have. The only pressure is the pressure of expectations you put on yourself," Finch said. "The other day I was slightly off but that can happen. Sri Lanka bowled very well too." England should go into the match with confidence having outplayed Australia in a recent T20 series, but Finch said: "I don't think it will have any impact". England coach Matthew Mott said England were likely to stick to the same team that underperformed against Ireland, unless a bowler pulls up sore after Wednesday's efforts. "We have played really solid cricket for the last month. We are not going to throw the baby out with the bath water," Mott said Thursday. "It is very unlikely to change the structure of the team." - AFP





# **Mountains dominate 2023** men's Tour de France route

# Route however ignores almost all of western and northern France

**PARIS:** The 2023 route for the men's Tour de France unveiled Thursday passes across all five of the nation's mountain ranges, favouring climbers such as 2019 champion Egan Bernal. The 3,404km route embarks from Spain's Basque Country on July 1 for a route featuring eight mountain stages and four hilly stages with just one medium length individual time trial placed early in the final week.

The route however ignores almost all of western and northern France. "Over five or six years it evens out and we eventually get everywhere," race organiser Christian Prudhomme said. The killer stage in the 21 day race appears to be stage 17 from Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc to Courchevel, doted with four peaks and ascending way above the tree line to 2,300m of altitude where the oxygen is thin.

That kind of mountain stage would appear tailormade for Bernal and would give him hope against the two men who have won the title since, Tadej Pogacar and Jonas Vingegaard. "I'll be out training as soon as the snow melts," Pogacar promised at the presentation gala.

Gone is the day-20 individual time-trial that produced such drama in the last two editions. Instead organisers this year placed a blockbuster mountain run on that 20th stage from Belfort to Le Markstein Fellering, with a devastating five mountains to climb on what is ostensibly the final day.

Emerging rider Remco Evenepoel won the Vuelta a Espana and the world championships in 2022, but the young Belgian may be discouraged by the lack of time-trial on this edition.

"We'd be absolutely delighted if he did come," said Prudhomme. Mark Cavendish, the joint-record holder for stage wins (34), lauded the route as "hard

but beautiful and dynamic".

"There's a lot of real sprints, you know, long bunch sprint finishes," said the 37-year-old. "It's nice all different types of riders get their chance,' said Cavendish. The women's Tour de France route from July 23-30 was also unveiled on Thursday with a 1000km route starting from Clermont Ferrand and taking the riders through the south and an ascent of the Col du Tourmalet in the Pyrenees as its highlight.

### Invitation to attack

Continuing efforts to enliven the racing, especially the early action, the 2023 men's route is laced with terrain tempting the great one-day specialists to soak up some glory.

The forested hills around Bilbao on stage one are an open invitation for the one-day specialists to go all in for the coveted overall leader's vellow jersev right from day one. That should also force a first minor skirmish among the overall contenders.

A daredevil finale on the 20km descent to the chic coastal resort of San Sebastian is likely to provide a show on stage two. Day three takes the action back to France where the 22 teams of eight riders each move into the Pyrenees on the first weekend with storied mountains the Tourmalet and Aspin bringing the overall contenders into the thick of the battle.

The race then heads towards the Massif Central where the giant volcano Puy de Dome awaits before stints in the Jura, the Alps and finally the Vosges. There are high-altitude finish lines at Cauterets-Cambasque, Puy de DÙme, Grand Colombier and Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc. — AFP





PARIS: This handout image released on October 27, 2022, by Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO) shows the map of the official route of the 2023 edition of the men's Tour de France cycling race. —AFP

# **Power, Detry hope** to impress Ryder captain in Bermuda

MIAMI: Ireland's Seamus Power and Belgium's Thomas Detry hope to make an impression on 2023 Europe Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald at the US PGA Tour Bermuda Championship, which begins on Thursday.

All three are in the field for the fourth-year PGA event on the windy seaside par-71 layout at Port Royal Golf Club in Southampton, Bermuda.

Power, the highest-ranked player in the field at 48th, won his first PGA title last year at the Barbasol Championship, outlasting American J.T. Poston in a six-hole playoff.

This past season, Power managed a careerhigh five top-10 finishes and reached a careerbest 36th in the rankings. He's hopeful the hot streak might last long enough to earn a look for Europe's 2023 Ryder Cup squad, which will try to defeat the United States next year in Italy.

"Having the Ryder Cup this (coming) year, every European dreams of that. So that's always going to be something in the back of your mind," Power said. "If you play well, I feel like it will take care of itself. But what an honor that would be and that's always going to be a goal."

Power, 35, has played a couple of practice rounds with Donald but hoped to speak with him about the Ryder Cup this week and about what schedule might help his cause. "I'm definitely going to like get some feedback on the schedule from him and ask what he'd like to see," Power said. He'll also ask compatriots Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley, past Ryder Cup captains, about their ideas. "Paul McGinley messaged me last week and I'll probably give Padraig a shout as well," Power said. —AFP



# **Equestrian League** starts today

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Riding Center - Kuwait Subhan will see the launch of the first round of the second Kuwait horse jumping league, with large participation of male and female riders from various local clubs.

Today's (Friday) competitions will be for heights 70-90 cm and 100-105 cm, 110-115 cm, 120-125 cm and 130-135 cm, and tomorrow's (Saturday) competitions will continue with heights 110, 120 and 130 cm, while the grand prize competition will be at 140 cm. The prize money for the first round will be KD 10 thousand, for first place winners.



Masoud Jouhar Hayat with members of KEF.

Head of Kuwait Equestrian Federation Masoud Jouhar Hayat said "the last sports season saw a notable development in Kuwait equestrian activity, and the season was successful in all standards as the riders and their families acknowledged." He said, we always aim towards improvement and development, and the season saw the organization of the first local league under the first elected board of directors that includes experienced and

youth members. Masoud said "three international championships in the two and three stars categories, one of them qualifies for the world cup. Prizes of the horse jumping reached over KD 200 thousand, that in addition to organizing 6 marathons, including one international, and the prizes exceeded KD 186 thousand.

Kuwait International Referee Nabila Al-Ali, who

is also secretary general of Kuwait Equestrian Federation said the league starts today (Friday), with a large number of riders from local clubs. He said the local league will have 8 championship, and each lasts two days and has run for professionals and amateurs as well as juniors. She said there will be more than 300 riders, in addition to 2 and 3 stars international championships.

SOUTHAMPTON: Luke Donald of England hits his tee shot on the 9th hole during the Pro-Am of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship at Port Royal Golf Course in Southampton, Bermuda. — AFP

## Verstappen aims to beat Perez

MEXICO CITY: Max Verstappen will be seeking a party-pooping record this weekend when he aims to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez in front of his passionate home fans at the Mexican Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old world champion, whose triumph in Texas last Sunday secured the constructors' world title for Red Bull 24 hours after the death of team founder and co-owner Dieter Mateschitz, is bidding for an unprecedented 14th win of the season.

He currently shares the mark of 13 successes in a year with two Germans, seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel, but knows another victory, especially at Perez's expense, might wreck a famous fiesta.

The popular Mexican, who has won twice for Red Bull this season-on the streets of Monaco and Singapore-would relish a third, and his long-awaited first on home turf, but accepts it will not be easy.

He said he knows that Verstappen should and will race to win even if the contest is a dead rubber in terms of the two main championships for Red Bull, whose own celebrations may be muted when the punishment for their 2021 over-spend is finally announced.

"I don't want to be given anything," he said. "I have achieved everything without gifts for so many years now and, in the end, I don't think about it. "It's my job. I think about that and want to be perfect this weekend and look for victory."

He dismissed suggestions that Verstappen might repay him for his role in holding up Lewis Hamilton in Abu Dhabi last year, when Verstappen claimed his controversial first world title on the last lap.

"In the end, I think it is just normal. We all want to win," said Perez. "If there is a situation where it's different, that there is a different kind of help, I have no doubt that he will do it just as I have done with him in the past.'

Verstappen, in sumptuous form, indicated that for him, it is another race to win. "Well, he knows what he has to do to finish second-he has to finish ahead of Charles (Leclerc)," he said. "As a team, we always try to be first and second and, as a driver, I want to win more races.'

#### Battle for second

Personal and national pride aside, Perez is also fighting to finish runner-up to Verstappen in the drivers' championship. He is third, two points behind

Ferrari's Leclerc, ahead of Sunday's sizzling prospect at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez where he finished third in a tense finish behind Verstappen and Hamilton last vear.

The circuit, at an altitude of 2,240 metres, invariably delivers thrilling and memorable races, the thin air challenging the cooling demands of the cars' engines and brakes and impacting power output and downforce levels.

Mercedes, showing signs of closing the gap behind Red Bull, may introduce and race a new front wing design that caused a stir last weekend and led to an "exchange" of views with the stewards. Trackside engineering director Andrew Shovlin explained that the team had insufficient parts for two cars in Austin.

"We have more of those parts available in Mexico," he said. "So, we will run it on Friday, check it's all working as expected and the plan at this stage is to race that wing." The Silver Arrows, de-throned as champions by Red Bull after eight successive titles, hope to make a strong end to the season. Hamilton is currently winless in a campaign for the first time as he seeks to extend his record total of 103 victories. After Mexico, he has two more opportunities in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, where the season ends next month, but a third triumph in Mexico, where Verstappen has won three times, would be satisfying-if not popular with the locals. —AFP



MEXICO CITY: Red Bull's Mexican driver Sergio Perez (L) and Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen hold a Mexican national flag during an event with fans at the Museo Soumaya in Mexico City. - AFT



NEW YORK: Jeremy Pena #3 of the Houston Astros is announced as the American League Championship Series MVP after defeating the New York Yankees in game four to advance to the World Series at Yankee N IN Stadium. — AFP

# Astros seek untainted **World Series title** against Phillies

WASHINGTON: After a sign-stealing scandal tainted their 2017 Major League Baseball title, the Houston Astros seek an unblemished crown against the Philadelphia Phillies when the World Series begins on Friday.

The Astros have reached MLB's best-of-seven championship series for the fourth time in six seasons without dropping a game, going 7-0 in the American League playoffs. "It definitely was not easy. There was a lot of work that went into this, a lot of blood, sweat and tears," Astros rookie slugger Jeremy Pena said. "We battled all year and it's great to be here at this point."

The Phillies, who ended an 11-year playoff drought this season, reached the World Series for the first time since 2009 and chase their first title since 2008 with an underdog squad that was the last to qualify for this year's post-season.

"I believed we could get in and once we got in, everybody would relax. And they have," said Phillies manager Rob Thomson, who took over a 22-29 club in June. "They've been poised. They've played their best baseball during this stretch. You get on a roll, have a little good fortune and things keep going in

your favor."

Houston's dynasty run has been impressive, but the Astros lost last year's World Series to Atlanta and the 2019 "Fall Classic" to Washington in a series where road teams won all seven contests.

Houston won the 2017 World Series by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games, but an MLB investigation report in 2020 found the Astros used illicit technology to steal pitching signals of rival teams in 2017 and 2018, including in their title run.

A video camera in centerfield picked up opposing catchers' signs to pitchers about what sort of ball would be thrown next to Houston batters. A monitor behind the dugout tipped off the Astros, and players or staff members would signal batters what was coming by banging on trash cans or give other audio cues. The scandal led to a \$5 million fine and lost draft picks for the Astros, firings of team manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow and lost managerial jobs for former Astros player Carlos Beltran and bench coach Alex Cora.

Other players were given immunity for testimony and the Astros kept their title, although they were jeered as cheaters by fans in 2020 and 2021. Maybe the crowd has finally forgiven things of the past," Astros manager Dusty Baker said.

"Some people are rooting for us, some people are rooting against us. It doesn't matter. That motivates you either way. I've never heard a cross word or anybody boo in our town for the team and that means an awful lot." —AFP



### Sports

# Kohli stars again as ominous **India thrash Netherlands**

# Two of the six teams in the group will make the semi-finals

SYDNEY: Virat Kohli smashed a second successive half-century as India thrashed the Netherlands by 56 runs in a "near-perfect" performance on Thursday to put themselves in a strong position at the Twenty20 World Cup.

The Indians headed into the match on the back of their thrilling last-ball triumph over Pakistan in Melbourne at the weekend, where Kohli also starred with the bat. They brought some of that energy to a boisterous Sydney Cricket Ground to plunder 179-2 before holding the spirited Dutch to 123-9 in front of 36,000 fans.

Kohli (62 not out off 44 balls) and skipper Rohit Sharma (53 off 39) were both in fine touch, sharing in a 73-run stand. Survakumar Yadav, arguably the world's best T20 batsman on current form, was also in the runs, lashing 51 from 25 balls as India crunched 112 from the last 10 overs.

"I thought it was a clinical win. When you're expected to win, the pressure is a lot more. This was a near-perfect game for us," said Rohit. "Yes, we played a little slow at the start, but that was the conversation between me and Virat, we had to wait on that surface to play the big shots.

"Not too happy with my fifty, but what's important is getting runs-doesn't matter if they are goodlooking runs or ugly runs." India came to the World Cup in ominous form, winning back-to-back series against Australia and South Africa at home as they target their first global silverware since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Thursday's dominant win elevated them to the top of Group 2 on four points, ahead of South Africa on three, after the Proteas demolished

Bangladesh earlier in the day. The Dutch remain anchored at the bottom after two losses from two.

Two of the six teams in the group will make the semi-finals. "Definitely the noisiest crowd I've played in front of. It was an awesome experience," said Dutch skipper Scott Edwards. "It was always going to be tricky chasing 180. Thought we bowled reasonably well, but if you don't get wickets, with the batting order they've got, tough to restrict."

### Flowing

After winning the toss and choosing to bat in the first-ever T20 between the two teams, Indian opener KL Rahul again failed to fire, trapped lbw by Paul van Meekeren on nine. That brought superstar Kohli to the crease-cue huge roars from the drum-beating, flag-waving crowd.

He and Rohit clobbered some top-class boundaries, but the tight Dutch attack refused to let them run away with it, restricting India to 67-1 at the halfway point of the innings.

Rohit brought up his 29th T20 half-century in his 144th game, cracking four sixes along the way, before he was out looking for another, taken by Colin Ackermann near the ropes off Fred Klaassen.

Yadav joined Kohli and the runs began flowing more freely. Kohli reached his second successive 50 and 35th in his T20 career with a single as the pair steered India to a strong total, with a six off the last ball putting gloss on the innings.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar sent down a maiden to kick things off in the Dutch reply and got his first wicket in his second over when Vikramjit Singh went for a pullshot but missed and the ball clipped the bails.

SYDNEY: Netherlands' Max O'Dowd is bowled during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between India and Netherlands at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney. — AFP

Spinner Axar Patel was brought into the attack early and struck with his second ball, claiming dangerous opener Max O'Dowd for 16 after he looked to sweep but missed. Runs were hard to come by and the Netherlands crawled to just 51-3 off 10 overs. The spin of Ravi Ashwin caused all sorts of problems and he removed Ackermann (17) and Tom Cooper (9) in the same over as they went for big hits, with the Netherlands' tail hardly wagging. — AFP

# Zimbabwe stun Pakistan at **T20 World Cup**

PERTH: Zimbabwe pulled off a stunning one-run upset over Pakistan on Thursday to put the Asian giants in danger of an early exit from the Twenty20 World Cup. Zimbabwe were restricted to 130-8 after electing to bat first but their bowlers choked Pakistan to 129-8 for a memorable win in the Super 12 match in Perth.

It was Pakistan's second straight loss after their agonising, opening defeat to arch-rivals India, who top the group with two victories out of two. Zimbabwe, who came through the first round in Australia to reach the Super 12, are third in Group 2 behind South Africa.



# Indian women cricketers to be paid same as men

**NEW DELHI:** India's international women cricketers will be paid the same match fee as the men, its cricket board said Thursday, hailing a "new era of gender equality" in the nation's favourite sport. The announcement by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) follows pressure across sport globally to reduce the often vast differences in pay.

Match fees are however separate from annual pay packets, where there are enormous differences between what Indian men and their women counterparts earn. "We are implementing pay-equity policy for our contracted @BCCIWomen cricketers," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted, calling it the "first step towards tackling discrimination". "The match fee for both men and women cricketers will be same as we move into a new era of gender equality in cricket," Shah said. Despite some progress India remains a highly traditional and patriarchal society and has far fewer women in formal employment than men. Men and women players will now get 1.5 million rupees (\$18,000) for each Test, 600,000 rupees for one-day internationals and 300,000 rupees for T20 internationals. According to media reports, it is an almost four-fold increase for women for Test matches, a six-fold rise for ODIs and three times higher for a T2O. India's men will still earn considerably more overall because of their higher annual retainers and the fact they play many more matches every year than the women. For the 2020-21 season, contracts for the top-graded men such as superstar Virat Kohli were worth around 70 million rupees, according to previous BCCI announcements. This is almost 14 times what women get in the highest bracket. India's women players, like their male counterparts in the cricket-crazy country of 1.4 billion people, are among the world's best. The team claimed an ODI series whitewash in England in September and are expected to be major contenders for next year's women's T20 World Cup. — AFP

Only the top two reach the semi-finals.Pakistan's chase looked on course when Shan Masood, who made 44, put on a 52-run fourth-wicket partnership with Shadab Khan. But Sikandar Raza broke the stand with Shadab's wicket and was to be Pakistan's tormentor-in-chief, returning figures of 3-25.

Raza, a finger spinner, then trapped Haider Ali lbw on the next ball for nought to be on a hattrick that was averted by Mohammad Nawaz. match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe in Perth on October 27, 2022. —AFP

Raza soon took down Masood (44 of 38 balls) and Nawaz attempted to get the remaining runs, 11 off the final over, but was run out on the penultimate ball of the 20th over.

Needing three on the final ball, new batsman Shaheen Shah Afridi ran one but got run out when

running for the second as Zimbabwe's players erupted in celebration. Earlier, skipper Babar Azam got off the mark with a boundary after seven dots but soon got out to Brad Evans to extend his bad run in the tournament. He fell for a duck against India. — AFP

reaching a century (100 runs) during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between South Africa and Bangladesh at the Sydney Cricket Ground in

# **Rossouw blasts** century as S Africa crush Bangladesh

SYDNEY: Rilee Rossouw blasted 109 and shared in a record-breaking stand with Quinton de Kock as South Africa crushed Bangladesh to kickstart their Twenty20 World Cup title charge in Sydney on Thursday.

The pair came together after Temba Bavuma fell in the first over and powered their team to 205-5. Bangladesh were dismissed for just 101 in the 17th over with Anrich Nortje taking 4-10. Rossouw and De Kock amassed 168 for the second wicket-the highest-ever T20 World Cup partnership-surpassing the 166 that Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara made against the West Indies in 2010.

De Kock fell for 63 but Rossouw charged on,

bringing up the first century of the tournament and only the 10th scored at any T20 World Cup. He was eventually out going for another big hit, ending a 56-ball knock which included eight sixes and seven fours. It was the fifth-highest score at a T20 World Cup. "Sometimes things go your way. And this year has been like an unbelievable rollercoaster ride for me," said Rossouw. "So happy. So proud to be sitting here. Never thought about it (a century) in a million vears.

"Today where I thought we did really well was we took on the spin ... and we really took charge and wanted to control that area and we did well." The blitz set up the Proteas for a much-needed Group 2 victory after their opening match on Monday against Zimbabwe in Hobart was washed out and the points were shared.

Bangladesh opened their campaign with a ninewicket win over the Netherlands, but they have a poor record against top teams at World Cups. "Credit goes to Rilee and Quinton de Kock, I think that partnership took the game away from us," said Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan. — AFP



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### Hospitals & Clinics

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Sabah Hospital Amiri Hospital Maternity Hospital Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital Chest Hospital Farwaniya Hospital Adan Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital Al-Razi Hospital Physiotherapy Hospital

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707					
Rawda	22517733					
Adaliya	22517144					
Khaldiya	24848075					
Kaifan	24849807					

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammad Taufeeq Ur Rehaman S/O Kaupwala Mahfooz Ur Rahman resident of 3/43 Coconut Garden, Kadri, Karnataka,

Mangalore, India 575002, have changed my name to Mohammad Tawfeeq Ur Rahman for all purposes as per my Adhar card -number 413944116687. (C# 2427)

> ......... SALMANKHAN

AKABER PATAN holder of Indian Passport No. M7462056 having permanent address H. No. 1414 Mastimol

Canacona, Goa - India, Pin Code 403702, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given name SALMANKHAN Surname and as PATHAN. (C# 2428) -28-10-2022 cial

I Anees Ishaq Ibrahim (current name as in PERUMPRETHU passport) holder of

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Indian Passport No. V-VEEDU, MANJAKALA 3758719, having per-P.O. MANJAKALA. KOLLAM DISTRICT, manent address R. No. 5, Wanja Wadi PIN 691508, SSLC Masjeed Trust CHL BOOK HOLDER NO: No. 7, Mahim, Mumbai 423660 DATED MARCH 1999, PASS-- 400016, and residing in Kuwait at present, PORT HOLDER NO. do hereby declare that H4169325 ISSUED AT I changed my name to THIRUVANANTHAPU-Anis Ishaq Khan for all RAM DATED 06/05/2009 DO HEREpurposes, and that I BY CHANGE MY undertake to effect the change in all my offi-NAME MUHAMMED ASHIQ documents. (C#2426) - 27-10-2022 P.V. THIS CHANGE WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN ALL RECORDS RELATED P.V. TO ME. (C#2425) - 26-

10-2022

AS

### LOST

I, Sebi.T.V, S/o. T.D Verghese, residing at Building No.20, Street-317, Mahboula, Kuwait, informing to the public that my B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering Degree) semester examination mark lists (38 Nos) from the University of Calicut as per the details given below have been irrevocably lost in Kuwait during travel and as such I intend to apply for the duplicate mark list: Reg.Nos of 1st and 1Ind Semester (10700 May90, 11903 Nov90, 15673 May91, 16616 Nov91, 16917 Jun92, 17362 Mar94, 17474 Sept94, 17575 Apr95). Illrd Semester (6672 Nov90, 4494 Jun91, 8832 Jul92; 21380 Dec92, 5519 May95, 26649 Dec95). IVthSemester (1152 May91, 3985

Nov91, 1320 Mar94, 1940 Oct94, 7416 July95, 4015 Aug 1996). Vth Semester (952 Jan92, 2064 Jan93, 1639 Jul96, 2327 Mar97, 3167 Aug97, 12163 Jan98, 2184 June 98) Vith Semester (2281 Jul92, 4662 Jan93, 381 Jul94, 5534 Nov94, 7418 Jun95, 8568 Dec95). VIIthSemester (4152 Jan93, 7482 Apr94, 5606 Nov94, 1097 May95, 650 Nov95)

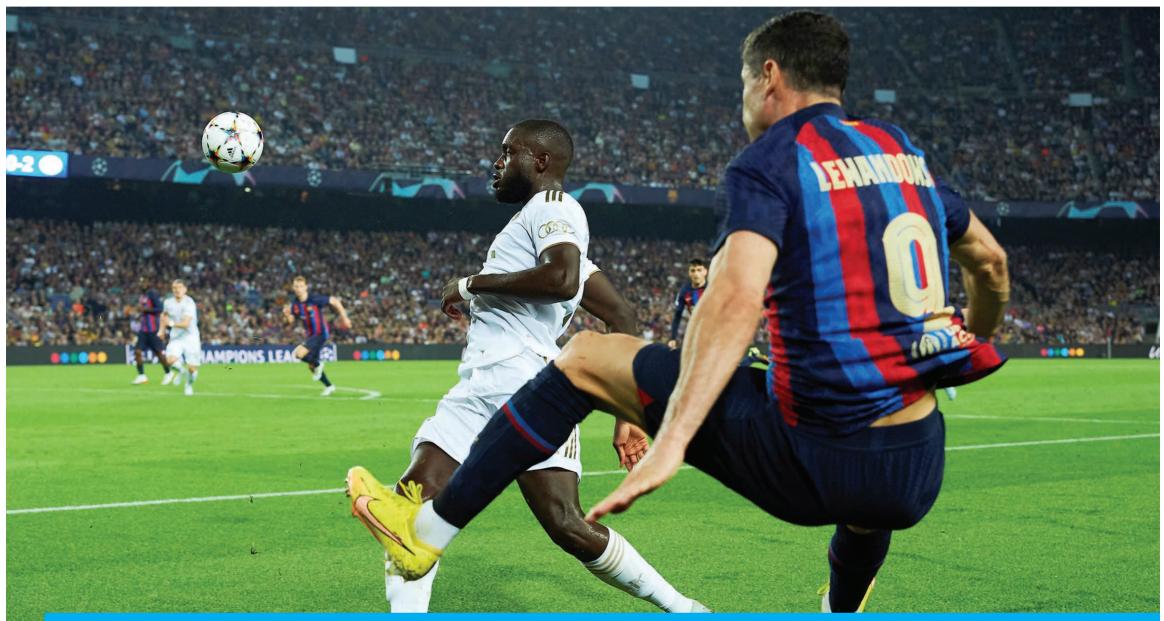
If anybody happens to get the originals, may kindly contact



# Sport Cincs

# Barcelona exit with whimper

Liverpool, Inter Milan ease into last 16



BARCELONA: Bayern Munich's French defender Dayot Upamecano (L) fights for the ball with Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski during the UEFA Champions League 1st round day 5, Group C football match between FC Barcelona and FC Bayern Munich at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. — AFP

**PARIS:** Liverpool booked their place in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Jurgen Klopp's men saw off Ajax 3-0, while Inter Milan also qualified to eliminate Barcelona who slipped to a tame defeat by Bayern Munich.

Much of the drama came elsewhere on a breathless night of action, as Porto became the 12th team to secure a berth in the knockout stage but Tottenham were forced to wait. Last season's losing finalists Liverpool knew a draw in Amsterdam would be enough to clinch a last-16 spot for a sixth straight season.

The Reds, struggling in the Premier League this term, weathered an early Ajax storm before Mohamed Salah gave them a half-time lead.

Darwin Nunez, who had earlier missed an open goal from six yards out, headed in to double the advantage shortly after the break and Harvey Elliott rounded off the scoring with his second goal in as many Champions League games. "Darwin was really angry with himself at half-time," Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson told BT Sport.

"I sat next to him at half-time and told him I

## Lakers woes continue, Giannis sparks Bucks over Nets

**LOS ANGELES:** The Los Angeles Lakers' miserable start to the season continued on Wednesday as the winless NBA giants crashed to a fourth straight defeat against the Denver Nuggets. Nikoka Jokic scored 31 points and hauled down 13 rebounds in a 110-99 win for Denver that left the Lakers rooted to the foot of the Western Conference standings at 0-4.

LeBron James finished with 19 points and Anthony Davis 22 but it was another frustrating night for the Lakers, who reached half-time tied at 54-54 before being outscored 32-17 in a lopsided third quarter in Denver.

The Lakers' 0-4 start to the season matches their start to the 2015-2016 campaign, when the team would go on to post the worst season in franchise history, finishing with a 17-65 record. It is only the fourth time in franchise history that the Lakers have started a season with an 0-4 record.

Elsewhere Wednesday, Giannis Antetokounmpo produced his second straight 40-point performance as the Milwaukee Bucks maintained their unbeaten start to the NBA season with a 110-99 win over the Brooklyn Nets.

Antetokounmpo single-handedly hauled Milwaukee back into an absorbing clash at Fiserv Forum, scoring 17 points in a third-quarter rally which turned a 12point half-time deficit into a two-point lead.

The Greek star added 17 more points in the fourth quarter to finish with 43 in total as the Bucks pulled clear to wrap up the win and improve to 3-0. Former NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo scored 44 points in his last outing against Houston on Saturday would put a cross in to his head for him to score." Liverpool join Napoli in progressing from Group A, but need a four-goal victory at Anfield in six days' time to pip the red-hot Italians to top spot after their 3-0 win over Rangers.

#### Inter finish job

Inter Milan romped to the win they needed to go through and eliminate Barca from Group C, thrashing Czechs Viktoria Plzen 4-0 at the San Siro. Romelu Lukaku came off the bench to score on his return from injury late on, after Henrikh Mkhitaryan's opener and a double for Edin Dzeko.

That left the financially struggling Catalans digesting a group-stage exit for the second straight season. The five-time champions were unable to at least lay down a marker on their way out, falling to a 3-0 home loss by Bayern Munich at a subdued Camp Nou.

Sadio Mane, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Benjamin Pavard scored as Bayern wrapped up first place in the group with a fifth successive win. "On a night like this, you don't go out to play the game with the same motivation," admitted Barca midfielder Pedri. "We wanted to give the fans a victory but it wasn't to be."

#### Late VAR drama

Porto earlier beat Club Brugge 4-0, although knew an Atletico Madrid victory against Bayer Leverkusen would set up a deciding Group B match between the Portuguese and Diego Simeone's team next week.

But Atletico's Yannick Carrasco missed a penalty, which was awarded by VAR after the initial final whistle, in a remarkable 2-2 draw to send Porto through. Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen led twice thanks to goals from Moussa Diaby and Callum Hudson-Odoi.

But Carrasco's first-half strike and Rodrigo de Paul's equaliser gave Atletico 40 minutes to find a winner and keep their Champions League campaign alive. In chaotic scenes, the players were called back onto the pitch after VAR spotted a handball from the final attack of the game.

But Carrasco's spot-kick was saved by Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky, Saul Niguez headed the rebound off the bar and Reinildo Mandava's following effort was denied by a lastditch block.

Porto, trailing leaders Brugge by one point, could still snatch top spot, while Atletico and Leverkusen will fight over a Europa League place. Spurs thought they had won against Sporting to qualify from Group D when Harry Kane found the net deep into added time, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside after a lengthy VAR delay as it finished 1-1.

Sporting took a deserved first-half lead through former Tottenham youngster Marcus Edwards' fine strike, but Rodrigo Bentancur scored with 10 minutes left to set up a grandstand finish.

Kane celebrated wildly with the home fans in London when he scored what appeared to be a last-gasp winner, but VAR had other ideas. "VAR is doing a lot of damage," said Tottenham manager Antonio Conte, who was sent off for his protests.

"I want to see if in another stadium of a big team if they are ready to disallow this type of goal. I'd like to know this." All four teams in the group can still qualify heading into the last games after Eintracht Frankfurt beat Marseille 2-1 in Germany. — AFP



DENVER: Anthony Davis #3 of the Los Angeles Lakers defends against DeAndre Jordan #6 of the Denver Nuggets at Ball Arena on October 26, 2022 in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

and has averaged 36 points per game this season.

"That was vintage Giannis," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He's had a lot of great performances, but that second half he did everything, he was phenomenal. "We had a poor second quarter and he came out with a force and a determination to put us in the right place. It's hard to put into words how good he was in the second half."

Brooklyn, meanwhile, saw head coach Steve Nash ejected late in the third quarter after an uncharacteristic outburst from the Canadian Hall of Famer. Nash erupted after officials failed to call a foul on Antetokounmpo when the Bucks star flattened Brooklyn's Patty Mills.

An incandescent Nash needed to be hustled away from the confrontation by Nets players and coaching staff before heading back to the locker room. "I was just standing up for our guys," Nash said. "I thought Patty took a forearm to the throat from Giannis right in front of the ref and I didn't think that was fair... What happened happened. I said my piece on the court and that's really all there is to it."

Nash's ejection came at a time when momentum had swung back towards Milwaukee, who recovered after being pummeled 35-18 in the second quarter to outscore Brooklyn 35-21 in the third. Brooklyn led by four points when Nash was ejected but Antetokounmpo took over to lead the Bucks to a deserved win.

Kevin Durant led the Nets scoring with 33 points while Kyrie Irving added 27 and Royce O'Neale 12. Ben Simmons finished with four points. Elsewhere on Wednesday, in-form Damian Lillard scored 22 points but hobbled off with a right calf strain as the Portland Trail Blazers suffered their first loss of the season with a 119-98 defeat to the Miami Heat in Oregon. — AFP

# Spanish Super Cup to be hosted in Riyadh again

**BARCELONA:** The Spanish Super Cup will take place in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia in January 2023, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced Thursday.

It is the third time the tournament will take place in the Middle East, as part of a deal to keep the tournament there until 2029, worth a reported 30 million euros (30.1 million dollars) a season for the RFEF.

Reigning champions and La Liga winners Real Madrid will face Copa del Rey runners up Valencia in one semi-final, with cup-winners Real Betis playing Barcelona, who finished second in the league in the other.

"The three matches will be played at the King Fahd de Riyadh stadium, a spectacular venue with capacity for over 60,000 fans," said the RFEF in a statement. The semi-finals will take place on January 11 and 12 with the final on January 15.

In the 2019/20 season the Spanish Super Cup was played in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, but because of the coronavirus pandemic it returned to Spain in 2020/21. Last season it returned to Saudi Arabia, being held in Riyadh where Real Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao 2-0 in the final.

The tournament has been mired in various controversies, including Barcelona defender Gerard Pique's sports event company Kosmos being paid for helping arrange the move to Saudi Arabia, as well as concerns over human rights issues in the host country. — AFP