



Established 1961

ISSUE NO: 18873
16 PAGES, 150 FILS

The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf

RABIA ALTHANI 5, 1444 AH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022

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Kuwait reiterates support for Palestinians, regional peace

Kuwait slams recurring acts of desecration by Zionist forces, settlers



KUWAIT: People participate in the 10th edition of RunKuwait on Saturday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat — (See Page 3)

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reaffirmed its support for the just Palestinian cause and regional peace as a strategic option. Counselor Faisal Ghazi Al-Enezi, the deputy representative of Kuwait at the United Nations, noted anew Kuwait's support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for attaining their rights, reiterating its adherence to the Arab-Islamic stance that backs peace as a strategic option and a just peace based on establishing two states.

Enezi, during a debate on the Middle East held at the UN Security Council, noted that the unwavering Kuwaiti stand is based on agreed-upon references, namely the relevant UNSC resolutions and the Arab peace initiative. Kuwait has followed up with concern on the dangerous escalation in the occupied Palestinian territories, namely the systematic crimes and offensives carried out by the Zionist entity, the occupation-based authority, against the brotherly Palestinian people.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque continues to be targeted with recurring acts of desecration either by the occupation forces or the settlers. Kuwait renews its robust condemnation of such hostile practices that provoke all Muslims and threaten worship at the



Faisal Ghazi Al-Enezi

mosque. These practices are the latest of a chain of flagrant breaches of international covenants and resolutions that threaten to jeopardize the bases of stability in the region and foment hatred, extremism and violence. Enezi decried recurring raids and brutal attacks by the occupation Zionist forces on Palestinian towns, the latest of which happened in Nablus and Ramallah a few days ago. — KUNA

News in brief

GCC slams German minister's remarks

RIYADH: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Nayef Al-Hajraf on Saturday condemned remarks by German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser casting doubt on whether Qatar should host the World Cup. Doha on Friday summoned Germany's ambassador to protest against the comments. The GCC backs Doha in "addressing any interference in its internal affairs by publishing allegations that do not serve the establishment of normal relations between the two countries. Qatar is heading toward making new successes, and hosting the 2022 World Cup is a source of deserved pride," Hajraf said. — AFP

Oldest Gitmo prisoner released

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani known for being the oldest detainee at the US-run Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba was released to his home country on Saturday. Businessman Saif Ullah Paracha, who studied in the US, was detained in 2003 in Thailand and accused of financing Al-Qaeda, but he has maintained his innocence and claimed a love for the US. Like most detainees at Guantanamo, Paracha - aged 75 or 76 — was never formally charged and had little legal power to challenge his detention. — AFP

96% of humans felt global warming

PARIS: Whether they realized it or not, some 7.6 billion people - 96 percent of humanity - felt global warming's impact on temperatures over the last 12 months, researchers have said. But some regions felt it far more sharply and frequently than others, according to a report based on peer-reviewed methods from Climate Central, a climate science think tank. People in tropical regions and on small islands surrounded by heat-absorbing oceans were disproportionately impacted by human-induced temperature increases to which they barely contributed. — AFP

120 killed in Halloween crush in Seoul

SEOUL: At least 120 people were killed Saturday and some 100 were injured in a stampede in central Seoul when thousands crowded into narrow streets to celebrate Halloween, officials said. Fire Department official Choi Seong-beom said the stampede took place around 10:22 pm (1322 GMT) and many of the victims were trampled to death.

"The high number of casualties was the result of many being trampled during the Halloween event," Choi said, adding that the death toll could climb. Officials had said earlier that 50 people were in cardiac arrest and that more than 140 ambulances were dispatched to the scene to aid the victims. The district of Itaewon is a popular destination for people celebrating Halloween in the South Korean capital.

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SEOUL: Bodies of victims killed in a stampede are covered in the popular nightlife district of Itaewon on Oct 30, 2022. — AFP

Musk soothes critics with Twitter panel

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter formally became the private property of Elon Musk on Friday, steering the social media giant down an uncertain path under the stewardship of one of its most vocal critics. Scrutiny quickly turned to how the platform will operate under a self-proclaimed free-speech absolutist who some users fear will turn Twitter into a global stage for hate speech and disinformation.

In a nod to such concerns, Musk's first policy act was to tweet that he will form a "content moderation council" embracing "widely diverse viewpoints". "No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes," he said. Musk's sealing of the on-again, off-again \$44 billion deal ended a months-long soap opera of corporate chicanery, involving insults,



WASHINGTON: In this illustration photo taken on Oct 4, 2022, a phone screen displays a photo of Elon Musk with the Twitter logo in the background. — AFP

threats and lawsuits.

"The bird is free," tweeted the billionaire Tesla founder and space pioneer in reference to the company's logo. "Let the good times roll." The deal drew contrasting reactions, with former US president Donald Trump cheering the change of leadership on a platform that had banned him, while activists warned of a surge in harassment and

Continued on Page 6

45 killed as storm lashes Philippines

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Philippines: Severe Tropical Storm Nalgae pounded the Philippines on Saturday after unleashing flash floods and landslides that officials said left at least 45 people dead. Nalgae churned across the archipelago nation's main island of Luzon with winds of up to 95 km an hour after making landfall on the sparsely populated eastern island of Catanduanes before dawn.

It has sparked heavy rains across the country, with areas far from the path of the storm inundated including the southern island of Mindanao, which has seen flooding and deadly landslides over the past two days. A sharply revised official toll on Saturday put the number of deaths on Mindanao at 40, with five others killed elsewhere in the country. At least 17 people were missing, while nearly 20,000 had been evacuated.

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Kuwait hopes meetings held before Arab Summit will boost joint action

Kuwaiti FM meets Arab League Chief • Algeria praises Kuwait's commitment to summit's success

ALGIERS: Kuwait hopes that pre-Arab Summit economic and social ministerial talks held on Friday do much to boost joint Arab action, outlining its commitment to efforts that contribute to the decisions that will emanate from the upcoming November 1 major regional talks. Kuwait's Finance Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs Talal Al-Namesh, who headed Kuwait's delegation at the talks on behalf of the finance minister, said many topics related "joint Arab economic and social work" were discussed.

These included an Arab League Secretary General follow-up of the implementation of the previous recommendations resulting from the 2019 Arab Summit session in Tunis on joint Arab economic, social and development work, requirements for a greater Arab free trade zone and the establishment of an Arab customs union. Namesh mentioned that "the Council thanked the State of Kuwait for the proposal it submitted, regarding the preparation of the Arab strategy for food security".

It also discussed the support of countries hosting Syrian refugees - to reduce the economic and social burdens as a result, an Arab vision for a digital economy, and a mechanism to address resulting tax challenges, the post-COVID pan-

dem economic and social recovery, a strategy for the peaceful uses of nuclear power alongside Arab space cooperation and sustainable agricultural development". Namesh concluded by expressing Kuwait's hope that these issues contribute to strengthening "joint Arab economic and social action".

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met Saturday with Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit on the sidelines of the foreign ministers' preparatory meeting for the 31st Arab League summit in Algiers. During the meeting, the topics in the preparatory ministerial meeting and all items on its agenda were discussed.

Algeria's foreign ministry praised on Friday Kuwait's commitment to attending Arab Summit preparatory meetings ahead of the major talks, scheduled on Nov 1 and 2, under the theme of "reunification". "Algeria salutes the commitment of the sisterly State of Kuwait to actively contribute to the success of the Arab Summit through the arrival of its Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, last night, as the first Arab foreign minister to arrive in Algeria," the ministry said in a statement.

"Kuwait's foreign minister will head his country's delegation participating tomorrow, Saturday, at the preparatory meeting of foreign ministers for the Council of the Arab League at the summit level," added the Algerian ministry. According to the statement, "Algeria's Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra will hold a working session with his Kuwaiti counterpart in order to enhance coordination between the two delegations for the success of the ministerial preparatory meeting for the summit." Kuwait's political leadership has "fulfilled its promise, as it has committed itself to being the first to arrive in Algeria and the last to depart the summit", the statement added.

Aboul Gheit, speaking to Arab officials here on Friday, highlighted the need for "joint action" to overcome current global changes that have revealed weaknesses in the economic systems of some Arab countries. "Drought, turbulent population growth and weak agricultural investment, in addition to the climate factor" have all led to a deterioration in Arab food indicators, the Arab League chief said in a keynote speech at the pre-Arab Summit Social and Economic Council attended by Arab trade and commerce ministers.

"The past three years have witnessed difficult events that have resulted in a complex and difficult international situation," he added, mentioning that the



ALGIERS: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit on Saturday. — KUNA

COVID pandemic, in the meantime, has resulted in "high loans, unemployment inflation and disruption to supply and demand". "These problems concern everyone, from developed to developing countries," he pointed out, outlining a comprehensive vision based on the mobilization of Arab capabilities to confront these situations.

The Arab League chief called on Arab

leaders to "support joint Arab action councils, whether financially or politically," saying this will allow the region to "overcome difficulties and challenges providing there is an optimal use of resources and energies that are abundant in the region." He concluded his speech by emphasizing the topic of food security as "among the priorities" that will be "discussed extensively". —KUNA

Sheikh Mubarak hails Austria's ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT: Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah affirmed the depth and strength of the Kuwaiti-Austrian relations and their distinction. "When we talk about Austria, we are talking about a friendly country whose positions are appreciated toward Kuwait," he said. During his meeting with Austrian Ambassador Marian Wrba and his wife, he added that "our relations with Austria are historical, distinct and developed, that include common interests for both countries".

Sheikh Mubarak pointed out that Kuwaiti investments in Austria, whether government or private, are constantly increasing. Similarly, with regards to trade exchange between the two countries, he expressed his great satisfaction with the development of these distinguished relations "with our friends in Austria, and we look forward to strengthening and pursuing this advancement".

In conclusion, Sheikh Mubarak congratulated Ambassador Wrba on the celebration of his country's National Day and wished further advancement in relations towards further prosperity.



KUWAIT: Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah meets Austrian Ambassador Marian Wrba and his wife during a celebration held by the Austrian Embassy on the National Day of Austria.

Sheikh Mubarak had participated in the celebration by the Austrian Embassy on the National Day of the Republic of Austria.

Italian foreign secretary hails bilateral ties

ROME: Secretary-General of the Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ambassador Ettore Sicoi, praised the excellent level of Italian-Kuwaiti relations and cultural cooperation that his country aspires to develop, appreciating Italy hosting the Kuwaiti Book Fair. His remarks were made in a meeting with new Ambassador of Kuwait to Italy Naser Al-Qatani at the ministry's headquarters.

A statement added that during the meeting, Sicoi expressed his special appreciation for cooperating in the cultural field, as it is also a sector capable of expansion in light of Italy's participation in the book fair that will be held in Kuwait from November 16 to 26. It indicated that both ambassadors also discussed the possibilities of economic cooperation and exploiting opportunities of Kuwait's 2035 strategy, with special reference to sustainable development. — KUNA



ROME: Kuwaiti Ambassador Naser Al-Qatani meets Secretary-General of the Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry Ambassador Ettore Sicoi. —KUNA

Kuwaiti societies in Yemen open clinic, refurbish school

ADEN: The Kuwait-based Al-Rahma International Society inaugurated Thursday a medical center in the Yemeni governorate of Marib. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Deputy Governor of Marib Abdrabu Moftah hailed the Kuwaiti humanitarian and developmental activities in Yemen. He affirmed that this important humanitarian project will signifi-

cantly enhance capabilities of the health sector in the governorate. The center includes clinics for obstetrics, gynecology, children, public emergency and primary healthcare, as well as a laboratory and pharmacy.

Meanwhile, a secondary school renovated and furnished by the Kuwait Relief Society was inaugurated Thursday in the Yemeni governorate of Taiz. Speaking at the opening ceremony, local official Yahya Ismail expressed gratitude for Kuwait's humanitarian and developmental support to Yemen, particularly in the health and education sectors. The Kuwaiti society renovated, equipped and furnished eight other schools in five Yemeni governorates in August ahead of the new academic year. — KUNA



Kuwait's Al-Rahma International Society opens medical center in Marib.



Kuwait Relief Society refurbished a school in Taiz.



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Local



10th edition of RunKuwait: Running for a noble cause

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: To support children with special needs, Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN), a multidisciplinary non-profit healthcare organization, organized on Saturday the 10th edition of RunKuwait. "Every year we hold RunKuwait, a charity race for kids with special needs. All the funds we collect from the runners and participants go to children with special needs to get services at Fawzia Sultan," said Anne Marie Baterrany, Business Development and Marketing Manager at FSHN.



Charity race supports children with special needs

"This year we reached 1,500 participants, but we usually have more than this number. The event was great and we had a large number of sponsors supporting us - AUK, STC, Agility, KDD, InterSport, City Center, Aquafina, KIB, Raha and definitely all media

sponsors (including Kuwait Times)," Baterrany said. "The great thing about this event is that we had the chance to see a large number of special needs kids participating with us. Some of them asked to give trophies to the sponsors, thanking them for being a part of this event," she added.

Manal Al-Shakhshir, Director of Admissions and Registration at Al-Bayan Bilingual School and Al-Bayan International School affiliated to FAWSEC Educational Company, told Kuwait Times that a large number of their students participated in the run. "We are excited to support our students to be a part of this run, stressing on the importance of participation of schools in such events to urge kids to support charity events, in addition to being fit and participate in sports in general," she said.

"This event has two aspects - the sports side that focuses on health and fitness, and from the other side, it has a great role in supporting charity work for special needs children. The funds will provide them with the services they need," said Shakhshir, a mother of two special needs children.

"I thought it would not be easy for my special needs kids to be a part of the run, but they are happy they participated. These types of events give my children a boost of positive energy and improves their mental health. We hope these events continue due to the great work by Fawzia Sultan in supporting and encouraging our kids to be active and become more integrated into the



community," Shakhshir added. Fatima Al-Mosawi, Founder of Spread the Passion, a non-profit organization that connects volunteers with volunteering opportunities, said: "We are focusing on participating in events that benefit volunteers with skills that improve their lives. In these types of sports events, we are keen to provide volunteers and enroll them to make them be a part of social responsibility and health awareness."

"These events boost awareness among people regarding sports and wellness. Meanwhile, people can enjoy their time with positive people, instead of staying at home doing nothing," said Aseel Al-Shahin, a Kuwaiti athlete. "Sports events are increasing in Kuwait - we can find several events every week, from padel and cycling to walking and running, which encourages people to practice sports and take care of their health," she added.



Kuwait Times Deputy Managing Editor Islam Al-Sharaa and his daughter May Al-Sharaa before the run.



KUWAIT: People participate in the 10th edition of RunKuwait on Saturday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Coral reefs play key role in safeguarding marine biodiversity

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Healthy coral reefs support commercial and subsistence fishing. Scientists also develop essential drugs from coral reef organisms for cancer, arthritis and many other treatments. Head of Environmental Projects at Kuwait Dive Team Mahmoud Ashkanani explained to Kuwait Times the importance of coral reefs and why Kuwait should invest in safeguarding its environment.

Kuwait Dive Team recently discovered the presence of dense coral reef colonies of several types near the coasts, extending from Kuwait Towers to Ras Al-Salmiya, during a regular dive that was carried out to monitor coral reefs on the Gulf coast. This discovery is considered the first of its kind. Being passionate from the age of eight, Ashkanani was eager to explore the sea.

"I grew up loving the sea, and started with fishing. In the '80s, I tried to dive to see the corals, but my ears hurt, so I stopped. In the '90s, my friend taught me how to control the pressure in my ears, so I started diving again. When I first saw the corals, there was a connection - it was love at first sight! I took a diving course, and was amazed by the beauty of the sea. After that I decided to join the diving team in 1996," he told Kuwait Times.

His passion drove him to document every single piece of information about coral reefs, taking photos and videos, writing in his diary and recording coordinates of coral spots. "Since 1995, I started to document every detail about coral reefs, hoping it will be used in the future to search and develop our marine environment. Then as a team, we started to explore both hard and soft coral. I read a lot of books and discussed with many experts. I still study our Kuwaiti marine life every

time I have a chance," Ashkanani said. Regarding the latest discovery, Ashkanani pointed out that the discovery of coral colonies in very difficult environments for coral growth and reproduction based on natural requirements is remarkable, noting that the development of coral in Kuwait and its adaptation to difficult and harsh conditions is considered a great discovery.

"Kuwait and the world suffered from great coral reef devastation due to bleaching, which led to the death of more than 75 percent of Kuwait's corals in 2010. Coral has great importance because it is characterized by the formation of environments with great diversity of organisms that settle inside it, and is considered one of the most important and most productive marine sites in biological diversity because it provides shelter to thousands of different organisms," Ashkanani explained.

"Its structures are natural buffers to protect coasts and islands from strong waves, and contribute to the formation and stability of coral islands, and form the sources of formation of beach sand. Also, coral reefs are considered one of the most important sites for tourism and recreation, in addition to being a source of many cosmetics, medical and building materials," he added.

Ashkanani indicated that the team conducted a preliminary examination of the location of the coral colonies, revealing three types of corals were monitored - Siderastreidae, Faviidae and Poritidae, in addition to Zoanthids. They were of high density, with good colors and sizes of more than 80 cm at depths of 3 to 5 meters.

Ashkanani revealed there are 35 types of hard corals on the central coasts of Kuwait (from Kuwait Bay to Mina Abdullah). "Most corals form as isolated and in small colonies suspended on some scattered rocks in shallow water. The team has monitored several types of coral colonies whose sizes range from more than 30 centimeters on Asherij coast inside Kuwait Bay, but after the Fahheel coast, the coral colonies begin to condense and form areas of small coral masses until they form large coral reefs. There are 20 coastal reef sites in Kuwait, including 15 sites in Doha Bneider. There are also semi-deep sites that have soft corals in large numbers around the southern islands at depths of 22 to 27 meters and deeper," he told Kuwait Times.

Ashkanani hopes that the data that was collected by the team should be utilized by experts and Kuwaiti institutions to explore coral reefs in an extensive and more detailed manner, or if there is a supporter for this project, to support in exploring coral reefs and expand its benefit on fishery and tourism.



Mahmoud Ashkanani



Faviidae



Poritidae



Siderastreidae



Zoanthids

Kuwait Times
Established 1961THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
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KUWAIT: People visit a vintage car exhibition at Marina Crescent on Friday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Gulf's largest vintage car exhibition wows visitors

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Under the sponsorship of former National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and number of private companies, Q8 Old Cars Team held on Friday the 2022-2023 season's biggest vintage car gathering in the GCC at Marina Crescent. The event was held in the presence of a number of Gulf and Kuwaiti vintage car enthusiasts, where participants displayed their vintage cars manufactured more than 70 years ago.

The exhibition provided great support to cancer patients through the participation of the Kuwait Society for the Care of Cancer Patients. A large number of visitors attended the exhibition that saw the presence of vintage cars of popular movie characters such as Batman, Mr Bean and others, owned by Kuwaiti individuals who own these types of cars as a hobby.

Bader Al-Sijari, the representative of Ghanem, told Kuwait Times that Ghanem is always interested in supporting the Kuwaiti youth, as this exhibition connects them with the good old days of their fore-



fathers' heritage. "This great effort is appreciated due to its importance to the Kuwaiti youth. Our role is to support these events financially and morally, in addition to highlighting the youth's hobbies, whether autosports, art, sports, cultural events and all activities that represent Kuwait," he said.

Bader Al-Otaibi, Public Relations Manager of Q8 Old Cars Team, told Kuwait Times: "This exhibition started with the founding of the Q8 Team in 2003 and attracted classic car owners to display their vehicles, especially since some of our members have rare cars or single editions such as from famous movies. The team started with only 10 members, but currently has more than 400 members, which indicates wide interest in this hobby. Meanwhile, the great success Kuwaiti youth have achieved with us is something we are proud of, and also that Kuwait hosts the biggest vintage car exhibition in GCC countries."

Abdulrahman Al-Hajji, member of Q8 Team and a participant in the exhibition, said that the atten-



dance this year at the exhibition was great. "Most of the people interested in classic cars are elderly or the new generation, who didn't have the chance to see these cars before. This exhibition is a great opportunity for them to learn about old cars and watch them in person," he said. "Most classic car enthusiasts are interested in learning more about vintage car maintenance and their manufacture in olden times."

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Kuwait, Years From Now Student Art Competition 2022

10 October - 13 November 2022

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

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

Strategic Partner
ZAIN

KUWAIT: Waleed Al-Khashti with Zain's team at the company's booth.

Zain Platinum Sponsor of 965 Outlet Expo

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of 965 Outlet Expo, the unique 4-day shopping exhibition held at Arraya Ballroom. The event featured many distinguished and luxury brands that offered the best services and products to visitors and shoppers.

Zain's support to this special event comes as part of its ongoing efforts to empower local businesses and entrepreneurs in line with its solid and well-focused Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy. The company continuously works towards identifying unique initiatives like 965 Outlet Expo that carry a clear objective of empowering the next generation of Kuwaiti businesses that are well-capable of contributing to national economy.

Zain was present at the event via its dedicated booth, where the company offered the best digital services to its customers and the expo's visitors, as well as presented special offers and smartphone accessories. The company also provided shoppers with its recycled bags, made out of Zain's outdoor billboard ads so they may use them while shopping in place of plastic bags. Zain was keen on encouraging sustainable shopping and raising environmental awareness.

965 Outlet aims to support retail businesses to promote and offer their products and services in a refreshed and enjoyable social setting along with their peers. Although the exhibition centers around supporting local businesses, it has also featured companies and brands from around the region and the world, including Bahrain, UAE, Lebanon, Egypt, and India.

Zain is always keen on supporting and encouraging outstanding projects that uplift local talents to higher levels. The company's support is aimed at investing in the creative abilities of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and business owners, preparing them to engage in the market by nurturing their creativity and innovation.



S Africa crowns new Zulu king at mega party

UK navy investigates claims of sexual harassment

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SHIRAZ, Iran: Mourners take part in a funeral for victims of a mass shooting at a key shrine earlier in the week that killed more than a dozen worshippers, in Iran's southern city of Shiraz, on October 29, 2022. — AFP

Iran's Guards chief says stay home

At least 160 protesters killed, including more than two dozen children

PARIS: Students led the way Saturday in protests across Iran over Mahsa Amini's death, even as the commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guards told them: "Do not come to the streets." Security forces had targeted a hospital and a student dormitory overnight, a rights group said, as the protest movement that flared over the 22-year-old's death entered a seventh week.

Amini died in custody on September 16 after her arrest in Tehran for an alleged breach of Iran's strict dress rules for women based on Islamic sharia law. Security forces have struggled to contain the protests, which started with women taking to the streets and burning their hijab headscarves and have evolved into a broader campaign to end the Islamic republic founded in 1979.

Students protested on Saturday, the start of the working week in Iran, at campuses in Tehran, Kerman in the country's south, and the western city of Kermanshah, among others, online videos showed. "Shameless, shameless," students shouted as they clashed with security personnel at a university in Ahvaz, southwest Iran, in footage published by the 1500tasvir social media channel.

Security forces fired gunshots and tear gas at a gathering of university students in the flashpoint western city of Sanandaj, said Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights (IHR). The students turned out even as Major General Hossein Salami, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, told

demonstrators: "Do not come to the streets! Today is the last day of the riots."

Salami was addressing mourners who gathered in Shiraz to bury worshippers killed Wednesday in a mass shooting at a shrine in the southern city.



"Today is the last day of the riots"

Gunfire outside hospital

The massacre at the Shah Cheragh mausoleum came on the same day that thousands paid tribute to Amini across Iran, 40 days after her death in police custody. Ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi appeared Thursday to link the shrine attack, one of the country's deadliest in years, to what his government calls "riots" sparked by Amini's death.

Commemorations were also held Saturday for protesters killed in a what Amnesty International

has labelled an "unrelenting brutal crackdown".

"Death to the dictator," mourners chanted at a ceremony to mark 40 days since the slaying of a protester in the western city of Divandarreh, using a slogan aimed at supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Rights groups say riot police shot Mohsen Mohammadi, 28, during protests in Divandarreh on September 19, and he died the next day at Kausar hospital in Sanandaj.

Dozens of people who had gathered outside the same hospital late Friday to protect another wounded protester came under fire from the security forces, the Hengaw rights group said. "People who had gathered in front of the Kausar Sanandaj hospital to defend Ashkan Mrwati were shot at by repressive forces," said the Norway-based organisation. "These forces want to capture Ashkan Mrwati while he is injured," it said, before tweeting an image it said was of him lying on a gurney and responding to a medic. Soon after, Hengaw said, the same security forces also "fired at the nearby student dorm" of the Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences.

In online footage verified by AFP, security forces are seen arriving on more than a dozen motorbikes before shooting up into the dormitory building. In other verified footage, security forces are seen firing tear gas late Friday into a residential block in the Tehran neighbourhood of Chitgar

where a massive protest was held the night before.

'CIA plot'

Female students chanting on a street in Kermanshah on Saturday came under fire from the security forces, wounding some of them, including two critically, Hengaw said. The demonstrations have continued despite a crackdown that IHR said Friday had killed at least 160 protesters, including more than two dozen children.

At least another 93 people were killed during separate protests that erupted on September 30 in the southeastern city of Zahedan over the reported rape of a teenage girl by a police commander, says the rights group.

Worshippers in Zahedan came under automatic gunfire on Friday as they emerged from weekly prayers, said the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. At least 20 security personnel have been killed in the Amini protests, and at least another eight in Zahedan, according to an AFP tally based on official reports. Iran has sought to portray the movement as a plot hatched by its arch-enemy the United States.

In a joint statement on Friday, Iran's intelligence ministry and the Guards' intelligence services said the CIA had been conspiring with spy agencies in Israel, Britain and Saudi Arabia "to spark riots" in Iran and set up networks of "accomplices" among other acts. —AFP

Brazil rivals stage final rallies

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil: Brazil's presidential candidates were gearing up for their final rallies Saturday in a scramble for votes on the eve of a white-knuckle election that has deeply polarized Latin America's largest economy.

The 77-year-old charismatic leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, tarnished by graft allegations, remains a hair's breadth ahead in the polls after a narrow first-round victory. But many see the race against controversial far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, 67, as too close to call.

The two men came face to face for the last time Friday night in their final debate, which featured mutual accusations of lying, corruption and disastrous management. The run-off campaign has been a dirty, gloves-off battle for every last vote between two men adored and hated in almost equal measure.

In Belo Horizonte, the capital of key state Minas Gerais, Bolsonaro supporters gathered in the bright green and yellow colors of Brazil that they have adopted to cheer on the hardline conservative at a motorcycle rally.

"I am sure he will win," said small business owner Fabricia Alves, 36. He said he supports the incumbent because he has seen the economy picking up after the COVID-19 pandemic, and "for the values" he sees as key.

"I am against abortion and gender ideology, which is what the other party wants to impose on our country," Lula reiterated in Friday's debate that

he was anti-abortion—a delicate issue in socially conservative Brazil.

Bolsonaro is seeking reelection after a first term in which he was accused of mishandling the pandemic, which left more than 685,000 dead in Brazil. His tenure was marked by vitriolic attacks on his perceived rivals, ranging from the judiciary to women and foreign leaders.

In campaign ads, Bolsonaro apologized for his occasional "slightly aggressive" tone, and he has boasted of reduced crime rates, a drop in unemployment figures and curbed inflation. His hardline conservative fans love his focus on "God, country, family and freedom."

On Saturday, Brazil's electoral authorities dispatched electronic ballot boxes across the country, from cities to remote Indigenous areas in the Amazon, reported Globo News. "We are absolutely certain that Sunday will be a day of celebration of democracy, a celebration of popular choice. I am sure that all 156 million Brazilians will respect the result of the election." Top electoral judge Alexandre de Moraes told Brazil's biggest network. Bolsonaro on Friday night made one of his clearest pledges yet to respect the election result if he loses, after a campaign in which he has repeatedly attacked the voting system as fraudulent and said he would not accept the results of an "abnormal" vote.

"There isn't the slightest doubt: Whoever gets the most votes, wins. That's democracy," he said. Lula will make his final appearance in Sao Paulo, Brazil's economic powerhouse, later on Saturday. The leftist, Brazil's president from 2003 to 2010, is seeking a spectacular comeback, telling voters they are choosing between "democracy and barbarism, between peace and war." —AFP

Intruder hunting Pelosi attacks her husband with hammer

WASHINGTON: An intruder attacked the husband of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with a hammer, fracturing his skull, after breaking into their California home on Friday in search of her. Paul Pelosi was "attacked at home by an assailant who acted with force and threatened his life while demanding to see the speaker," Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said.

Paul Pelosi, 82 — who underwent surgery and is recovering in hospital—was at home alone, as his wife was working in Washington. San Francisco police said officers found the assailant at the couple's home just before 2:30 am (0930 GMT), where he and Paul Pelosi were scuffling over a hammer. "The suspect pulled the hammer away from Mr Pelosi and violently assaulted him with it," San Francisco police chief Bill Scott told reporters, saying later that Paul Pelosi was hit at least once. He identified the assailant as 42-year-old David Depape but declined to take questions.

At a press conference Friday evening, Scott said the suspect was still in hospital, adding he could not yet publicly reveal the alleged motivation for the crime. "This was not a random act," Scott said. "This was intentional, and it is wrong." "Everybody should be disgusted about what happened this morning."

US media, citing family sources, said the intruder told Paul Pelosi he was going to tie him up and wait

for the speaker to get home. The victim managed to dial 911 while the man was distracted, according to an account given to cable network MSNBC.

Local media had earlier reported that the intruder shouted "Where's Nancy?" during the assault. Scott said Depape would be charged with attempted homicide, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary and other felonies.

"Mr. Pelosi was admitted to Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital where he underwent successful surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands," the speaker's spokesman added.

"His doctors expect a full recovery," Nancy Pelosi—who is second in line to the presidency—and the couple's five children were reported to be returning to San Francisco to be by his side. Addressing a campaign rally in Philadelphia on Friday evening, President Joe Biden called the attack "despicable" and said that political violence had "no place" in the United States.

"Enough is enough is enough," he added. Earlier in the day, Biden, also 82, had called Pelosi to express support and said he was praying for her husband, the White House said. "He is... very glad that a full recovery is expected. The president continues to condemn all violence, and asks that the family's desire for privacy be respected," Biden's press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

The intruder broke in through a sliding-glass door, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing unnamed law enforcement officers, leaving him with wounds to the head and body. He had espoused extreme right-wing positions on social media, including conspiracy theories about COVID-19, one of the officers told the daily newspaper. —AFP

International

In Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp, a new generation of Syrians born in exile

Half of the camp's residents are children, and many have no memory of Syria

ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan: Ten years after fleeing war in her native Syria, Hadeel is expecting a third child, brought into a life of poverty and uncertainty at the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. The squalid camp, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the capital Amman, is home to some 80,000 Syrian refugees, according to the United Nations.

Half of the camp's residents are children, and many have no memory of Syria. "I was hoping to be at home, in my country," Hadeel said, asking to use a pseudonym for safety concerns. "Fate decided I would be here, get married and give birth to my children here."

Like most refugees in the camp, she and her family arrived from Syria's southern Daraa province, the cradle of the 2011 uprising against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. The ensuing war has killed nearly half a million people and displaced around half of the country's pre-war population.

Hadeel, who is six months pregnant, married a Syrian refugee who also lives in Zaatari, and the couple have two children, aged six and seven. At least 168,500 Syrian babies have been born in Jordan since 2014, according to the UN, part of an estimated one million children born to Syrians in exile across the world over the same period. Many are born in overcrowded refugee camps, with limited access to education and the threat of child labour and forced marriage hanging over them.

'Where is Syria?'

Sat on a red plastic chair in a large hall, Hadeel awaited a checkup at the only clinic in the camp that delivers babies. "My children grew up here.

When they hear me talking to other women about Syria, they ask me, 'Mama, where is Syria? Why do we live in this?'" said Hadeel.

"I try to explain to them that this is not our country. We are refugees. It's difficult for them to understand". Some 675,000 Syrian refugees are registered with the UN in Jordan, but Amman estimates the real figure to be about twice that and says the cost of hosting them has exceeded \$12 billion.

While fighting in southern Syria has abated, Hadeel said it still is not safe enough to return. Her cousin, "fed up" with the camp, returned to Syria earlier this year. He was killed less than a month later, and his widow and five children still in Zaatari do not know how he died. "The bad security situation makes us think a thousand times before returning," Hadeel said.

Family planning

The maternity ward at the UN-run clinic—the camp's biggest health facility with 60 staff including 21 midwives—has 10 beds. The clinic's director Ghada al-Saad said the facility "works 24/7, offering everything for free, including medicines, treatments, tests and vaccinations" up to the age of two.

Midwife Amon Mustafa, 58, who has worked there since the camp opened in 2012, checks on the new mothers. "We deliver between five and 10 babies every day, with the five today, the total number of births in the camp has reached 15,963," Mustafa said. "I know most of the women and children in the camp," she added with a smile.

Naghah Shagran, 20, holding her newborn son, has spent nine years in the camp, where she and her cousin married. "At first we hesitated to have



ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan: Refugee girls take part in awareness-raising activities at the Adolescent Girls Empowerment Led (AGEL) center at the Zaatari camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan. — AFP

our first child," she said. "Every human... has the right to be born and live in his or her country, but what can we do?"

Mustafa said staff "are trying" to educate women on family planning and the use of contraceptives, but uptake is limited. "Children are a blessing, but I hope this will be my last pregnan-

cy," said Eman Rabie, 28, expecting her fourth child. "My husband loves children; he says they are a blessing from God."

Rabie's home in Daraa was destroyed during the war. "If we are asked to leave the camp and go back to Syria," she said, "I will be the last to leave". — AFP

UN steps up troop as DR Congo rebels take more territory

GOMA: Rebels seized more territory in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Saturday, prompting the UN peacekeeping mission to increase its "troop alert level" and boost support for the army. The M23 rebel fighters had seized control of two localities along the strategic RN2 highway in the eastern province of North Kivu, local officials and witnesses told AFP by telephone.

Rebels had also been seen at Rugari, just 30 kilometres (20 miles) down the RN2 from provincial capital Goma, which it links with the north and Uganda. "Kiwanja and Rutshuru-centre are in M23 hands," said civil society representative Jacques Niyonzima.

"The rebels have held two meetings and told local people to go about their work and those displaced to return to their villages, saying security was now guaranteed," he said from Kiwanja. A general hospital official in Rutshuru added: "There were several wounded in Kiwanja after a small amount of resistance." "Calm has returned. People are moving about and shops are opening," the official said, ask-

ing not to be named.

The MONUSCO mission condemned "the hostile acts of M23", the rebel group, and called for an immediate halt to the fighting. The DRC army had made no comment by mid-afternoon Saturday on the latest rebel reports.

But the MONUSCO said on Twitter it was providing "air support, intelligence and equipment" as well as medical assistance. The peacekeepers said they were "mobilised in support" of DRC's army after residents reported at least ten people dead since Sunday and dozens more injured near RN2.

The MONUSCO said it had set up an "operations coordination centre" with the army and was carrying out reconnaissance and surveillance flights, but did not provide further details about the alert level. M23, a mostly Congolese Tutsi group, resumed fighting in late 2021 after lying dormant for years.

It has since captured swathes of territory in North Kivu, including the key town of Bunagana on the Ugandan border in June. The frontline between Congolese troops and M23 rebels had been calm in recent weeks until last week, when clashes erupted again. Last Sunday, M23 fighters captured the village of Ntamugenga in the Rutshuru area. It lies four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the RN2 where the clashes spread on Thursday. The UN humanitarian affairs office in the DRC said this week around 34,500 people had fled the Rutshuru region. — AFP

120 killed in Halloween...

Continued from Page 1

President Yoon Suk-yeol ordered officials to dispatch first aid teams and to swiftly secure hospital beds for those affected, the presidential office said. Video footage from the scene of the crush showed people performing emergency first aid on several

45 killed as storm lashes...

Continued from Page 1

In the Mindanao village of Kusiong, home to around 100 people, bulldozers and backhoes attempted to remove a thick layer of limestone rock and mud after parts of a nearby mountain collapsed on Friday. Fourteen people have so far been pulled from the debris and more are still missing in the community. "Had she died of illness it would have been less painful," villager Mercedes Mocadef told AFP as she stood by three bodies, one of which turned out to be the daughter of her cousin. The dead girl's mother was also lost in the disaster.

Landslides and flash floods originating from largely deforested mountainsides have been among the deadliest hazards posed by typhoons in the Philippines in recent years. "It could be more than a hundred," Lester Sinsuat, mayor in the nearby town of Datu Odin Sinsuat, told AFP when asked how many were feared dead. Regional civil defense chief Naguib Sinarimbo said "this is already a retrieval operation because the village (Kusiong) has been buried under rock and mud for more than a day".

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr rebuked local civil defense officials in Mindanao over their preparations for the storm during a televised meeting Saturday. "It will be important for us

victims who appeared to be prone on the pavement, while rescue workers rushed to help others.

Yellow-jacketed policemen formed a cordon around the site of the crush, with rescue officials loading victims - some of whom were covered with blankets - into ambulances. Around two dozen people were entirely covered by makeshift blankets on the roadside. Emergency workers carried them off on wheeled stretchers to waiting ambulances. This year's Halloween is the first celebration of the event since the pandemic broke out in 2020 at which South Koreans have not been mandated to wear face masks outdoors. — AFP

to look back and see why this happened. Why did we fail to evacuate them? Why do we have such a high casualty (figure)?" he said.

Mindanao is rarely hit by the 20 or so typhoons that strike the Philippines each year, but storms that do reach the region tend to be deadlier than in Luzon and central parts of the country. The state weather service said the eye of Nalgae was expected to pass south of the capital Manila, a sprawling metropolis of more than 13 million people, in the early evening Saturday.

Photos released by the Philippine coastguard showed rescuers using an old refrigerator as a boat to pull children from a flooded community on the central island of Leyte. The storm struck at the beginning of a long weekend in the Philippines when millions return to their hometowns to visit the graves of dead relatives. "If it's not necessary or important, we should avoid going out today because it is dangerous," said national civil defense director Rafaelito Alejandro, adding that 5,000 rescue teams were on standby.

The coastguard has suspended ferry services throughout most of the country due to rough seas, stranding thousands of passengers at ports. The civil aviation office meanwhile said it has shelved more than 100 flights. Storms kill hundreds of people in the Philippines yearly and keep vast regions in perpetual poverty, with residents also having to grapple with frequent earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and in some areas armed insurgencies. Scientists have warned that storms are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of climate change. — AFP

UK navy probes claims of sexual harassment

LONDON: The head of the British Royal Navy has announced a probe after several whistle-blowers made allegations of widespread sexual harassment of female staff on submarines. The Daily Mail on Saturday published a story based on an interview with Sophie Brook, a former naval lieutenant, who described a "constant campaign of sexual bullying" including male crew members putting the names of female colleagues on a "rape list".

The article also quoted two unnamed whistle-blowers who backed her account. First Sea Lord Ben Key, the professional head of the navy, said in a statement to the newspaper that he had called for an investigation to be carried out by his senior team and was "deeply disturbed" by the "abhorrent" allegations.

"Sexual assault and harassment has no place in the Royal Navy and will not be tolerated," Key said, and anyone found culpable would "be held accountable" regardless of rank. Brook, 30, had been tipped to become a submarine commander but became suicidal and self-harmed as a result of the culture on board and was ultimately dismissed by the navy.

The Royal Navy's submarine service only began admitting women in 2011. Male superiors would routinely address her using a sexual obscenity, Brook said. She learnt she was number six on a list of which female crew members would be raped first in the event of a catastrophe. A married colleague exposed himself to her and another climbed into her bed when she was asleep, she said.

One woman who formally complained about naked pictures of women on display in a working area was "frozen out" and unable to advance, Brook said. She began self-harming at 21, two years after joining the navy.

After needing stitches for one injury, the doctor asked for her to be taken off duties, but she was put on watch immediately afterwards with "total responsibility" for the nuclear submarine, she said.

Emma Norton, director of the Centre for Military Justice, a charity that gives legal aid to victims of harassment, told Sky News that only around 10 percent of women who experience serious bullying and harassment in the service make a formal complaint because "they have no faith that they'll get any kind of justice or a fair hearing".

Norton said the Royal Navy had failed to act on repeated recommendations for greater independent oversight into such complaints. A retired navy rear admiral, Chris Parry, told the BBC: "Some of the sexualised behaviour that we see in the normal working place is transferred to submarines, as you would expect". — AFP

Musk soothes critics with...

Continued from Page 1

misinformation. European politicians were quick to signal to Musk that the continent had regulations for social media companies. "In Europe, the bird will fly by our rules," tweeted Thierry Breton, the EU internal market commissioner.

Musk had vowed to dial back content moderation and was expected to clear the way for Trump to return to the platform. The then-president was blocked over concerns he would ignite more violence like the 2021 deadly attack on the US Capitol to overturn his election loss. Taking to his own Truth Social platform, Trump said he was "very happy that Twitter is now in sane hands" - but gave no commitment to rejoin if allowed. Far-right users were quick to rejoice at Musk's ownership, posting comments such as "masks don't work" and other taunts, under the belief that moderation rules would now be relaxed.

Yale University philosophy professor Jason Stanley, who has characterized Trump's rise as a sign of mounting fascism in the United States, said he would alter his approach to posting. "For the moment I am staying on Twitter. But I am going to try to be much more careful about what I say now that Elon Musk is in charge. Cascading hate speech targeting can destroy your week," he said.

Rightwing political commentator Ben Shapiro said he gained 40,000 Twitter followers Friday, while the actor Mark Hamill, a liberal, said he had lost almost 6,000 followers over the last three days. Musk reportedly fired Twitter chief executive Parag Agrawal and other senior officials - though the company did not reply to a request for comment and Agrawal still listed himself as CEO on his Twitter profile.

But Ned Segal, Twitter's chief financial officer since 2017, announced his departure. "At its

best, (Twitter) democratizes communication and knowledge, ensuring accountability and equal distribution of info," Segal said. "It's a huge responsibility for everyone that shares in the work. I wish them strength, wisdom and foresight."

On Friday, employees filled the San Francisco headquarters. "There were more people in the office today than I've ever seen since COVID," said an employee who asked to remain anonymous. "Elon brought in teams of engineers from Tesla to do some evaluations. I would be very surprised if there were not some reductions of the workforce soon." Musk, who is using a combination of his own money, funds from wealthy investors and bank loans to finance the deal, has conceded he is overpaying for a company that has regularly posted eye-watering losses.

Twitter says it has 238 million daily users - dwarfed by the likes of Facebook's nearly two billion - and has not been able to monetize in the same way as its rivals. But it holds an outsized influence on public debate because it is the favored platform for many companies, politicians, journalists and other public figures. Though he has vowed that Twitter will not become a "free-for-all hellscape", Musk reportedly plans deep staff cuts that would gut teams that oversee content.

Despite Musk posting a letter to advertisers saying he wants Twitter to be a forum where rival viewpoints can be debated in a "healthy manner", US auto giant General Motors said Friday it has "temporarily paused" paid ads on the platform. "We are engaging with Twitter to understand the direction of the platform under their new ownership," said a GM spokesman.

Media watchdog Media Matters for America sounded the alarm over the future of a Musk-led Twitter, particularly the impact on imminent US midterm elections. The platform "is now on a glide path to becoming a supercharged engine of radicalization" and a "fever swamp of dangerous conspiracy theories, partisan chicanery, and operationalized harassment," the organization's head Angelo Carusone said. — AFP

International

South Africa crowns new Zulu king at mega party

‘It’s a day of great joy for the Zulu people’

DURBAN: A new Zulu King was formally enthroned as the head of South Africa’s most influential traditional monarchy at a colourful ceremony on Saturday attended by tens of thousands. President Cyril Ramaphosa handed over a giant framed certificate officially recognising the 48-year-old new ruler Misuzulu Zulu in the coastal city of Durban.

“Our king, is indeed officially the King of the Zulu nation and the only king of the Zulu nation,” said Ramaphosa to loud applause at an 85,000-seater stadium. The king vowed to promote “peace and reconciliation” and to “be a catalyst” for development. The coronation of the ruler of the country’s richest monarchy comes after a year of bitter feuding over the royal succession that has spilled into the courts. Misuzulu ascended the throne once held by his late father, Goodwill Zwelithini, who died in March 2021 — after more than 50 years on the throne.

The crowning which followed a traditional coronation ceremony in August, is the first South Africa has witnessed in more than half a century. “This historic moment only comes once in a lifetime, many of us will never see this historic moment again,” said Ramaphosa.

Although the title of king does not bestow executive power, the monarchs wield great moral influence over more than 11 million Zulus, who make up nearly a fifth of South Africa’s population of 60 million people.

Amabutho, or royal regiments, clad in traditional skirts, leopard skin tops, and carrying shields and sticks chanted songs of praise for their king. Singing

and blowing whistles as they slowly glided around the pitch, women wore broad-brimmed Zulu hats and traditional wraps.

Young girls — some bare breasted — in equally brightly coloured pleated skirts and beads, excitedly danced and ululated in the Moses Mabhida Stadium, built for the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament.

‘Great day for’ Zulus

Londolo Zungu, 49, was among the women at the party. “We are very happy, more than happy, we are supporting the king 100 percent,” she told AFP. Khaya Ndwandwe, a Zulu historian, said government’s recognition of Misuzulu as “the real king of the Zulu people” means “now the king will be more than protected”. “It’s a day of great joy for the Zulu people,” said Ndwandwe. The ceremony was given rolling live coverage on all of South Africa’s largest television stations and media outlets.

A long grey feather stuck out from the king’s hair, while a bunch of black feathers were arranged on the back of his head as he sat on a throne covered in leopard skin. Head of the Anglican church in South Africa Archbishop Thabo Makgoba dabbed holy oil on the king’s hands, face and head as crowds looked on.

“As you embark upon your reign as king ... I believe you are being called to step up and emulate the highest traditions of your ancestors,” said Makgoba. In his acceptance speech, the king pledged to work for progress as the world grapples “poverty, unemployment, trust deficit in government and traditional leadership structures, climate change



DURBAN: Amabutho, Zulu King regiments, clad in traditional dresses and carrying shields and sticks, are seen at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on October 29, 2022, for the handover of the official certificate of recognition for the Zulu King Misuzulu. —AFP

disasters, economic meltdown”.

Among the delegates were King Mswati III of Africa’s last absolute monarchy, Eswatini, who is also an uncle to the new Zulu king. Two of South Africa’s ex-presidents, Jacob Zuma and Thabo Mbeki, were also present. Zulu kings are descendants of King

Shaka, the 19th-century leader still revered for having united a large swathe of the country as the Zulu nation, which fought bloody battles against the British colonisers. King Zwelithini, who died after more than 50 years in charge, left six wives and at least 28 children. —AFP

Xi invokes Mao in visit to cradle of Communist revolution

BEIJING: Dressed in matching navy windbreakers and flanking President Xi Jinping, China’s freshly appointed top leadership this week made their first group outing to the Communist Party’s “holy land”.

Xi’s choice to visit Yan’an—a site inextricably linked with Communist China’s founder Mao Zedong—was an important, deliberate indication of the themes of his next five years at the helm, analysts said.

Xi has centralised and personalised power more than any Chinese leader since Mao, culminating in his being anointed with a historic third term following last weekend’s Communist Party (CCP) Congress. The new Politburo Standing Committee he shepherded around the popular “Red tourism” destination on Thursday consists solely of his loyal allies. “The signal with the visit to Yan’an is one of celebrating a parallel (with Mao) and brooking no opposition,” wrote Manoj Kewalramani from the Takshashila Institution in Bengaluru, India.

A 16-minute news segment about the visit on state broadcaster CCTV showed several portraits of Mao, and a report by the official Xinhua news agency mentioned the former leader’s name 14 times. The itinerary included visits to Mao’s former residence, as well as a hall where a pivotal CCP meeting in 1945 confirmed him as chairman, apparently showcasing Xi’s deep interest in party history and its influence on his rhetoric and policies.

But it also harked back to an era when the CCP



YAN’AN, China: File photo taken on October 15, 2022 shows a child posing for photos at Zaoyuan Revolutionary Former Site in Yan’an city, China’s northwest Shaanxi province, on the eve of the 20th Communist Party Congress. —AFP

relied on mass “struggle” to win a bloody civil war, which observers believe has parallels with how Beijing views the current geopolitical climate. “Among the signals Xi appears to be sending... is prepare for difficult times ahead, and prepare for struggle,” analyst Bill Bishop wrote in his Sinocism newsletter.

Xi took the 2012 standing committee to an exhibition about national rejuvenation in Beijing, and the

2017 one to the site of the first CCP Congress in Shanghai. “The first travels after each Party Congress seems to be about ‘remember the original mission’,” tweeted the Australian National University’s Wen-Ti Sung. According to state media, Xi on Thursday vowed that his new standing committee would “inherit and carry forward the fine revolutionary traditions formed by the party during the Yan’an period”. —AFP

US SC to consider race-conscious university admissions

WASHINGTON: After abortion and guns, the US Supreme Court tackles another controversial and sensitive issue on Monday—the use of race in deciding who gets admitted to some of America’s top universities.

And the conservative-dominated court may be poised to make another historic U-turn, like it did in June when it overturned the landmark 1973 “Roe v. Wade” decision guaranteeing a woman’s right to abortion. The court is to hear two hours of oral arguments on the use of race in admissions to Harvard and the University of North Carolina (UNC) — respectively the oldest private and public institutions of higher education in the country.

Harvard and UNC, like a number of other competitive schools, use race as a factor in trying to ensure representation of minorities, historically African Americans, in the student body. The policy known as “affirmative action” emerged from the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1960s to “help address our country’s long history of discrimination and systemic inequality in higher education,” said Yasmin Cader, deputy legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

It has been controversial from the start, drawing fire mostly from the right, and a number of white students have mounted legal challenges over the years, claiming “reverse discrimination.” Nine states have banned affirmative action at public universities including California, where voters did so in a ballot proposition in 1996 and rebuffed an attempt to revive the policy in 2020. The Supreme Court has previously upheld affirmative action, most recently in 2016 by a single vote, but its opponents believe the current right-leaning bench will lend a more sympathetic ear to their arguments. —AFP

Philippine mum recounts massive landslide escape

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Philippines: As midnight approached and floodwaters rose around her, mother-of-three Chonalyn Sapi sought refuge at her local village chapel in the southern Philippines province of Maguindanao del Norte, only to find it was already filled with her neighbours.

Desperate to find shelter before tropical storm Nalgae hit, she and others ran uphill in the dark, as boulders, mud and debris rumbled down the mountain in a massive landslide that would go on to bury the nearby hamlet of Kusiong, their home.

“We didn’t sleep that night after the rain started,” Sapi, one of the few survivors of the deluge, told AFP. “At midnight it was already mud, not water. Some ran to the school, while the others chose the church. Some were already asleep.”

Sapi said those who reached the local high school building survived, but those in the church—including two elderly relatives of hers—were buried beneath the mud. “We did not even have a flashlight. It was really dark. We heard the rumbling of boulders rolling down the mountain. You could not mistake it for anything else,” she said.

Miraculously, she, her husband, and their two younger children were unscathed. Soaking wet and shivering in the cold, they waited out the deluge on the hillside for three hours. Just before dawn, the rain abated, and the family gingerly picked its way back down to the devastated village, wading through torrents of water. Viewed through drone footage, the impact of the landslide was staggering. It created a massive mound of debris the size of about 10 football fields, just below several picturesque mountain peaks carpeted in yellow-green grass.

Looking for bodies

Rescuers clad in the orange vests of the local fire department and armed with shovels poked beneath the galvanised iron roofing sheets of the homes that were half-buried in the rock and mud, looking for

bodies. About 60 houses were buried, while a few others made of lighter materials were swept down towards the road below, said Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Almorato, spokesman for an army division tasked with helping rescue efforts.

“That area is at the foot of the mountain. The heavy rain could have softened up the slopes,” Almorato told AFP. Fourteen bodies have been recovered from the village so far. They are among 40 confirmed deaths in a series of flash floods and landslides that swept through the southern Philippines ahead of Nalgae’s landfall on Saturday.

The mayor of the nearby municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Lester Sinsuat, told AFP up to 100 people could have been buried in the rubble. Mercedes Mocadef stood guard by the body of her niece, one of three cadavers retrieved by rescuers on Saturday. “Had she died of illness it would have been less painful,” Mocadef said, adding the dead young woman’s mother—her cousin—had also died, her body stored at a local morgue. The women are all members of the Teduray, one of the Philippines’ many small indigenous tribes who live hardscrabble lives on the edge of society. Sapi said they used to live along the coast, among a row of beach resorts located about half a kilometre (0.3 miles) below. —AFP



ZAMBOANGA, Philippines: Handout photo taken on October 28, 2022 shows rescue workers evacuating people from a flooded area due to heavy rain brought by Tropical Storm Nalgae in Zamboanga City. —AFP

News in brief

Morocco arrests 32 migrants

RABAT: Moroccan police on Friday arrested 32 migrants as they tried to set sail for Spain, authorities said, including six Moroccans and 26 from other African nations to the south. The group were arrested on the coast with an inflatable boat near the southern town of Tantan, which lies some 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Spain’s Canary Islands, the DGSN security service said. At least 11,500 migrants made their way to the Canary Islands this year, according to Spain. Caminando Fronteras, a Spanish group that helps migrant boats in trouble at sea and families searching for missing relatives, says 978 people have died while trying to reach Spain so far this year. Moroccan police have arrested dozens of migrants as well as several people smugglers since June, when some 2,000 mostly Sudanese nationals tried to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla. At least 23 people died in the attempt, the worst toll in years of such attempted crossings, and rights groups accused both Spanish and Moroccan authorities of using excessive force.

Australia repatriates 17 citizens

SYDNEY: Four women and 13 children were repatriated to Australia on Saturday, having languished for years in squalid Syrian detention camps after the downfall of the Islamic State. It was the first in a series of planned missions to bring back about 20 Australian women and 40 children—the wives, sons and daughters of vanquished IS fighters—from the notorious Al-Hol and Roj camps. Kamalle Dabboussy, whose daughter was among the group, said some of the children would need medical treatment. “Everyone is in a great space but there are some health conditions,” he told reporters. “A couple of the children have some serious health issues that we want to get checked out as soon as possible.” Dabboussy said his daughter Mariam, 31, had been “coerced” into travelling to Syria by her now-dead husband, and posed no threat to Australia.

India probe plane engine fire

NEW DELHI: India’s aviation regulator said Saturday it was probing an engine fire that broke out on a passenger jet just as it was about to take off from Delhi airport. The IndiGo airlines flight was carrying 184 people to tech hub Bengaluru and had just begun its thrust on the runway when the fire was spotted, forcing its pilot to return to the bay and evacuate the cabin. No injuries were reported and officials said the plane was emptied safely. “The priority is to carry out a detailed investigation of the incident and ascertain the reasons for the fire in the engine,” Arun Kumar, chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation told reporters. “Fortunately, the fire was extinguished swiftly and the aircraft is now grounded.” Passengers told local media they had heard a loud bang before spotting flames from the engine fire. IndiGo said the aircraft experienced a technical issue, “immediately after which the pilot aborted the take-off and the aircraft safely returned to the bay”. “All passengers and crew are safe and an alternative aircraft was arranged to operate the flight. —AFP

Business

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022



CALIFORNIA: A bicyclist passes by Twitter headquarters in San Francisco, California. After months of controversy, Elon Musk is now at the head of one of the most influential social networks on the planet, whose 'tremendous potential' he has promised to unleash. —AFP

Musk's takeover of Twitter sparks worries and cheers

'He is purging the company of responsible adults with expertise and experience'

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter sparked both concern and celebrations among users Friday, with many expecting radical changes in how the platform regulates comments. US billionaire Mark Cuban, known for his role on the "Shark Tank" entrepreneur reality show, said sardonically that he was "looking forward to" Musk captaining Twitter.

"He is a ready, fire, aim entrepreneur who will... flex his independence to show everyone who's in charge." Prominent media critic Jeff Jarvis warned that Musk's immediate management sackings at the

company presaged a new approach. "He's not 'cleaning house.' He is purging the company of responsible adults with expertise and experience," Jarvis wrote. "Be careful of your words."

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev, who exchanged sarcastic tweets over the Ukraine war a week ago, wished Musk "good luck... in overcoming political bias and ideological dictatorship on Twitter." "And quit that Starlink in Ukraine business," he added, referring to the Musk-controlled, satellite-based internet service now used heavily by Ukrainians. Activist and writer Amy Siskind said

Musk could actually dull Twitter's popularity by micromanaging it. "You are now at whim of a narcissist man child, whose ego is being puffed up by dictators. What could go wrong?" she wrote.

Indian actress Kangana Ranaut, who was banned from Twitter in May 2021 for violating policies against hateful and abusive behavior, urged supporters to lobby for her reinstatement now that Musk is in charge. Former president Donald Trump, who was also banned from Twitter and has since moved his commentary to Truth Social, the much smaller social media platform he helped create, said

Musk's takeover was a good thing.

"I am very happy that Twitter is now in sane hands, and will no longer be run by Radical Left Lunatics and Maniacs that truly hate our country," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Twitter must now work hard to rid itself of all of the bots and fake accounts that have hurt it so badly. It will be much smaller, but better." Trump, who helped make Twitter a force in politics before and during his presidency, sometimes tweeting a dozen times a day, did not say he was ready to return to the platform. — AFP

What will Musk's Twitter look like?

SAN FRANCISCO: After months of controversy, Elon Musk is now at the head of one of the most influential social networks on the planet, whose "tremendous potential" he has promised to unleash. What changes can we expect for the platform from the multi-billionaire chief executive of Tesla and founder of SpaceX?

New boss

One of Musk's first decisions was to sack Twitter chief executive Parag Agrawal, chief financial officer Ned Segal and head of legal affairs Vijaya Gadde, according to several US media outlets. The billionaire entrepreneur will have to find replacements for them. "Musk is in the unenviable position of convincing seasoned executives to work for him at a platform that he has publicly disparaged," said Jasmine Enberg, an analyst for Insider Intelligence. According to Bloomberg, Musk will assume the role of CEO of Twitter, at least initially. He'll have to deal with concerned employees. Musk wants to cut the workforce by 75 percent (or about 5,500 employees), according to the Washington Post. "The mood at Twitter is tense, with employees worried about layoffs," said Enberg. "Product and even engineering teams could face a shakeup."

Freedom of speech

A self-described "free speech absolutist," Musk said on Thursday that he wants to turn Twitter into a platform that is "warm and welcoming to all" and not a "free-for-all hellscape." He has criticized what he sees as aggressive content moderation, which he contends results in the censorship of right and far-right voices. "Experts we've spoken with have suggested around 600 people at Twitter itself and thousands more with third-party affiliations have worked on platform content moderation," said Scott Kessler of Third Bridge. "Musk has publicly advocated for these actions to be driven by algorithms instead of people," he added.

The Tesla boss further hinted that former US president Donald Trump, who was suspended from the platform after the attack on Capitol Hill in early



CALIFORNIA: Tesla CEO Elon Musk speaks during the unveiling of the new Tesla Model Y in Hawthorne, California. — AFP

2021, might be allowed to return. Trump wrote on Friday on his own social network Truth Social that Twitter is "in good hands." One of Musk's other pet peeves is the issue of fake accounts. He threatened to walk away from the deal over the inauthentic or "bot" accounts but has not revealed what he will do to fight them.

'Unpalatable to advertisers'

Another challenge for Elon Musk is to improve the financial health of Twitter, which faces slow growth, even recording a net loss in the second quarter. In April, Musk mentioned options to generate more revenue: boosting paid subscriptions, monetizing the dissemination of popular tweets or paying content creators. In a letter published Thursday, the entrepreneur called on Twitter advertisers to work together to "build something extraordinary," stressing the importance of welcoming a wide diversity of opinions on the platform.

"Mr Musk has indicated in his latest publicity stunt that he wants to throw the kitchen sink at Twitter to attract new users," noted Susannah Hargreave, senior investment and market analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. "But he is going to face a huge challenge of maintaining and building revenue, given that the controversial opinions he appears to want to give more of a free rein to in this 'global town hall' are often unpalatable to advertisers," she said. — AFP

Hackers, abusers, regulators may vex Musk at Twitter

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk's talk of slimming Twitter's staff and letting people post anything allowed by law is expected to clash with the reality of fending off hackers, trolls, police and regulators, experts say. If Musk guts Twitter staff or mass resignations hit the platform, it could mean "doom," said Rebekah Tromble, director of the Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics at George Washington University.

"No matter Musk's big vision, you need a highly skilled, knowledgeable workforce capable of (re)building a viable platform and responding to EU obligations," Tromble told AFP. Along with engineers, that includes legal and policy teams that keep user data safe and guard against dangerous posts. "There really, truly are almost countless ways that Twitter as a company has to think about safeguarding its users," Tromble said. Cybersecurity issues range from lone hackers out to cause mischief to organized groups and attacks by nation states.

Then there are "bad actors" who gang up to abuse targets on Twitter in a tactic referred to as "dog piling." "One of my greatest fears at the moment, is that a sort of large scale firing or even large scale resignations will mean that the already imperfect system will just backslide," Tromble said. Losing people from teams that fight intrusive demands by police or other government agencies for Twitter user data means experience walks out the door with them, Tromble added.

Tweet trouble

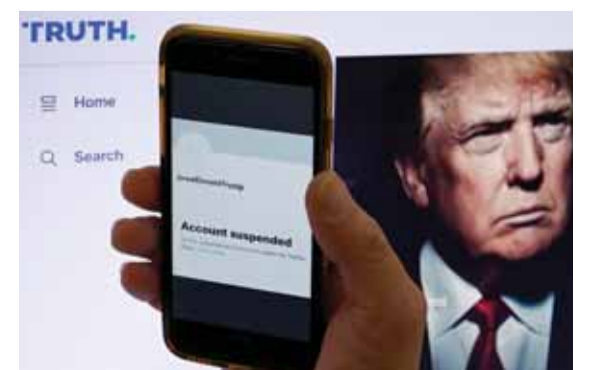
Musk is in for a wake-up call when it comes to taking a laissez faire approach to content moderation, according to Emma Llanso of the Center for Democracy and Technology. US law is permissive in terms of letting social media platforms decide content policies and not holding them accountable for what users post, but that could soon change, Llanso said.

The US Supreme Court, in a decision with potentially far-reaching ramifications, is set to hear

two cases challenging the legal immunity of internet companies from liability for content posted by their users. The top court in the United States may well decide to roll back how much social media firms like Twitter are immune to blame for content "recommended" to users. "There are any number of decisions content sorting algorithms must make regarding which tweets a user sees," Llanso said.

"Does that make them recommended?" Musk has said he wants to rely more on software and less on people for content moderation. The Supreme Court is also to consider cases concerning whether states can dictate content rules at social media platforms. And while there is currently strong legal footing for Musk to do as he wants with content moderation in the United States, laws are more restrictive in Europe and elsewhere. "Many countries around the world are really looking at cracking down on the broad leeway social media services have had till now on setting content policy the way they see fit," Llanso said.

Varying content moderation laws will also mean that Twitter has to figure out in real time what can be shown where. With Musk at the helm for just some 24 hours, malicious characters were already testing the limits of Twitter systems, Tromble noted. "And when hate speech, doxxing and harassment slip through the cracks, real harm occurs," Tromble said. "Doxxing" is the publication of private or identifying information about a person, often with malicious intent. — AFP



WASHINGTON: In this photo illustration, the suspended Twitter account of former US President Donald Trump is displayed on a mobile phone with former US President Trump's Truth's page shown in the background. — AFP

Business

Recession fears stalking Europe despite surprise German growth

Germany's economy grows unexpectedly in third quarter

FRANKFURT: Germany's economy unexpectedly grew in the third quarter, official data showed, but slowing growth in France and Spain added to fears that high inflation and an energy crisis will tip the region into recession. Europeans are bracing for a difficult winter as Russia crimps gas supplies in the wake of the Ukraine war, raising the specter of energy shortages and worsening a cost-of-living squeeze for millions. Despite the gloomy outlook, Germany surprised analysts by posting growth of 0.3 percent quarter-on-quarter, driven mainly by consumer spending.

France and Spain meanwhile reported 0.2 percent growth each from July to September, a sharp slowdown however from the 0.5 and 1.5 percent expansion they saw in the previous quarter. "The German economy managed to hold its ground despite... the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain interruptions, rising prices and the war in Ukraine," federal statistics agency Destatis said about the preliminary data. Germany narrowly eked out 0.1 percent growth in the second quarter, and analyst had predicted that Europe's biggest economy would shrink by 0.2 percent in the third quarter.

But economists warned that Friday's data merely provided a brief respite and that a downturn was coming, as Russia's war in Ukraine sends food and especially energy costs surging. Consumer price growth in the 19-nation euro-zone jumped to a record 9.9 percent in September, further depressing household income and raising costs for companies. "Today's positive growth data is a welcome surprise. However, it does not mean that the German economy will be able to prevent a recession," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski. "The recession is only delayed, not cancelled."

'Last hurrah'

Germany, whose energy-hungry industries play a vital role in its export prowess, relied heavily on Russian gas before the war and it has been hit harder than other EU nations by Moscow's cuts. The German government expects the economy to shrink by 0.4 percent in 2023. Adding to the country's woes, Destatis on Friday said Germany's annual inflation rate had climbed again to hit 10.4 percent in October, beating September's high of 10 percent. The country's largest union IG Metall called on workers in the metal and electronics industry to strike from Saturday in a push for an eight-percent wage hike as inflation erodes their salaries.

In France, the EU's second-largest economy, strong business investment helped to keep momentum going but the post-lockdown boost in the services sector was fading, analysts said. Anaemic French growth in the third quarter might be "the last hurrah before the recession," said Maxime Darmet, an economist at Allianz Trade. And with consumer prices in France soaring to 6.2 percent this month to their highest level since 1985, households "will feel severely the fall in their purchasing power," Darmet said.

French President Emmanuel Macron recently promised to support households through the difficult times in a rare TV interview, after the country was hobbled by weeks of strikes over pay by workers at oil refineries and fuel depots. In Spain, the slowing growth was largely down to poor performance in the real estate sector, where activity contracted by 2.5 percent, and a drop in exports and business investment. Only a strong tourism season and robust domestic demand spared the country from a contraction, said ING economist



MUNICH: Visitors check out exhibits on the outdoor area of the 'Bauma 2022' Trade Fair for Construction Machinery, Building Material Machines, Mining Machines, Construction Vehicles and Construction Equipment in Munich, southern Germany.— AFP

Wouter Thierie. Austria's economy, meanwhile, contracted by 0.1 percent in the third quarter, according to the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). But with many of the country's indicators flashing red, "we forecast a mild recession for the Spanish economy in the next two quarters," he said. The European

Central Bank on Thursday rolled out another bumper interest rate hike to combat inflation but acknowledged that higher borrowing costs would deepen the economic pain. The likelihood of a euro-zone recession was "looming much more on the horizon," ECB chief Christine Lagarde said.— AFP



SHANGHAI: People visit an Apple store in Shanghai.— AFP

Apple fuels tech share turnaround, lifting stocks

NEW YORK: Tech shares were back on their front foot following solid Apple results, boosting the Nasdaq nearly three percent and adding to weekly gains. Apple, the biggest company in terms of market value, soared nearly eight percent after reporting higher profits despite lower-than-expected iPhone sales.

Apple's surge helped offset a comparable drop in Amazon shares on a disappointing holiday-quarter forecast and added to buying momentum on Wall Street following a mixed day in global bourses and a drop in oil prices. "The stock market showed impressive resilience today," observed Briefing.com after the Dow's sixth straight positive session. The gains by Apple helped prompt an advance by large tech companies like Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet that were punished earlier in the week in a pullback that investors feared could mark a major negative turning point for tech giants.

Art Hogan, analyst at B. Riley Financial, said tech

shares benefited Friday from an "oversold rebound," adding that semiconductor shares were lifted by Facebook parent Meta's plan to boost investment in the metaverse. Stocks have also been boosted in recent sessions by hopes the Federal Reserve will soon moderate its policies to counter inflation.

Markets largely shrugged off a mixed US economic data that showed inflation lingering but also a jump in household spending. In Europe, Germany's economy unexpectedly grew in the third quarter, but slowing growth in France and Spain added to fears that high inflation and an energy crisis will tip the region into recession. "Today's positive growth data is a welcome surprise. However, it does not mean that the German economy will be able to prevent a recession," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

Elsewhere, the yen was down against the dollar after Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the country would spend \$260 billion on a stimulus package to cushion the weak economy. The yen has plunged to 32-year lows versus the dollar in recent weeks as Japan's central bank refuses to hike interest rates despite sky-high inflation, fueled by soaring energy prices. "The Japanese yen is once again the worst performer today after the Bank of Japan kept its monetary policy unchanged," said market analyst Michael Hewson at CMC Markets.— AFP

the Japanese currency this year, wiping out more than 20 percent of its value against the dollar.

The government hopes the 39 trillion yen in fiscal spending will rise to 72 trillion when private sector investments are taken into account, Kishida said after ministers approved an extra budget to partly fund the relief measures. "We want to protect people's livelihoods, employment and businesses, while strengthening our economy for the future," he told reporters, adding that the move should help push up GDP by 4.6 percent.

Prices are rising in Japan at their fastest rate in eight years, although the three-percent inflation rate remains well below the sky-high levels seen in the United States and elsewhere. Japan—which has one of the world's highest debt-to-GDP ratios—has already injected hundreds of billions of dollars into its economy over the past two years to support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Friday's package, funded by a special budget of \$200 billion, will include measures to encourage wage growth and support households with energy bills, which have spiked since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We'll aim to push down prices by more than 1.2 percent next year by lowering electricity bills by 20 percent and curbing gasoline prices," Kishida said. It is also designed to help people and businesses affected by the plummeting yen, currently at 147 against the dollar. Japan spent nearly \$20 billion in September in an effort to curb the yen's slide, and further expensive government interventions have reportedly taken place in recent days.—AFP

Heat waves cost global economy trillions of dollars

WASHINGTON: Heat waves, intensified by climate change, have cost the global economy trillions of dollars in the last 30 years, a study published Friday found, with poor countries paying the steepest price. And those lopsided economic effects contribute to widening inequalities around the world, according to the research.

"The cost of extreme heat from climate change so far has been disproportionately borne by the countries and regions least culpable for global warming," Dartmouth College professor Justin Mankin, one of the authors of the study published in the journal Science Advances, told AFP. "And that's an insane tragedy."

"Climate change is playing out on a landscape of economic inequality, and it is acting to amplify that inequality," he said. Periods of extreme heat cost the global economy about \$16 trillion dollars between 1992 and 2013, the study calculated. But while the richest countries have lost about 1.5 percent of their annual per capita GDPs dealing with heat waves, poorer countries have lost about 6.7 percent of their annual per capita GDPs. The reason for that disparity is simple: poor countries are often situated closer to the tropics, where temperatures are warmer anyway. During heat waves, they become even hotter.

The study comes just days ahead of the start of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, where the question of compensation for countries which are disproportionately vulnerable to but least responsible for climate

change is expected to be one of the key topics. The costs of heat waves come from several factors: effects on agriculture, strains on health systems, less productive workforces and physical damage to infrastructure, such as melting roads.

'Cost of inaction'

Study researchers examined five days of weather considered extreme for a specific region each year. "The general idea is to use variation in extreme heat, which is effectively randomly assigned to all these economic regions, and see the extent to which that accounts for variation in economic growth" in a given region, Mankin explained. "Then the second part is to say, 'ok, how has human-caused warming influenced extreme heat?'" he added.

Despite these calculations, the study results almost certainly underestimate the true cost of extreme heat, according to the paper-only studying five days per year does not reflect the increased frequency of such heat events, and not all potential costs were included. Previous studies on the subject had focused on the costs of heat to specific sectors, though scientists say it is important to look at the price tag of climate change holistically.

"You want to know what those costs are, so that you have a frame of reference against which to compare the cost of action," Mankin said, such as establishing cooling centers or installing air conditioners, versus "the cost of inaction." "The dividends economically of responding to the five hottest days of the year could be quite great," he said. But according to Mankin, the most important response is to reduce carbon emissions to slow down global warming at the source. "We need to adapt to the climate we have now, and we also need to deeply invest in mitigation," he said.— AFP



PUERTO WILLIAMS: Aerial view of the Puerto Williams port, the southernmost city in the world, Chile. There is a place at the end of the world, in the southernmost point of Chile, where pristine forests hide tiny systems in their depths that already give early warning of the global climate change that the planet is suffering.— AFP

EU to prolong aid for firms impacted by Ukraine war

BRUSSELS: The European Commission said it will keep allowing member states to offer limited subsidies and cheap loans to companies affected by the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices. The measures will stay in place until December 31, 2023, the commission said. The bloc first announced a relaxation of rules in March, and this was originally set to continue until the end of this year. The commission also raised the maximum limits on state support for companies. This can now total up to 300,000 euros (\$298,300) for companies in the agriculture and fisheries sectors—up from a previous EUR75,000.

It can be up to two million euros in all other sectors, up from the previous EUR500,000. Under the latest changes, companies can receive up to four million euros, double the previous limit, in support such as subsidized loans, tax benefits and guarantees to cope with the increase in gas and electricity prices. In the most energy-intensive sectors, such as mines and the steel industry, can even extend to 100 or 150 million euros. But for companies receiving the most aid, state support will be conditional on carbon footprint targets and "energy efficiency measures", the commission said. The commission is also widening the scope of the aid on offer. It will allow states to provide public guarantees to energy firms to help them cover an increase in the financial collateral needed for their transactions on the energy markets, which has posed major problems for cash-strapped companies. EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager said the measures adopted Friday would give member states "more flexibility to set up support schemes tailored to the needs of their economy".—AFP



TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks at a press conference at his official residence in Tokyo on October 28, 2022, to announce a new economic stimulus package.— AFP

Business

Canada changes rules, exerts control over critical minerals

Canada sanctions Russian energy executives, issues Ukraine bonds

OTTAWA: Canada has changed its investment rules to make it more difficult for foreign state-owned companies to buy into the critical minerals sector. The new stance followed a backlash over China's moves to secure supplies in Canada of dozens of essential elements such as cobalt, lithium and manganese that are used in solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicle batteries. Investments by foreign state-owned enterprises in Canada's critical minerals sector will only be approved on "an exceptional basis," the government said in a statement.

The higher scrutiny applies to all investments and not just takeovers of Canadian companies, as was previously the case. Industry Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said a foreign state-owned company's participation in such transactions could be sufficient grounds to block a deal on the basis that it "could be injurious to Canada's national security." Over the past two decades China has invested billions in Canada to secure supplies of critical minerals.

Most recently, Ottawa allowed Chinese state-owned Zijin Mining Group to acquire Canadian lithium firm Neo Lithium Corp in January. That led to parliamentary hearings and had put Champagne on the defensive. Touring a lithium recycling facility in Montreal with visiting Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly commented that demand for lithium was poised to increase by 4,000 percent. "The world needs criti-

cal minerals," she said. "Canada can become a hub for critical minerals."

Fresh sanctions

Canada on Friday announced fresh sanctions against 35 individuals and six companies in Russia's energy sector, as well as a bond issue to support Ukraine. The sanctions target oil and gas giant Lukoil and senior officials at Gazprom and its subsidiaries, as well as Russia's energy and industry ministers, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and former prime minister Viktor Zubkov.

Former National Hockey League player Alexander Frolov and chess grandmaster Anton Denchenko also made the list, which now covers more than 1,400 individuals and entities accused of complicity in Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Funds raised from the issuing of the five-year Ukraine bonds, meanwhile, aim to help Kyiv pay pensions and "keep the lights on," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a news conference. "Ukrainian sovereignty bonds are a way for Canadians to directly contribute to the fight against Russia, to support the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian government," he said.

Officials declined to say how much Ottawa hopes to raise through the bond issue, which is also open to foreign buyers. Proceeds will be channeled through an International Monetary Fund account set up in April for grants and loans to Ukraine. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, a community group



BAHIA STATE: A backhoe excavator pours Vanadium ore into a truck at Canadian based Strategic Mineral Company Largo Resources' pit, near Maracas, in Bahia state. Vanadium is primarily used as an alloy to strengthen steel for construction, automobile and aerospace industries. — AFP

representing the diaspora, praised Canada's move in offering the "ground-breaking investment in a peaceful, democratic and just future, not only for

Ukraine, but for all of Europe." "The UCC calls on all states who believe in freedom and liberty to follow Canada's example," it said in a statement. — AFP

US oil giants report huge profits in tight energy market

NEW YORK: A day after blockbuster profits from European oil heavyweights, US oil giants ExxonMobil and Chevron reported another round of bumper earnings, prompting fresh attention from the White House. ExxonMobil scored a near tripling of third-quarter profits to \$19.7 billion, a company record, while Chevron profits surged 84 percent to \$11.2 billion.

The eye-popping reports drew a new snipe from President Joe Biden and came on the heels of hefty profits reported earlier this week by TotalEnergies and Shell that have reignited a European debate on windfall profits taxes. The results show how the surge in crude prices in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has boosted the industry by lifting crude prices, as well as natural gas prices due to Europe's mobilization to offset lost natural gas imports from Russia.

Another factor has been elevated refining margins, partly due to operational woes at some plants, as well as the shuttering of some refineries during the pandemic and repurposing of other plants for renewable fuel instead of gasoline. The strong refining margins have translated into higher gasoline prices, a major point of focus in the midterm US elections roiled by rising inflation. Prices at the pump stand at a national average of \$3.76 per gallon, up about 11 percent from the year-ago level. Prices topped \$5 in June, hitting an all-time high.

Biden, who has alternated between slamming oil giants and prodding them to boost output, mocked a comment from ExxonMobil Chief Executive Daren Woods, who defended the industry's practice of returning extra cash to shareholders. Woods, responding to criticism that the industry should return profits to the American people, said "that's exactly what we're doing in the form of our quarterly dividend," according to prepared remarks Friday. Biden rejected that argument. "Can't believe I have to say this but giving profits to shareholders is not the same as bringing prices down for American families," Biden tweeted.

Tight market

Officials from ExxonMobil and Chevron have met with the Biden administration, but the companies have maintained their spending policies, boosting production in the US Permian Basin and some other venues incrementally, but not opening the spigots towards massive new projects. The companies have continued to return cash to shareholders. Chevron Chief Financial Officer Pierre Breber said the company planned for 2023 spending "near the top end of the range consistent with what our plans have been."

Chevron undertook a six percent dividend increase earlier this year and Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth said the company was currently at an "all time high rate" in terms of share repurchases. Wirth described the global gasoline market as strained, saying the supply-demand balance constitutes a market "we really haven't seen probably in my career in terms of overall tightness." Woods also described today's energy market in general as constrained. "I'm optimistic that with time... that markets will come back into balance," Woods told Wall Street analysts. "But it's a function of time."

Woods vowed to maintain ExxonMobil's policy of "capital discipline" and sharply criticized new taxes on the industry. "If you look at some of the windfall taxes that are being talked about within Europe, that's going to put additional pressure on refining margins," Woods said, adding that passage of the measures would lead to more underinvestment in refining and "capacity coming out of the market." Shares of ExxonMobil rose 2.7 percent to \$110.48 in afternoon trading, while Chevron gained 0.9 percent to \$179.59. — AFP

Huawei's Super Charge Turbo: Great battery life

KUWAIT: Great battery life may not sound like the most attractive feature when it comes to making your next smartphone purchase. But it is arguably an essential feature for those who wish to get the most hours of usage out of their smartphones. This is especially true if you wish to move about freely without having to lug along a power bank everywhere you go.

After all, even the most coveted camera features are meaningless if your phone is unable to power up. Every generation of the HUAWEI nova Series strives to present an innovative piece of technology that has an on-trend design, powerful cameras, and excellent performance. HUAWEI nova 10 Pro is a leading example of charging technology, which could be the performance hero you always needed.

Super battery

Those whose emotions are tied to the charge of the phone can finally say goodbye to battery anxiety. Building on the legacy of the HUAWEI nova



Series, HUAWEI nova 10 Pro continues to achieve breakthroughs in charging and battery life. You can now get ready for your big day out while charging your phone. The 100W HUAWEI Supercharge Turbo means that your phone only requires 10 minutes to get from 20% to 80% and 20 minutes to get to a full charge.

Coincidentally, this is the amount of time it may take for you to perfect your quick natural makeup look or make yourself a cup of coffee. Hey, two birds, one stone! You may activate the Turbo mode by connect-

ing the phone to a power supply and tapping on the charging icon. HUAWEI nova 10 Pro supports the 66W HUAWEI SuperCharge, providing a full charge within 38 minutes. But even with a full battery, busy office schedules often mean back-to-back meetings and calls, which can be a big drain on the battery.

However, with the 4500mAh large battery of HUAWEI nova 10 Pro, you can enjoy longer lasting battery life too. Should you be heading off to a karaoke session or a camping trip with friends, you can count on HUAWEI nova 10 Pro to be ready to snap pics or record videos and even keep yourself and your company entertained. Fast charging and a big battery, coupled with Huawei's unique intelligent temperature control technology, bring you a better overall experience. With fewer things to worry about, you can enjoy using the phone endlessly, even on the busiest of days.

Stay cool throughout it all

That aside, the Ultra-Generation VC Liquid Cooling technology intelligently allocates resources according to the temperature of the phone. On top of that, intelligent predictive thermal management technology provides enhanced safety in charging. For running more power-intensive software, the Ultra-Generation VC Liquid Cooling technology helps detect and dissipate heat spots on the phone's surface, maximizing its performance.

Italy new govt seeks to raise cash ceiling

ROME: Cash is king in Italy, and the debate over limiting payments in notes and coins is heating up again under the country's new right-wing government. A new bill introduced this week by the League party, a member of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's coalition, would raise the cash payment ceiling for Italians to 10,000 euros from 2,000 euros today. The plan would mean not only ditching a planned further decrease due to take effect from January, but also enacting a huge increase in the limit. Credit card use has been steadily on the rise throughout the euro-zone in recent years, but Italy has doggedly persisted in its preference for cash despite numerous incentives to encourage electronic payments.

Italians used cash for 82 percent of transactions, versus the 73 percent euro-zone average, according to a 2020 study by the European Central Bank. Defenders cite high card fees for shopkeepers and the preference among the elderly for cash. However, critics say its use contributes to tax evasion and money laundering - two problems that have long dogged the Italian economy. "Mafia and (tax) evaders thank you," tweeted Andrea Orlando, labor minister under former premier Mario Draghi, about the League's bill.

Argentina reaches new debt deal with Paris Club

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina and the Paris Club have reached an agreement allowing the South American country to repay nearly \$2 billion of debt in arrears over six years until 2028, the grouping of creditor countries said. The two sides amended earlier repayment agreements "to clear the remaining debt in arrears due to the Paris Club creditors over a six-year period," the club said in a statement. "The scheme offers a framework for a sustainable solution to the question of arrears due by the Argentine Republic to Paris Club creditors, covering a total estimated stock of arrears of \$1.972 billion," it added.

Repayment would now be made in 13 semi-annual installments, the first due in December this year and the last in September 2028, said the club. Argentina's Economy Minister Sergio Massa wel-



ROME: Italy Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni attends a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Altare della Patria in Rome on October 29, 2022. — AFP

Meloni - who has sought to reassure the EU that she will be fiscally prudent - told the Senate Wednesday she will support a higher cash ceiling. However, reports suggest she will back a lower level than proposed by the League, perhaps around 5,000 euros. The limit had been due to be cut to 1,000 euros from January. She denied any link between

high cash limits and the shadow economy, saying the higher ceiling "helps the poor".

Cash is preferred by low earners in the centre and south of Italy, where unemployment is higher, and among women and the self-employed, according to a Bank of Italy analysis of European Central Bank surveys published in March. — AFP



BERISSO, Argentina: Aerial view of the Y-TEC (YPF Tecnologia) headquarters in Berisso, Buenos Aires province. With 19 million tons, Argentina is, after Bolivia, the country with the largest lithium reserves. Now, amid the 'white gold' boom, it wants to control the entire production chain: from extraction in the salt flats to manufacturing electric cars. — AFP

comed the agreement to "consolidate the country's credibility." "Many companies here were denied access to credit in Europe and trade with compa-

nies from the European bloc because we were still in negotiations with the Paris Club," he said in Escobar, near Buenos Aires. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

PIONEERING ROCKER JERRY LEE LEWIS DIES AT 87

Jerry Lee Lewis, a scandal-generating kingpin of 1950s American rock and roll who played a pivotal role in shaping the genre's sound, died on Friday. He was 87 years old. Famous for his flowing blond locks, rowdy piano beats and outrageous stage presence, the star best known for his classic "Great Balls of Fire" died of natural causes, his publicist told AFP.

"He is ready to leave," an accompanying statement quoted the artist's wife Judith as saying. The statement said Lewis suffered years of illnesses and injuries: "He had abused his body so thoroughly as a young man he was given little chance of lasting through middle age, let alone old age," it read.

A friend and rival of Elvis Presley, Lewis's career spanned more than half a century and produced a wealth of eyebrow-raising stories about his numerous wives-including a teenage cousin-drunken rampages and run-ins with the government over back taxes.

It also produced a string of indelible hits. Born on September 29, 1935, in Ferriday, Louisiana, Lewis took to the keys at age nine. The following year, his parents Elmo and Mamie mortgaged the family farm to buy him an upright piano.

Along with his cousins Mickey Gilley and Jimmy Swaggart—who would respectively go on to become an award-winning country musician and a scandal-tainted evangelist—Lewis spent hours perfecting his craft.

Provocative lyrics

In 1956, Lewis struck out for Memphis, Tennessee—the southern American city famous as a cradle of soul, blues and rock-to link up with the producer Sam Phillips at Sun Records, who was instrumental in Presley's astronomical rise.

Lewis, Presley and Johnny Cash got together with Carl Perkins at the studio for the "Million Dollar Quartet" jam session that year, which was released much later to acclaim. Lewis soared to fame the next year with his breakout hit "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On"—whose provocative lyrics shocked some radio stations that at first refused to play it.

"It was just another song to me," he told The New York Times in 2006. "The



Musician Jerry Lee Lewis performs on the Palomino Stage at Stagecoach California's Country Music Festival at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California. — AFP photos

girls went a little berserk, but that's girls for you."

'The Killer'

His follow up, "Great Balls of Fire," remains one of the best-selling singles of all time, and was also the name of a 1989 docudrama about Lewis starring actor Dennis Quaid. By the summer of 1958, Lewis—nicknamed "The Killer"—was rocketing to the top, with fans packing shows, money flowing in, and a third hit, "Breathless," climbing the charts.

In an era when even the slightest lower body gyrations by Presley caused a sensation, Lewis carried it further, thumping on the keys with hands and feet, and leaping atop his grand piano to squeals of delight.

"Who would have thought it would be me?" the publicist's statement quoted the rocker as saying in his final days. Lore has that Lewis even lit his piano on fire in an attempt to outshine guitarist Chuck Berry, who had snagged the closing slot that same night.

Elton John tweeted that without Lewis "I wouldn't have become who I am today," calling him a "trailblazing inspiration." "He was groundbreaking and exciting, and he pulverized the piano."

Scandal

It all came crashing down, however,

in 1958 when Lewis embarked on a tour of Britain—and the press there discovered he had married his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. "I knew it was bad, I knew it was wrong," Lewis later told The Washington Post.

His stateside return also proved a rude awakening, as Lewis found himself blacklisted from radio and television. He headed out on the road for one-night shows in bars and minor clubs. "From 10,000 dollars a night to 250 dollars is a hell of a disappointment," Lewis said.

For most of the 1960s, Lewis was on the margins, eclipsed by the next generation like The Beatles, as his illicit marriage would forever tarnish his legacy. But he remained an inspiration to his celebrity successors.

When they met in the early 1970s, John Lennon knelt down to kiss Lewis' feet, telling him: "You are the man who made it possible for me to be a star in rock-n-roll music." "I just kind of froze," Lewis told GQ of the moment.

Musical legacy

Lewis jumped over to country music, searching for a fresh start. He also re-recorded some of his classic tunes. In 1986, he was part of the first class inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, alongside fellow greats including Presley, Berry, James Brown and Ray



Jerry Lee Lewis speaks at the Country Music Hall of Fame 2022 inductees presented by CMA at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee.

Charles.

He received a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement in 2005. Late in life, he collaborated with Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton on his studio albums. "Your songs lit up my life!" tweeted Jagger. Lee's personal life continued to prove concerning and stormy. After 14 years of marriage to Myra, who accused the singer of physical and mental abuse, the couple divorced.

Married twice before Myra, Lewis wedded four times after. He had six children. One died in a swimming pool accident as a toddler, and another died in a car accident. In 1993, arguments with the US government over back taxes led officials to seize pianos, furniture and other personal items to cover his debt.

A notorious hard drinker, Lewis at times was addicted to prescription pills. He toured extensively late in life, though a stroke in 2019 curtailed his schedule. "When they look back on me, I want them to remember me not for all my wives, although I've had a few, and certainly not for any mansions or high living money," Lewis said. "I want them to remember me simply for my music." — AFP

Brazil's comedians see perfect timing 'to make people laugh'

Adivisive election duel has Brazilians on edge and sometimes depressed, but for comedian Fabio Porchat, it's the perfect time to break out the jokes. "It's the best time to make people laugh," said the 39-year-old, whose stand-up routine has been a hit in Rio de Janeiro in recent weeks as the country nervously awaits Sunday's runoff between President Jair Bolsonaro and rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"Nerves are on edge, people are sick of the elections. There is fighting within families ... But when we get together to go to the theater for a laugh, it doesn't matter if you are for Lula or Bolsonaro, we laugh at the jokes, and that is that."

His show, "Porchat's Stories," is on four times a week at a theater in Leblon, an upscale neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, and does not mention politics. He prefers self-deprecatory jokes revealed through hysterical anecdotes of his travels abroad, such when he got a bout of gastro in Nepal.

"I speak a lot about politics on television, on social media. But, I decided not to bring it up in the theater because I told myself people need to laugh about other things," said the comedian who also presents a show on TV Globo.

On Instagram, where he has more than six million followers, Porchat has gone live on several occasions to talk to undecided voters, "without judging them." He is open about his support for leftist former president Lula—and went viral on Twitter Friday with an appeal to Hollywood's biggest superheroes, the "Avengers," for help in the presidential duel. Stars including Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Hemsworth and Robert Downey Jr.—who respectively play Nick Fury, Thor and Iron Man in the mega-franchise—answered the call with decidedly Lula-leaning tweets.



Brazilian actor, writer, and creator Fabio Porchat poses in the press room with the award for "Comedy" for "Especial do Natal Porta dos Fundos 'The Last Hangover'" during the 47th Annual International Emmy Awards in New York City. — AFP

'A matter of mental health'

Yuri Marcal, another popular Brazilian comedian, sees making people laugh during such a gloomy and testy period as "a matter of mental health." "It's never easy to make people laugh, especially at a time like this, with such a polarized election. We feel such a heavy mood. But actually, people need to laugh more than ever."

On Tuesday, the 29-year-old comedian, who is black, surprised his fans with a new YouTube video titled "I don't vote for a thief." To a Brazilian, the phrase is an immediate reference to the insult that far-right Bolsonaro and his supporters love to wield against Lula, due to graft convictions that were annulled by the Supreme Court. But upon clicking on the video, you realize Marcal is talking about a Bolsonaro cousin, "the white sheep of the family," who he is trying to convince to vote for Lula.

"That's our role, no matter what era we live in, to make people laugh by taking serious topics lightly," he said. "I have been getting laughs for years by talking about politics, but also racism," he said.

Online threats

Porchat recalls that Brazilian comedians "have lived through worse," referring to the 1964-1985 military dictatorship.

"At that time, you had to perform for four or five censors before you could appear in public. One wrong word and you would land up in prison." However, comedy is not without danger in Brazil.

In late 2019, the headquarters of the production company that Porchat founded in 2012, Porta dos Fundos, was hit by a Molotov cocktail after it released a Netflix show depicting Jesus in a homosexual relationship.

However, Porchat says the threats usually come from people hiding "behind their screen, online. But it's a minority." Marcal has also received threats on social media, where he has more than one million followers on Instagram. "Recently, I made a joke about Bolsonaro, and someone said: 'be careful, I know where you perform.'" — AFP

Stop 'counterproductive' attacks on famous paintings, says art world

Art world professionals have slammed recent attacks on famous paintings by climate protesters as "counterproductive" and dangerous acts of vandalism. While some of the major French and British museums interviewed by AFP, including the Louvre, the National Gallery and the Tate in London, are keeping a low profile on the issue, others are calling for stronger protective measures against such acts.

"Art is defenceless and we strongly condemn trying to damage it for whichever cause," the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague said in a statement. It was in the Mauritshuis that Johannes Vermeer's masterpiece "Girl with a Pearl Earring" was targeted by climate activists this week.

Two activists glued themselves to the painting and adjoining wall, while another threw a thick red substance, but the artwork was behind glass and undamaged, and returned to public view on Friday. Social media images showed the activists wearing "Just Stop Oil" T-shirts.

"How do you feel?" one of them asked. "This painting is protected by glass but... the future of our children is not protected." That attack came after environmental activists splashed tomato soup on Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" at the National Gallery in London, and threw mashed potato over a Claude Monet painting at the Barberini Museum in Potsdam, Germany.

Bernard Blistene, honorary president of the modern art Centre Pompidou in

Paris, said all museum managers had been taking precautions against vandalism for a very long time. "Should we take more? No doubt," he said.

Ban on bags?

Ortrud Westheider, director of the Barberini Museum, said the recent attacks showed "international security standards for the protection of artworks in case of activist attacks are not sufficient". Eco-militants from the Last Generation group hurled mashed potato onto Monet's "Les Meules" (Haystacks) at the museum.

The group later published a video on social media, writing: "If it takes a painting-with #MashedPotatoes or #TomatoSoup thrown at it-to make society remember that the fossil fuel course is killing us all: Then we'll give you #MashedPotatoes on a painting!"

The museum said the painting was protected by glass and had not suffered damage. In a similar stunt on October 14, two environmental protesters hit van Gogh's world-renowned work with tomato soup in London. The gallery said the protesters caused "minor damage" to the frame but the painting was "unharmful".

Remigiusz Plath, security expert for the German museums association DMB and the Hasso Plattner Foundation, said the string of art attacks was "clearly a kind of escalation process".

"There are different ways of reacting and of course all museums have to think about extended security measures-measures that were previously very unusual

for museums in Germany and in Europe, that were perhaps only known in the US," he said. Such measures could include a complete ban on bags and jackets as well as security searches.

"The environmental catastrophe and the climate crisis are of course also a matter of concern to us... But we have absolutely no tolerance for vandalism," he added. The Prado museum in the Spanish capital has said it was "on alert".

At the Queen Sofia museum in Madrid, conservation expert Jorge Garcia Gomez-Tejedo told Spanish media this week, only the most vulnerable works are displayed behind armoured glass.

'Nihilism'

Adam Weinberg, of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, has questioned the activists' approach. "It's people putting themselves on a stage in order to bring attention to something, but you have to ask, does this really change anything?" he said at a discussion on Wednesday in Qatar, according to ARTNews.

Tristram Hunt, of London's Victoria and Albert Museum, voiced concern at the "nihilistic language around the protests that there is no place for art in times of crisis".

"I don't agree," he said at the same event. France's Culture minister Rima Abdul Malak has called on "all national museums to redouble their vigilance".

"How can... defending the climate lead to wanting to destroy a work of art? It's absolutely absurd," she told Le Parisien daily. In May, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" had a custard pie thrown in her face at the Louvre museum in Paris, but the artwork's thick bulletproof case ensured she came to no harm.

Her attacker said he was taking aim at artists who are not focusing enough on "the planet". For Didier Rykner, founder of online French magazine La Tribune de l'art, these acts of protest are "counterproductive" and "the more visibility they are given, the more they will do it again".

But "by becoming commonplace, these acts undoubtedly lose their force," he argued. — AFP

Hannah Goslar, friend of Anne Frank, dies aged 93

Hannah Goslar, one of Anne Frank's best friends who like her was held in the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp during World War II, died on Friday aged 93, the Anne Frank Foundation said.

Frank, a young Jewish girl who died aged 15 in the Bergen-Belsen camp, is known worldwide for her powerful diary written between 1942 and 1944. Goslar was born in 1928. Her family fled Nazi Germany in 1933 and settled in Amsterdam, where she met Frank at school.



File photo shows Dutch Hanneli Pick-Goslar (Hannah Goslar), a Holocaust survivor and childhood friend of Jewish teenager Anne Frank, attends the opening of the "So now I'm fifteen" exhibition at the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. — AFP

The two girls lost touch in 1942 when the Frank family went into hiding to escape the Nazis. Goslar and her family were arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 and deported to Bergen-Belsen the following year.

There, she met Frank again in February 1945, just before her friend's death. Goslar and her sister Gabi were the only members of their family to survive. Goslar later emigrated to Jerusalem, where she married Walter Pick. The couple had three children, 11 grandchildren and more 31 great-grandchildren.

"This is my answer to Hitler," Goslar used to say, according to the foundation. "Hannah, or Hanneli as Anne called her in her diary, was one of Anne Frank's best friends; they had known each other since kindergarten," the organisation said on its website.

"Hannah shared her memories of their friendship and the Holocaust into old age," it said. "She believed everyone should know what happened to her and her friend Anne after the last diary entry. No matter how terrible the story." — AFP



A police woman stands guard outside the Mauritshuis museum after an attempt to smear the Johannes Vermeer's painting "Girl with a Pearl Earring" in The Hague. — AFP



Visitors use their mobile phones to take selfies with the dinosaur skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex on display in Singapore on October 28, 2022. Dinosaur fans got a glimpse of a rare Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton as it went on public display in Singapore on October 28 before hitting the auction block in Hong Kong in November. — AFP photos

This picture taken on October 27, 2022 shows workers assembling the dinosaur skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex before it is exhibited.

T-REX IN SINGAPORE AS EXPERTS DECRY 'HARMFUL' AUCTIONS

Dinosaur fans got a glimpse of a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton as it went on display in Singapore Friday before an auction next month, as experts slammed the big-money bone trade as "harmful to science". The 1,400-kilo frame, composed of about 80 bones, will be the first T-rex skeleton auctioned in Asia, according to Christie's, which has not given an estimate for the lot.

Dubbed Shen, meaning god-like, it will be on display for three days before being shipped to Hong Kong to be sold in November. "None of the 20 T-Rex that exist in the world is owned by either an Asian institution or an Asian collector," said Francis Belin, president of Christie's Asia Pacific.

"We really wish that Shen will find a new home amongst our Asian collectors here." The adult dino, which stands 4.6 metres tall and 12 metres long, is thought to be male. It was excavated from private

land in the Hells Creek Formation in Montana in the United States in 2020.

"I've never seen a real-life fossil before... It makes me feel in awe because it's quite majestic," said Lauren Lim, 33, who went to view the exhibit.

'Bad news for science'

Shen-which lived during the Cretaceous period about 67 million years ago-is not the only dino auctioned in recent years. In July, the first skeleton of a Gorgosaurus went under the hammer for \$6.1 million in New York. Another T-rex, "Stan", was sold for \$31.8 million by Christie's in 2020.

But the trend for prehistoric auction lots has some experts concerned. "It's a sad thing that dinosaurs are becoming collectible toys for the oligarch class, and I can only hope this fad ends soon," said Steve Brusatte, a paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh.

He told AFP the trend was "bad news for science", and the remains belonged in museums. Thomas Carr, a paleontologist from the US, described such sales as being "unquestionably harmful to science" even if the skeletons had been studied before being sold.

"A secure, permanent collection ensures that the observations that a scientist makes of a fossil can be tested and replicated-and a commercially held fossil has no such assurance," Carr said. Belin, of Christie's, said he hoped a public institution would buy Shen, and added that the whole skeleton had been fully researched, recorded in 3D and "all the elements of the skeleton will be made available for the public to research".

"We strongly hope that the new owner, whether it's an institution or private, will ensure that it's being seen by the public," Belin said. — AFP



This picture taken on October 27, 2022 shows workers assembling the dinosaur skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex before it is exhibited.



The Skansen-Akvariet zoo is pictured in Stockholm on October 24, 2020. A Swedish zoo has been partially shut down after a king cobra staged an impressive escape from its enclosure at the weekend. — AFP

'Houdini' snake eludes capture at Swedish zoo

Zoo staff in Sweden tracked down an escaped king cobra, only for it to vanish a second time after its daring initial departure, authorities said Friday. The snake, named Sir Vas (Sir Hiss), slithered off last weekend through a lamp fixture in a terrarium he had been brought to a few days earlier at the Skansen Aquarium in Stockholm.

Following his disappearing act, the venomous vagrant was renamed Houdini in honour of the famed escape artist. The zoo's reptile section has been closed since then and staff spread out flour on the floor and deployed sticky traps to try and trace and capture the scaly fugitive.

Customs agents were also asked to assist in the search, with X-ray machines and special cameras normally used to detect illicit narcotics. On Friday, it looked like the jig was up for the escaped elapid when it was found hiding inside a wall. But the crafty serpent dodged capture once more.

"Sir Vas located-and gone again!" Swedish Customs said in statement posted on social media. "Thanks to methodical work, Sir Vas could at last be located inside an interior wall near the terrarium," the authority said. "Happy and content, our colleagues were able to conclude the operation, but on Friday Sir Vas managed to escape again," it added. The terrarium in question had housed king cobras for about 15 years, Jonas Wahlstrom, director of the Skansen Aquarium, told AFP earlier in the week.

But the clever new tenant took advantage of the fact that staff had recently replaced the lamp at the top of the enclosure with a low-energy bulb. Unlike previous lamps it was not hot enough to scare the snake away, and it managed to wedge its head between the bulb and the light fixture and slither its way out. — AFP

Manga mindset: Japan's biggest 'One Piece' fans

Shohei Sato's devotion to the pirate manga "One Piece" culminated in a wedding themed on the series, and he's not the only superfan obsessed with its intricate plots and swashbuckling characters.

The Japanese comic-book saga began 25 years ago and is one of the biggest-selling mangas of all time, with more than 500 million copies sold globally. It follows straw hat-wearing Monkey D. Luffy and his team as they hunt for treasure, and has grown into a sprawling cultural franchise-now riding even greater waves of popularity thanks to a new hit film and an upcoming live-action Netflix series.

Since childhood, 29-year-old Sato estimates he has spent "well over 10 million yen (\$67,000 at current rates), if not 20 million" amassing merchandise and crisscrossing Japan to attend "One Piece" events. So the office worker's friends weren't surprised when he and his bride Junna had a pirate-ship cake at their wedding in July and posed for photos beside a giant poster of Luffy and his gang in formal attire.

"They told me, 'Shohei, it was so you,'" Sato told AFP at his home in Tokyo, where plush toys of the reindeer-like character Chopper sit next to bookshelves packed with "One Piece" volumes. "I've lived my whole life alongside 'One Piece', so I wanted my wedding to honour it."

The latest movie in the franchise, "One Piece Film: Red", was released in August and is already Japan's highest-grossing film this year. Sato has seen it 21 times.

The film has also been a hit abroad, especially in France, while fans came out in costume for a huge Times Square ad

campaign ahead of the US release in November.

Knowledge king

Inspiring dialogue, clever foreshadowing and relatable characters-author Eiichiro Oda is said to shed tears as he draws them crying-are often cited by "One Piece" superfans as the reason for their infatuation.

The manga's plots are so intricate that publisher Shueisha holds a yearly quiz in which tens of thousands of fans compete to become its "knowledge king". Sato once came in 10th, winning a golden trophy. Another regular contestant, whose record is 15th place, is a systems engi-



In this picture taken on September 18, 2022, Shohei Sato poses for a photo with a trophy from the "One Piece" knowledge king contest after an interview with AFP in his house in Tokyo. — AFP photos

neer who goes by the online moniker Arimo.

Every night, after tucking his son into bed, the 32-year-old reads "One Piece" in his study, which is decorated with illustrations from the series. Even the walls of Arimo's toilet are plastered with pages from the manga, and the geography-lover has crafted his own globe to map the islands and oceans explored by Luffy.

"The 'One Piece' world is so meticu-

lously thought-out, I sometimes feel like there's truly an alternative universe like this somewhere," Arimo said. "One Piece" is serialised in the weekly Shonen Jump magazine, which is aimed at teenage boys. But its exaggerated humour, adrenalinised action scenes and hundreds of varied characters appeal to a far broader readership.

'One Piece is my energy'

Natsumi Takezawa, 34, said she had "forgotten 'One Piece' is supposed to be a boy's manga", because it "strikes a chord with all generations". She works part-time and reads "One Piece" for a little relaxation after picking up her five-year-old

daughter from nursery, making dinner, bathing and playing with her, before finally putting her to bed.

"Without 'One Piece', I might feel drained," she told AFP. "I might be too exhausted by chores to do anything but sleep. That's all my life could've been about. 'One Piece' is my energy."

Takezawa says the manga has even helped her with grief. Seeing the bawling Luffy realise "I still have my friends" after

the death of his brother resonated deeply after she lost a close friend this year.

"What kind of experience does a person have to go through to be able to draw such a powerful scene?" she said. The "One Piece" saga entered its final arc in July. Oda said in 2019 that he wants to wrap up the story "within five years", technically leaving little time until its conclusion.

Sato thinks "another seven to eight years" would be a reasonable bet, however. "One Piece" is part of my life now, so I definitely want to see it through to the end," he said. "Until then, I refuse to die". — AFP



Fan of Japanese manga series "One Piece" who goes by the online moniker Arimo reads the comic on Weekly Shonen Jump magazine in his home in Kamisu.



Fan of Japanese manga series "One Piece" holds a figure of the character Monkey D. Luffy, also known as Straw Hat.



Natsumi Takezawa reads "One Piece" manga comics with her daughter in their house in Utsunomiya.



In this picture taken on September 11, 2022, a fan of Japanese manga series "One Piece" talks during an interview with AFP. The Japanese comic-book saga "One Piece" began 25 years ago and is one of the biggest-selling mangas of all time with more than 500 million copies sold globally.

Sports

Foster calls for cool heads after All Blacks edge Japan

New Zealand lose lock Retallick to a 66th-minute red card

TOKYO: Head coach Ian Foster said the All Blacks need to keep their heads during their northern hemisphere tour after being made to sweat for their 38-31 win over Japan in Tokyo on Saturday. New Zealand conceded four tries and lost lock Brodie Retallick to a 66th-minute red card as they kicked off their tour against a spirited Japanese side that trailed by only four points heading into the final minutes.

Foster said the All Blacks were "a bit rusty" playing their first game in more than a month and would need to get up to speed quickly with away games against Wales, Scotland and England to come. "There are a number of things we have to improve from today but I think we've had five weeks without a game and that sort of showed in some of our timing," said Foster.

"I think there were moments where we weren't composed. When the game doesn't go your way for spells and you're away from home, it's easy to lose confidence and lose shape." The All Blacks scored three first-half tries through Retallick, Braydon Ennor and Sevu Reece, but Japan hit back with two of their own to head into half-time trailing by only four points. Caleb Clarke and Hoskins Sotutu scored two more for New Zealand after the interval, but Japan would not be shaken off and a red card for Retallick for dangerous play at a ruck set up a nervy finale.

'A lot of pressure'

Kazuki Himeno scored Japan's fourth try to turn the screw in the dying moments but Foster said he was happy that his side "stayed tight through some key points". "We got put under a lot of pressure but I really liked the way we played," he said. "Japan came back very well before half-time and really turned the game

into a tight contest. Some new combinations, and overall it's a good stepping stone for us." Japan were looking for their first-ever win over the All Blacks and head coach Jamie Joseph said his team's "intent was very clear from the start".

Takuya Yamasawa and Yutaka Nagare scored first-half tries and lock Warner Dearn added another after the break, after charging down a kick from All Blacks scrum-half Finlay Christie. "It was exactly what we're trying to build as a rugby team," said New Zealand-born Joseph. "I thought our team played very well and we created a chance to win the Test match, which would have been a historical moment for Japanese rugby if we had been able to pull that off."

Japan were given a chance when Retallick saw red for charging into Himeno at a ruck with 14 minutes of the match remaining. Foster said he had "no complaints" about the decision. "To be down to 14 men for the final 15 minutes, we just focused on the moment in front of us," said New Zealand captain Sam Cane. "The belief was very strong and we didn't want to force anything, so stay disciplined, trust each other and work hard."

'Too many mistakes'

New Zealand next play Wales in Cardiff before taking on Scotland at Murrayfield and England at Twickenham. The All Blacks won the Rugby Championship last month but 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. Fly-half Richie Mo'unga said they would need to shape up against their British opponents. "Probably the problem-solving part, just



TOKYO: New Zealand's Brodie Retallick (center) tries to advance the ball during the rugby union Test match between Japan and New Zealand's All Blacks at the National Stadium in Tokyo on October 29, 2022. — AFP

getting to solutions a bit quicker," he said when asked what the All Blacks would have to improve.

"I think northern hemisphere teams are going to be a bit more unforgiving in that part of the game." Japan will also head to Europe to play England at Twickenham and France in Toulouse. "Now we realize

that if you make one or two mistakes then your opportunity to win the game passes you by," said Joseph. "The crux of it really is that we made too many mistakes at the wrong time, but everything else around the game in terms of how we wanted to play and what we needed to do was really, really good." — AFP

Fun in the sun but LIV's teams yet to connect with fans

DORAL: LIV Golf's \$50 million team championship got underway at a sun-drenched Trump National on Friday but while there was some top quality golf it was clear the organizers' hope of partisan support from fans has yet to materialize. The biggest crowds on the Blue Monster course were drawn to British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia as he defeated six-time major winner Phil Mickelson by a single stroke in their matchplay battle.

The atmosphere at the course, owned by former US President Donald Trump, was lively although the numbers appeared well below the levels for past PGA Tour sanctioned events at Doral. Enough fans turned out though and appeared to enjoy the 'party vibe' created at the course, with the Beastie Boy's 'Fight for Your Right to Party' blasting through speakers shortly before the players teed off in shotgun style. It was much less clear, however, how many really cared that Smith's win was crucial to Punch GC beating Hy Flyers.

The team element has been a major part of LIV's attempt to provide a different product to the PGA Tour as they look to capture some of the passion generated by the Ryder Cup. But while the clash between the United States and Europe is able to tap into patriotism and identity, it is a tougher sell to get fans to commit to teams with names like Firesticks and Cleeks. A volunteer offered up free team badges to fans but few took up the offer and fewer still had bought the caps emblazoned with team logos.

Indeed, there were significantly more fans at the South Florida course wearing Trump hats than anything associated with the new LIV teams. "Listen, we don't have the crowds we need yet but it is a start-up company and momentum will continue to grow, there is something special about this format, hopefully people enjoyed it because the players certainly enjoyed it," Graeme McDowell, the Northern Irishman told AFP.

Frustration as rain, rain just won't go away at WCup

MELBOURNE: Cricket's Twenty20 World Cup is in danger of being diminished by bad weather after more rain forced the abandonment of both matches in Melbourne on Friday including an Australia-England blockbuster. Forecasters warn that more rain-but also some sun-is on its way in the coming days in Australian cities hosting what should be the pinnacle of cricket's shortest format.

The famed Melbourne Cricket Ground, which will stage the final on November 13, was buffeted by almost non-stop rain on Friday. First the weather claimed Ireland's match against Afghanistan without a ball being sent down, meaning the Afghans have had two of their three World Cup matches abandoned



MELBOURNE: Ground staff dry out the pitch area prior to the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between Australia and England in Melbourne on October 28, 2022. — AFP



DORAL: Marc Leishman of Punch GC plays his shot from the fifth tee during the quarterfinals of the LIV Golf Invitational - Miami at Trump National Doral Miami on October 28, 2022. — AFP

After the day's play was over, the captains of the four top-ranked teams from the regular season, who had received a bye into the semi-finals, chose their opponents for Saturday's semi-finals and engaged in the kind of gentle banter that is becoming the hallmark of LIV's approach. The players talked of their teams' result and their hopes for their teams and McDowell said there was nothing fake about that enthusiasm.

"I think the people at home or on social media, they think it is all bullshit, that we are so into the team side of it, but legitimately in the locker-room, guys really are coming together and they really care a lot about the team stuff," he said. Part of the problem might be the rather odd names chosen for some of the teams, monickers which have no link to any geographical entity, but McDowell believes that fans will gradually catch on.—AFP

because of rain. They lost the other.

Teams take one point each when a match is washed out and they are not rescheduled. "Very frustrating. Obviously after the (washed out) New Zealand game, you thought no way is it going to happen twice," Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott, the former England batsman, said at a sodden MCG. "The frustrating thing as well is there's a stadium down the road that's got a roof on it as well so you can play cricket there, so we could have had lots of cricket," Trott added.

With the rain refusing to go away, the highly anticipated clash between Ashes rivals Australia and England then fell victim, doing neither team any favor as two of the pre-tournament favorites attempt to rescue their failing title bids. "The outfield has taken a drenching over the last couple of weeks, as well as I've ever seen it," said Australia skipper Aaron Finch. "The run-ups and around the circle were very, very wet. It's about player safety." The Super 12 stage has now seen four games out of a scheduled 14 abandoned because of rain—three in Melbourne and the other in Hobart.

England's shock defeat to Ireland on Wednesday, again in Melbourne, was also impacted by rain. The Irish won by five runs on the DLS method. Zimbabwe coach Dave Houghton made no attempt to hide his anger after umpires tried, but failed, to complete their match with South Africa in Hobart on Monday in what he called "ridiculous" amounts of rain. Zimbabwe fast bowler Richard Ngarava slipped and had to be taken off injured before the game was eventually called off just as South Africa closed on victory.

Forecasters are blaming La Nina for heavier-than-usual downpours and cooler temperatures in northern and eastern Australia and said they expect the weather system to hang around for the whole of November—the rest of the World Cup. Teams are generally trying to put a brave face on it and, publicly at least, say they can adapt to whatever the conditions throw at them. But questions are growing about the format of the tournament—teams play five matches in two weeks in the Super 12 stage—and the timing of it.—AFP

Dupont focusing on France winning form as World Cup looms

TOULOUSE: France captain Antoine Dupont admitted Friday that the Rugby World Cup his country will host next year looms large, but insisted the focus was on continuing his side's fine form that has seen them notch up 10 straight wins. The Six Nations champions take on Autumn Series Tests against Australia, South Africa and Japan from next weekend, with Dupont saying there had been no talk of the 2023 World Cup.

"Everyone has it in mind, but we're not talking about it for the moment," the Toulouse scrum-half told AFP. "We are first preparing to win these (November) Tests, to continue to grow together, to increase our experience as a squad and to gain in maturity because we remain a young team. "We are preparing for these games in this spirit and the World Cup will come very quickly behind."

France last tasted defeat at the hands of the Wallabies in July 2021, going undefeated in last Autumn's games plus the Six Nations and on their Summer tour of Japan. "We are much more expected than two years ago. Our results speak for us, we will no longer have any element of surprise," Dupont admitted. "It is up to us to respond to this status. As favorites, I don't know, but as a team that can perform, let's say, "We are aware of it, we have to assume that and play at our level when we are on the field."



SYDNEY: New Zealand's Trent Boult dives to field the ball during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka on October 29, 2022. — AFP

Phillips hits 104 as New Zealand crush Sri Lanka

SYDNEY: Glenn Phillips smashed a powerhouse 104 and Trent Boult grabbed four wickets as New Zealand swept past Sri Lanka by 65 runs in Sydney on Saturday to put them in pole position to make the semi-finals at the Twenty20 World Cup. New Zealand batted first and posted 167-7 with Phillips unstoppable, rescuing his team after the top order was blown away, losing Finn Allen, Doug Conway and Kane Williamson for 15 runs.

Boult and Tim Southee then reduced Sri Lanka to 4-8 in the chase and there was no way back as they crumbled to 102 all out. Boult ended with a career-best 4-13. Phillips hit 10 fours and four sixes in his 64-ball knock — the second century of the tournament, after South African Rilee Rossouw's 109 against Bangladesh, and only the 11th in T20 World Cup history. Plenty was on the line with Group One wide open after both matches in Melbourne on Friday—Australia v England and Afghanistan v Ireland—were washed out. New Zealand's win gives them a two point buffer at the top of the table from England, Ireland and Australia

with two games to play. They face a crunch game against England next in Brisbane on Tuesday while Sri Lanka face a must-win clash with Afghanistan on the same day to keep their hopes alive. Sri Lanka began with the spin of Maheesh Theekshana after losing the toss, and it immediately paid dividends. Allen took apart Australia's hallowed pace attack in their opening game during a 16-ball 42, but he managed just three balls and one run this time, confounded by an inswinger in the opening over.

Conway, who smashed an unbeaten 92 against Australia, fared little better. Spinner Dhananjaya de Silva joined the attack and Conway was bowled, also for one. Things got worse when skipper Williamson (8) got an outside edge off pace bowler Kasun Rajitha in the next over and was caught behind. Phillips and Daryl Mitchell, returning to the side after fracturing his hand, crawled to 54-3 at the halfway point.

But Phillips then flicked a switch and began swinging the bat, with sloppy fielding aiding him, dropped by Pathum Nissanka on 12 and again on 45 by skipper Dasun Shanaka. An 84-run stand with Mitchell ended when his partner was bowled for 22 by Wanindu Hasaranga. Mitchell Santner was alongside him when he brought up only his second T20 100 in the 19th over before being caught in the final over. Sri Lanka made the worst possible start to the chase, losing three wickets for five runs.—AFP

Sports

LeVert, Mitchell score 41 each as Cavs top Celtics

Lakers lose at Minnesota, fall to 0-5 to start the season

WASHINGTON: Caris LeVert scored Cleveland's last 10 points in overtime and sparked the Cavaliers to a 132-123 NBA victory at Boston on Friday. LeVert and Donovan Mitchell each scored a game-high 41 points as the Cavaliers improved to 4-1 while Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum each had 32 to lead the Celtics. "I knew it was coming," LeVert said of his big night. "I put in a lot of work. I was due for this. We're having so much fun out here. We can't wait to keep doing it." It was only the second time the Cavs had two 40-point scorers in a game, the other time by LeBron James and Kyrie Irving in game five of the 2016 NBA Finals, which Cleveland won in seven games.

Brown's overtime dunk lifted Boston level at 121-121, but LeVert answered with a 3-pointer and two free throws and, after Brown sank two free throws, LeVert added two free throws of his own and closed out matters on a 4-point play with 32.2 seconds to go, making a free throw after a flagrant foul by Malcolm Brogdon. "He did it all. He literally carried us," Mitchell said. "He led us from the start. We fed off that."

After trailing by as many as 15 points, LeVert's 3-pointer put Cleveland ahead 113-112 in regulation. A Brown basket put Boston ahead 114-113 with 28 seconds remaining, only for Jarrett Allen to sink a free throw that led to overtime. "For us to have the perseverance as a group... that was big time," said Mitchell. "For us to have a collective solidarity this early in the season as a group, that's going to take us far. Wins like this are huge."

LeVert said referee calls in the first half disrupted the Cavs' rhythm. "We kind of let the refs get in our heads," LeVert said. "In the second half we were a lot more physical. We lived with some of the foul calls and we just fought." The Milwaukee Bucks remained the NBA's only undefeated team, improving to 4-0 with a 119-108 home victory over the New York Knicks. Greek star Giannis Antetokounmpo had game highs of 30 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists to lead the Bucks, who had seven scorers in double figures.

Lakers still winless

Meanwhile the Los Angeles Lakers fell to 0-5 to start the season with a 111-102 loss at Minnesota. It's just the second time the Lakers have gone 0-5 to start a season since they moved to Los Angeles. They also lost the first five games of the 2014-15 campaign before



BOSTON: Donovan Mitchell #45 of the Cleveland Cavaliers takes a shot against Luke Kornet #40 of the Boston Celtics during the second half at TD Garden on October 28, 2022. — AFP

finishing 21-61. The Timberwolves were led by a game-high 29 points from Anthony Edwards plus 22 points and 21 rebounds by Rudy Gobert. James had 28 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals, the defeat taking the shine off his move past Karl Malone to top the list of most games with 20 or more points with 1,135. Lakers coach Darvin Ham said his team's 22 turnovers, leading to 25 Minnesota points, were too much to overcome. "When you give them 22 turnovers, 25 points, it's very hard to win in this league," Ham said. "We have to do a better job of valuing possessions." James said the Lakers' offense "is harming us right now. Defensively, once again, we had a great game plan," he said. "We went out and competed, gave ourselves a chance."

Elsewhere, Tyrese Maxey scored a career-high 44 points to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 112-90 tri-

umph at Toronto. Maxey had two more points than the Raptors managed in the entire second half, propelling the Sixers to victory despite the absence of star center Joel Embiid because of a sore knee. In Phoenix, the Suns cruised past the New Orleans Pelicans 124-111, furling by 27 points from Mikal Bridges. Portland shook off the absence of Damian Lillard, sidelined by a sore calf, to beat the Houston Rockets 125-111.

Keldon Johnson's 33 points led San Antonio over visiting Chicago 129-124 despite 33 by the Bulls' DeMar DeRozan, who became the 50th NBA player to score 20,000 points in his career. The Orlando Magic won for the first time in six games this season as 19-year-old Paolo Banchero, the top pick in this year's NBA Draft, had 21 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists and reserve Mo Bamba added 19 points in a 113-93 home victory over Charlotte. — AFP

Crane fires 62, grab Bermuda PGA lead

MIAMI: Ben Crane, trying to end an eight-year PGA victory drought, fired a nine-under-par 62 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the PGA Bermuda Championship. The 46-year-old American made nine birdies, two bogeys and an eagle to match the low-round of his PGA career and stand on 14-under 128 after 36 holes at the windy seaside Port Royal course in Southampton. "Today was one of those special days, one of 100 where it just kind of all comes together," Crane said. "So really cool to shoot 62."

Australia's Aaron Baddeley was in a second-place pack on 129 that also included Americans Adam Schenk, Ben Griffin, Robby Shelton and Austin Smotherman, who shared the 18-hole lead with an opening 62. Crane, who made the field on a sponsor exemption, was happy just to be playing and extra excited to make the weekend in the title hunt. "Couldn't be more encouraged," Crane said. "Played the best golf I've played in a long time and to be in this tournament is super encouraging. I don't get in a lot."

Crane won the most recent of his five PGA titles at the 2014 St. Jude Classic. He missed the cut in seven of 10 starts last season and his last top-10 finish was eighth at the 2019 Puerto Rico Open. Crane, who started on the back nine, opened with a birdie and answered a bogey at 14 with birdies and 15 and the par-3 16th. After a bogey at the par-5 17th, Crane reeled off five birdies in a row, then eagled the par-4 sixth from 115 yards with a wedge and birdied the par-5 seventh before a pair of closing pars.

"That 29 on the back, I didn't see it coming. Super fun day," Crane said. "On the second nine, started to get my swing going so I was hitting quality shots, hit a few balls close to the hole, making those 10-footers, couple 30-footers, holed a shot from the fairway... I was having an incredible day and then that happened." Playing partner Baddeley had eight birdies and a bogey in shooting 64. The 41-year-old Aussie seeks his fifth PGA title and first since the 2016 Barbasol Championship.

"Feel like the confidence is back," he said. "Just a matter of just getting some starts. So it has been great." Australian rookie Harrison Endycott, who also shot 62 on Thursday, shot 70 to fall four adrift. India's 49-year-old Arjun Atwal, who shot 63 Thursday in his first PGA round for three months following his father's death, followed with a 71. — AFP



SOUTHAMPTON: Ben Crane of the United States plays his shot from the tenth tee during the second round of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship at Port Royal Golf Course on October 28, 2022. — AFP



Third Annual Shooting Tournament in Kuwait

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Third Annual Shooting Tournament concluded at the ranges of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club, Jahra Branch in juniors Air pistol and rifle. Torky Abdallah Al-Mutairi won the gold medal for the 10 meter air rifle, followed by Salem Saud Dahash and Abdelrahman Fahad Al-Enezi respectively.

Ali Suleiman Ahmad won the gold medal of the 10 meter air pistol, Yousuf Adel Al-Arbeed took the second position while Bandar Fahad Al-Shimmari grabbed third. Deputy Technical Director for Rifle and Pistol



Abdullah Barakat Al-Shimmari said the juniors competitions showed that some shooters have great skills. He said that the tournament attracted many shooters of both genders.

Head of Pistol and Rifle Referees Committee Khalid Abdullah Al-Jurayyed said there were refresher courses to inform referees about the updates and amendments on the international shooting laws and rules as the tournament is being conducted according to the ISSF rules. He said Kuwait referees are qualified to officiate in any international tournament. Many of the referees have License A which is the highest possible qualification in the field.

Meanwhile, activities of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Annual Shooting Tournament continue at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex with the participation of a large number of shooters from Kuwait, Qatar and UAE. Shotgun technical Director Mishfi Abdullah Al-Mutairi said that a large number of shooters expressed their wish to participate in the tournament.



Realmuto homer lifts Phillies over Astros in World Series Game 1

LOS ANGELES: JT Realmuto belted the game-winning home run in the top of the 10th inning Friday as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Astros 6-5 in game one of the World Series in Houston. The Phillies, who were the last National League team to qualify for the playoffs, erased a 5-0 deficit against Houston's two-time Cy Young Award-winning pitcher Justin Verlander to hand the Astros their first defeat of this post-season.

Realmuto, who also unleashed a game-tying two-run double off Verlander in the fifth, said the game exemplified Philadelphia's never-say-die spirit. "It's incredible," said the catcher, who also took a hard foul ball to the face mask during the game. "The way we fought back in that game after being down five-nothing, that's a Phillies win right there."

Kyle Tucker homered twice for the Astros, who went 7-0 in the American League playoffs to roar into Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship series for the fourth time in six seasons. They won in 2017, a triumph since tainted by a sign-stealing scandal that led to a \$5 million fine for the club. Tucker led off the bottom of the second with a solo homer off Phillies starting pitcher Aaron Nola, smacking a changeup to deep right field. Houston added another

News in brief

Birmingham deny QPR top spot in the Championship

LONDON: QPR missed the chance to return to the top of the Championship as first-half goals from Auston Trusty and Emmanuel Longelo gave Birmingham a 2-0 win at St Andrew's. Arsenal loanee Trusty's hopeful flick looped over QPR 'keeper Seny Dieng before Longelo, also on loan at the Blues from West Ham, fired into the far corner on 29 minutes. The visitors also lost Jake Clarke-Salter and forward Tyler Roberts to injury before half-time on a miserable night for manager Michael Beale on his return to the Midlands. Beale, the former assistant to Steven Gerrard at Aston Villa, recently turned down the vacant manager's job at Wolves to try and see out what he has started at Rangers. But they remain two points behind Burnley at the top of the table after just a second defeat in nine games. Beale's side thought they had a route back into the game 11 minutes from time, but Birmingham goalkeeper John Ruddy saved Lyndon Dykes's penalty to round off a bad night for the Londoners.

Gloucester beat Exeter, go third in Premiership

LONDON: Gloucester moved up to third in the English Premiership as Louis Rees-Zammit starred in a 38-22 victory over Exeter at Kingsholm. Ahead of the Autumn Nations Series, Wales wing Rees-Zammit got the hosts off to a flying start after just three minutes. Santiago Carreras, Santiago Socino, Charlie Chapman, Ruan Ackermann and captain Lewis Ludlow also scored tries for Gloucester to seal a bonus point win. Exeter stayed in the game for over an hour thanks to tries from Jack Maunders, Ruben van Heerden and Josh Hodge, but slipped to a third defeat in six league games. The Chiefs remain sixth in the table, reduced to 11 clubs on Friday by Wasps suspension for the rest of the season and subsequent relegation. Gloucester close to within nine points of leaders Saracens and with a game in hand to come.

Ancelotti happy with Madrid despite Benzema injury issues

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti says he is happy with the current squad and won't look for back-up for Karim Benzema in January. The Ballon d'Or winning striker, who turns 35 in December, has suffered from thigh injuries this season and missed most of the club's matches in September. "We are not thinking about the winter window, we are not interested in it," Ancelotti told a news conference on Saturday, ahead of Real Madrid's clash with Girona on Sunday. "This is the squad which will continue until the end of the season and it will not change." The coach said Benzema will not face Girona despite training on Friday, while Rodrygo was a doubt after feeling unwell overnight. "After training he did not feel comfortable, he did a test, there's no problem but we have to take into account how he feels," said Ancelotti. "There are clinical tests, that say there's no problem, but after that there's how the player feels, and he says he's not 100 percent."

Pakistan's Rauf focuses on cricket, not criticism

PERTH: Pakistani fast bowler Haris Rauf on Saturday said the team was trying to shut out the noise and focus after a torrent of criticism over their shock loss to Zimbabwe at the Twenty20 World Cup. Pakistan will take on the Netherlands in Perth on Sunday to try and stay alive in the tournament after nailbiting one-run defeats to Zimbabwe and arch-rivals India. Former Pakistani stars including Shoaib Akhtar and Javed Miandad slammed the team for their poor start to the World Cup, describing their batting as "shameful" during the loss to Zimbabwe. "It is people's job to talk, so they will talk. You face criticism in any sport you play," Rauf told reporters. "We have come here to play a tournament and our focus is on that. So we try not to listen to them (ex-players and pundits) much and play our game. Even some positive talk can hurt you and negative talk can also hurt you." Pakistan witnessed a special performance in their first match of the tournament from superstar batsman Virat Kohli as India chased down 160 on the final ball at a packed Melbourne Cricket Ground. — From AFP

run in the inning when Martin Maldonado's ground ball single scored Yuli Gurriel.

Tucker added a three-run blast in the next inning to push the Astros' lead to 5-0, becoming the first Houston player with multiple homers in a World Series game. Jeremy Pena had doubled to deep right field to lead off the inning and reached third base on Yordan Alvarez's ground out. Alex Bregman walked and Tucker returned to the plate where he smashed a fast-ball from Nola 395 feet to the right center field seats. Meanwhile, Verlander was looking every inch the ace, not allowing a baserunner through three innings. The Phillies finally broke through in the fourth when he gave up a one-out single to Rhys Hoskins. Bryce Harper and Nick Castellanos followed with back-to-back base hits and Hoskins scored. —AFP

Sports

Red Bull fined \$7 million for breaking F1's budget rules

No points penalty for overspend

MEXICO CITY: Red Bull have been fined \$7 million for breaking Formula One's budget rules but will not have points deducted from their 2021 total, the sport's governing body said Friday. Red Bull will also be penalized with a 10% reduction in permitted aerodynamic research. The FIA confirmed the team, which carried Max Verstappen to a contentious championship victory over Lewis Hamilton last year, overspent by £1.86 million (\$2.15 million) in 2021.

The 10% cut is in the time they can spend using their wind tunnel or computational fluid dynamics to design their car. Red Bull chief Christian Horner said the penalties were "enormous". "I hear people say it's not a severe penalty, but 10 percent less wind tunnel time and other aerodynamic tools is a draconian penalty," said Horner. "That can cost up to half a second a lap. It will have an on our ability to perform on track next year."

He said the fine represented "an enormous amount of money" to find in just 30 days, but he insisted again that none of their ill-judged overspend had gone on car development. Horner added that Red Bull had chosen to take the penalties "on the chin" and "to settle begrudgingly". The punishment comes after Red Bull acknowledged they were at fault and entered into a so-called "accepted breach agreement" with the FIA.

It follows two weeks of speculation that generated criticism of the management of the procedure and calls for harsher sporting penalties instead of a fine. It was expected to be resolved at the United States Grand Prix last weekend, but it was postponed following the death of Red Bull patriarch Dietrich Mateschitz during final talks on an 'accept-

ed breach agreement' (ABA).

Many teams felt that the punishment should have set an example, notably as the breach related to the 2021 season when Verstappen clinched his maiden drivers' title with Red Bull in contentious circumstances at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, passing seven-time champion Hamilton of Mercedes on the final lap after an irregular Safety Car decision.

Red Bull's acceptance of an ABA signaled that the team had admitted the offence, a move that brought less severe punishment than might have been if the saga had continued. In a statement, the FIA said: "There is no accusation of evidence that Red Bull has sought at any time to act in bad faith, dishonestly or in a fraudulent manner, nor has it wilfully concealed any information from the Cost Cap Administration." The fine has to be paid within 30 days and the restriction on wind tunnel and computational fluid dynamics development applies for 2023. The FIA noted that Red Bull had incorrectly excluded 13 items from the costs submitted for the 2021 season in a detailed statement explaining the review of the financial regulations and Red Bull's acceptance of the ABA offered.

The team clinched their fifth constructors' championship and first since 2013 in Texas last weekend where Verstappen record a record-equaling 13th win of the year. The fine will be seen as a light punishment to the team, but the wind tunnel penalty will have some effect. Teams are granted wind tunnel runs on a sliding scale depending on their result in the championship - and Red Bull are set to be trimmed from 28 runs to 25 while rivals Ferrari will next year have 30 runs, if they finish this season as



MEXICO CITY: Red Bull Racing's Mexican driver Sergio Perez races during the second practice session for the Formula One Mexico Grand Prix at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City on October 28, 2022. — AFP

runners-up. If Mercedes are third, they will have 32.

The team are expected to give their reaction at a news conference ahead of opening practice at the Mexican Grand Prix later Friday. Rival team boss Zak Brown of McLaren said Red Bull's actions had

been tantamount to 'cheating', an accusation supported by other team bosses, including those of Ferrari and Mercedes, who may be disappointed at the outcome. Many expected a wind tunnel reduction of 25 percent. — AFP

New Zealand, France set up high-powered World Cup semi-final

WHANGAREI: Winger Portia Woodman became the most prolific try-scorer in women's Rugby World Cup history as New Zealand crushed Wales 55-3 in their quarter-final on Saturday. The tournament hosts will play France in a high-powered semi-final next week after the French outclassed Italy 39-3 in the day's earlier match in Whangarei.

France's five-try performance was also led by their right winger, with Joanna Grisez snaring a hat-trick. Woodman's double for the Black Ferns took her to 20 World Cup tries, the most by any player and achieved in just eight games. It surpasses the 19 tries scored by England outside back Sue Day, who achieved her tally in 13 matches, from 1998 to 2006.

Woodman played down her milestone, pushing praise onto team-mates and New Zealand's attack-first style, which carried them to three big wins in group play, including a 56-12 dismantling of Wales. "If they didn't do the work they did, I wouldn't be able to get those tries but (the record) is pretty cool, I guess," Woodman said. "At the start of the game, we wanted our forward to 'mongrel up' and bring that physicality from the get-go.

"And, in the backs, we just let the ball fly. It was really awesome." The five-time champions took command from the outset, using their high-speed, expansive style to create nine tries, including a brace to hooker Luka Connor. Fly-half Ruaheki



WHANGAREI: France's Joanna Grisez (center) scores a try during the New Zealand 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup quarter-final match between France and Italy on October 29, 2022. — AFP

Demant scored the final try in a 15-point haul which included five conversions. Wales missed 50 tackles and their defense was further stretched when Carys Williams-Morris and Lleucu George were both shown second-half yellow cards.

New Zealand will face their first stiff test of the tournament against France, who beat them heavily twice during a tour of Europe last November. The French dominated most of their quarter-final but it

took until the final quarter to cut loose against Italy, scoring four of their five tries after leading 10-3 at halftime. Grisez scored the only try of the first half but grabbed two more during the late rush, while replacement hooker Laure Touye also crossed. Inside centre Gabrielle Vernier said it was France's best performance at the tournament, eclipsing their tight 13-7 pool loss to tournament favorites England. — AFP

Sainz stuns Leclerc as Ferrari duo top opening practice

MEXICO CITY: George Russell topped the times for Mercedes after Charles Leclerc crashed his Ferrari during Friday's second practice at the Mexico Formula One Grand Prix. Russell offered a hint of Mercedes' potential with a strong performance in a session devoted to tyre testing, in changeable conditions, while Leclerc, unhurt, was left to watch from the Ferrari garage.

The 24-year-old Briton took advantage of a chance to shine as one of only a few drivers permitted to run on 2022 tyres and clocked a best lap in one minute and 19.970 seconds on softs. This lifted him eight-tenths of a second clear of Yuki Tsunoda in his Alpha Tauri and Esteban Ocon of Alpine, both also allowed to use half the session to work on set-up with regular tyres after handing their cars to

guest rookies for the opening practice.

Russell's Mercedes teammate, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, was fourth-quickest in a session interrupted by two red flags. The first came when Leclerc spun off heavily in his Ferrari and a second in the closing minutes when Zhou Guanyu suffered a hydraulic failure in his Alfa Romeo. That brought the session to an early end and left Ferrari frustrated after dominating the opening practice when Carlos Sainz topped the times.

Two-time world champion Max Verstappen was sixth, one place behind Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who was given enthusiastic support by his home fans. Leclerc wound up seventh ahead of Sainz, Alfa Romeo's Valtteri Bottas and Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri. After a morning filled with political debate following the announcement by the FIA of Red Bull's punishment for last year's cost-cap breach and Ferrari's dominance of opening practice, there was an air of welcome calm as the second session began.

In warm but overcast conditions with rain threatening, the 90 minutes were cast to be used as an extensive Pirelli tyre test, concentrating on a range of soft compounds for consideration next year. This

gave the action an air of pre-season testing rather than race preparation, although those drivers who took no part in the earlier session, having given their cars to rookie reserve drivers, were permitted to use half of the session for set-up work this year's tyres.

The 2023 tyres were all unmarked and unpredictable. Russell and Ocon were swiftly involved in the action and Perez provided his adoring fans with a reason to cheer on every passing lap, but there was little urgency before Sainz went top for Ferrari. He was followed by Russell, on mediums, before Verstappen with a set of tester softs and then Perez set the pace until Russell, in 1:19.970, went 1.6 seconds clear after 20 minutes on fresh soft tyres.

Leclerc then crashed, after 33 minutes, spinning backwards into the barriers at turn seven and badly damaging the rear of his Ferrari to prompt a red flag stoppage that lasted 20 minutes. He was unhurt, but it was a setback to him and the Ferrari team at a venue where they have not won since Alain Prost triumphed in 1990. As the sky darkened, the track conditions deteriorated. The falling temperatures offered less grip as the cars slithered around ensuring Russell's lap remained the fastest. — AFP

MLS playoffs down to final four as big guns face-off

MIAMI: Los Angeles FC and Philadelphia Union aim to buck the trend for top-seeded teams in Major League Soccer's playoffs by securing their places in the MLS Cup final in Sunday's conference championship games. The top seeds have not reached the title-deciding game since 2003 but this year's playoffs have seen the form-book prove to be a close guide to the outcome with the home teams winning eight of the ten games so far. Having finished top of the regular season standings, earning them the 'Supporters Shield' Los Angeles know they will host the title game at their impressive Banc of California Stadium if they can deal with upstarts Austin FC.

In the East, Philadelphia have, on paper, a trickier test at home to defending champions New York City - as second seed the Union would host the final if they won and LAFC lost to Austin. While LAFC have the big names in former Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale and ex-Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini - neither started in their victory over LA Galaxy in the previous round and it remains to be seen if head coach Steve Cherundolo switches around his winning team.

France-born Gabon winger Denis Bouanga scored twice and set up the last gasp winner for Colombian Cristian Arango in the 3-2 win over their cross-city rivals and with Carlos Vela influential on the right, it would be a surprise if Bale, who missed the game with a minor leg injury, was brought into the starting attack. Austin finished 24th out of the 27 teams in the regular season in 2021 but have enjoyed a dramatic upturn in their fortunes in a season which has seen them defeat LAFC home and away.

"Two different games"

Austin won 2-1 in Los Angeles in May and then romped to a 4-1 victory in Texas in August but not surprisingly Cherundolo believes it will be a very different story on Sunday. "Two completely different games. They have no effect on Sunday's match. Completely different games, different players in the field for them as well. So I don't think there's any bearing on Sunday," he said.

The clash in the East is a repeat of last year's game at this stage of the playoffs, when New York won 2-1 on the way to their maiden title and City's interim manager Nick Cushing expects another close encounter. "The margins are going to be really small," he said. "I think we can draw on the experience of last year because we went one goal down and we managed to turn it around," he said. City have Maxi Moralez, Talles Magno and Tayvon Gray all doubtful for the game however after missing training this week with injuries. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764

CHANGE OF NAME

Adhar card -number 413944116687. (C# 2427)

I, Mohammad Tawfeeq Ur Rehman S/O Kaupwala Mahfooz Ur Rahman resident of 3/43 Coconut Garden, Kadri, Mangalore, Karnataka, India 575002, have changed my name to Mohammad Tawfeeq Ur Rahman for all purposes as per my

hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given name SALMANKHAN and Surname as PATHAN. (C# 2428) - 28-10-2022

I Anees Ishaq Ibrahim (current name as in passport) holder of Indian Passport No. V-3758719, having per-

manent address R. No. 5, Wanja Wadi Masjeed Trust CHL No. 7, Mahim, Mumbai - 400016, and residing in Kuwait at present, do hereby declare that I changed my name to Anis Ishaq Khan for all purposes, and that I undertake to effect the change in all my official documents. (C#2426) - 27-10-2022

Manchester City go top as Brighton hammer Chelsea on Potter's return

De Bruyne's rocket sinks Leicester; Newcastle dismantle Villa

Shooters Adel, Hwal win first gold medals



Afrah Adel



Sarah Al-Hwal

KUWAIT: Afrah Adel and Sarah Al-Hwal won Saturday won the first gold medals in HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Annual Shooting Tournament. In the women's skeet competitions, Adel won first place and bagged the gold medal, Eman Al-Shamma won silver and Sheikhha Al-Rasheedi took the bronze. In remarks to KUNA, Adel expressed happiness about this achievement,

praising the Kuwait Shooting Federation's organization of this tournament. Meanwhile, in the women's trap competition, Hwal came in first place, Fatmah Fawzi stood second and Shahad Al-Hwal third. The tournament is due to last until Nov 5, with the participation of Kuwaiti and Gulf male and female shooters in the categories of shotgun, rifle, pistol and Olympic archery. — KUNA



MANCHESTER: Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's stunning strike in a 1-0 win over Leicester, as Chelsea boss Graham Potter suffered a nightmare return to Brighton with a 4-1 defeat on Saturday. Tottenham fought back from 2-0 down to beat Bournemouth 3-2 to remain in third ahead of Newcastle, who thrashed Aston Villa 4-0.

City were without the free-scoring Erling Haaland for the trip to the King Power due to a foot injury and were blunted up front without the firepower of the Norwegian. But one moment of magic from De Bruyne was enough for the winner as the Belgian's free-kick four minutes into the second half clipped the inside of the post on its way past Danny Ward.

City needed one brilliant save from Ederson to prevent another sensational strike from an Belgian international as he turned Youri Tielemans' volley onto the crossbar. "I want this Kevin and we need this Kevin. The goals and assists he can do blind. But we need this type of involvement in the game and today that was the case," said City boss Pep Guardiola. With Arsenal not in action until Sunday when they host Nottingham Forest, victory lifts City one point ahead of the Gunners at the top of the table.

Brighton's revenge on Potter

Potter had been unbeaten in his first nine games since leaving Brighton to take over at Chelsea last month. By contrast, the Seagulls had not won in their first five games under new boss Roberto De Zerbi, but that all changed in a dominant first half by Brighton. Thiago Silva twice cleared off the Chelsea goal line in the first five minutes before Leandro Trossard fired home the opener. The visitors were then their own worst enemies as both Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Trevoh Chalobah deflected crosses into their own goal. Kai Havertz's header early in the second half pulled a goal back, but Pascal Gross rounded off a memorable win for Brighton late on.

Spurs rally

Tottenham were staring a third consecutive league defeat in the face after Kieffer Moore struck twice for Bournemouth either side of half-time. Spurs have at times looked toothless at times going forward in recent weeks, but won the game thanks to two set-pieces after Ryan Sessegnon pulled a goal back just before the hour mark.

Ben Davies rose highest to head home Ivan Perisic's cross to level before Rodrigo Bentancur smashed home the winner from another corner in stoppage time. Newcastle underlined their threat to the traditional powers for a place in the top four with a dismantling of Villa. Callum Wilson struck twice to further his case for a call-up to England's World Cup squad with Gareth Southgate in attendance at St James' Park. Joellinton rounded off a fine counter-attack to make it 3-0 before Miguel Almiron continued his sensational form with his sixth goal in as many games.

Crystal Palace moved into the top half with a 1-0 win over

Southampton as Odsonne Edouard slotted home the only goal at Selhurst Park. Wolves remain in the bottom three despite coming from behind to salvage a 1-1 draw at Brentford. Ben Mee put the Bees in front before Ruben Neves leveled with just Wolves' sixth goal in 13 league games. And Wolves' issues in front of goal will not be helped by a suspension for Diego Costa after he was sent off in stoppage time. — AFP

BRIGHTON: Chelsea's Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga in action during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Chelsea on October 29, 2022. — AFP



Padel now grabbing attention of Kuwait's children too



KUWAIT: The spread of Padel sport in Kuwait is not limited since the past two years to young men or women, but it is now also getting more attention from children and adolescents. With the widespread of Padel

courts in various parts of the country, kids are learning the game so rapidly. Children are now adapting to the game and it has become common to see children and young people playing this beloved sport, especially as

it combines tennis and squash. However, Padel is played in a court smaller than the tennis court with a glass wall as a bumper for the bouncing ball, usually played in double, two players in opposite sides. — KUNA