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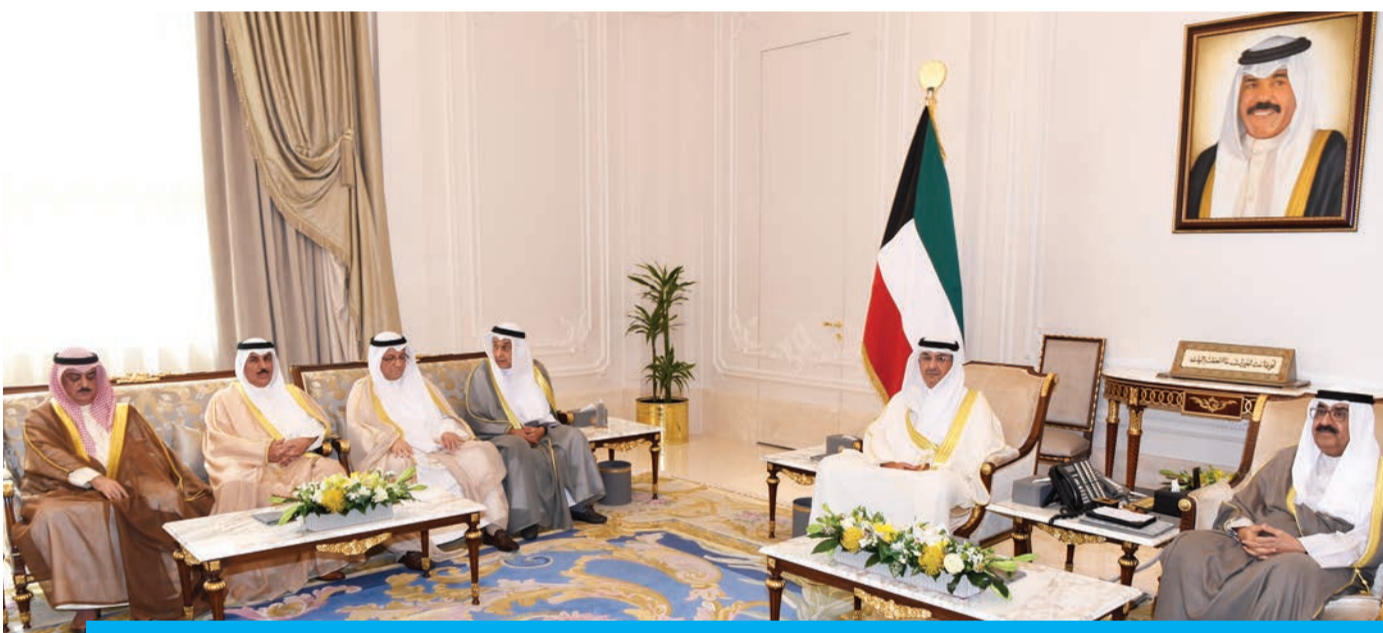
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Millions at risk of climate displacement in Mideast

Harsh weather conditions make region most water-stressed in the world

Chief judges take oath before Crown Prince



KUWAIT: A number of senior judges took the oath as heads of courts before HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

CAIRO: Little rainfall, aggressive heatwaves and worsening drought make the Middle East the most water-stressed region in the world, with climate change threatening to displace millions of people. Hussein Abu Saddam, head of the farmers' syndicate in Egypt which is hosting the COP27 global climate summit in November, told AFP he is already witness to a climate-induced exodus from the countryside.

Agriculture in Egypt - "one of the most arid countries in the world" - has grown even less profitable because of new climate-linked hazards such as "the appearance of new parasites", he said. "Young people from rural areas are migrating abroad or to big cities to work in industry." According to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), "roughly 90 percent of refugees come from countries that are the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change".

"If people can't farm, if people can't work, if people can't find food, they have few alternatives to displacement," Amy Pope, deputy director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), told AFP. In 2021, natural disasters forced "nearly three million people" to leave their homes in Africa and the Middle East, she said. "And the situation is only going to get worse."

By 2060, Egypt's already stretched agricultural sector could shrink by as much as 47 percent, researchers predict. In addition to "the decline in agricultural production", rural-urban migration is also fed by "the attractiveness of urban life, the city and services that are available there", according to Florian Bonnefoi, a research fellow at the Centre for Economic, Legal and Social Study and Documentation (CEDEJ) in Cairo.

Globally, the World Bank estimates that by 2050, if nothing is done to prevent it, there will be 216 million people internally displaced by climate change, including 19.3 million in North Africa. Some seven percent of people in North Africa - where densely populated coastlines are among the world's most threatened by rising

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More than 10K expatriates lose driving licenses

KUWAIT: Traffic department sources revealed that more than 10,000 expatriates have lost their driving licenses after orders by Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah to review whether they still meet the conditions required to obtain a driving license. The traffic department expects to complete the purge before the end of the year. "It is expected the traffic department will discover more unrightful license holders, who will be summoned to surrender their licenses. Anyone who does not comply will be considered a violator and will be subjected to investigations," sources told Kuwait Times.

The sources warned that anyone who drives after their license has been revoked will face harsh penalties, especially after they were informed that their license has been suspended. "The reasons for canceling these licenses vary, as some changed their jobs, while others now draw a salary of less than KD 600. The iqamas of others lapsed due to leaving the country, death or simply expiring," the sources explained.

"The interior ministry has linked up with the Public Authority of Manpower and the residency affairs department to review license holders to determine whether procedures of having the license are correct or whether they obtained it illegally," the sources added. Anyone who is proven to be in violation will be subject to prosecution, along those who assisted them.

Political crisis deepens as Aoun leaves

BAABDA, Lebanon: Lebanon's outgoing head of state, Michel Aoun, left the presidential palace Sunday, a day before his mandate expires without a designated successor, deepening the country's political crisis. His six-year term was marred by mass protests, a painful economic downturn and the Aug 2020 mega-explosion of ammonium nitrate that killed hundreds and laid waste to swathes of Beirut.

Aoun, a Maronite Christian in his late 80s, said he had signed a final

decreed formalizing the resignation of premier Najib Mikati's caretaker government, exacerbating a months-long power struggle that has paralyzed the government. Mikati, a Sunni Muslim, retorted that Aoun's decision had "no constitutional basis" and that his cabinet would "continue to carry out all its constitutional duties, including its caretaker functions".

Aoun's term formally ends Monday, complicating politics in Lebanon at a time it must meet reform demands from the International Monetary Fund to access billions of dollars in loans. Thousands of well-wishers came to pay tribute to Aoun, a former army chief and head of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM), which is allied with the powerful pro-Iranian Shiite movement Hezbollah. Continued on Page 6



BAABDA, Lebanon: Lebanon's President Michel Aoun waves to his supporters in front of the presidential palace before delivering a speech to mark the end of his mandate on Oct 30, 2022. — AFP

100 killed in Somalia twin bombings

MOGADISHU: The number of people killed in twin car bombings in the Somali capital Mogadishu, claimed by Al-Shabaab Islamists, has risen to 100, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said on Sunday. "So far, the number of people who died has reached 100 and 300 are wounded, and the number for both the death and wounded continues to increase," he said after visiting the blast location.

Two cars packed with explosives blew up minutes apart near the busy Zobe intersection, followed by gunfire in an attack targeting Somalia's education ministry. The afternoon explosions tore through walls, shattered windows of nearby buildings, sending shrapnel flying and plumes of smoke and dust into the air.

The victims included women, children and the elderly, police spokesman Sadik Dudishe said. "The ruthless terrorists killed mothers. Some of them died with their



MOGADISHU: Residents carry the body of a victim on Oct 30, 2022 after twin car bombings targeted the education ministry on Oct 29, 2022. — AFP

children trapped on their backs," he said on Saturday, adding that the attackers had been stopped from killing more "innocent civilians and students". "I could not sleep last night because of the horrible scene," police officer Adan Mohamud said on Sunday.

The attack took place at the same busy junction where a truck packed with explosives blew up on Oct 14, 2017, killing 512 people and injuring more than 290, the deadliest attack in the troubled country.

Continued on Page 6

60 dead in India bridge collapse

AHMEDABAD: At least 60 people were killed on Sunday in India after a more than 100-year-old suspension bridge collapsed, sending scores of people tumbling into the river below, a senior official said. "Sixty people have died. More than 80 have been rescued," Brijesh Merja, a minister in the western state of Gujarat where the disaster happened, told AFP. Other unconfirmed media reports put the death toll at around 90.

Authorities said nearly 500 people including women and children were on and around the bridge when cables supporting it snapped, bringing the structure down into the river. The bridge, which had only recently re-opened after repairs, is located in Morbi around 200 km west of Gujarat's main city, Ahmedabad. Local media quoted officials as saying that those on the bridge were performing rituals for a major religious festival when it gave way into the Machchhu river.

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Chief judges take oath as heads of courts before Kuwait Crown Prince



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives senior judges before their swearing in on Sunday. —KUNA

Arab FMs 'reach consensus' on draft agenda

ALGIERS: Arab foreign ministers at preparatory talks on Sunday have reached consensus on a draft agenda ahead of a leaders' summit in two days' time, an Arab League official revealed. The draft document focuses on all developments related to crises in the region, namely Libya, Yemen and Sudan, each with a separate draft resolution, Deputy Secretary-General Hossam Zaki told reporters.

He said ministers reached agreement on all the proposed draft resolutions included on the agenda, and that "none of its items will be postponed." In regards to a post-Summit 'Algeria deceleration,' the Arab League official said the host country is holding consultations with other nations to formulate the document which "will be completed before the Arab Summit."

During the talks, "there were some things that led to tensions," between the delegations of Algeria and Morocco "but everything was contained," he clarified. The meetings took place "in an atmosphere of cordiality and respect, and accordingly things returned to their normal course," he went on to emphasize. Over two-thirds of Arab League member nations' leaders have been confirmed to be attending the upcoming summit.

With regard to Egypt's demand to reject Turkey's interference in Libya and Arab affairs,



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

he said, the Arab League adopts the same position as the Egyptians on the matter, reiterating a "consistent" approach "that has not changed" from past summits.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed Kuwait's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in preparation for the upcoming 31st Arab Summit in Algiers on Tuesday. During the meeting, the Arab ministers discussed the summit's agenda, proposed resolutions to enhance joint Arab action in a variety of domains and regional and international developments of common concern. Ministers will hold their discussions behind closed doors, following two earlier meetings yesterday to review following up on former summit resolution implementation and current summit preparations. —KUNA

KUWAIT: A number of senior judges took the oath as heads of courts before His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday. The swearing-in ceremony involved judge Mohammad bin Naji as President of Supreme Judicial Council, President of Court of Cassation and President of the Constitutional Court, justice Mohammad Abu Sulaib as Court of Appeals President, while their peer Younis Al-Yaseen swore in as the Vice President of Appeals Court. His Highness the Crown Prince received at Bayan Palace the newly sworn-in court chiefs, bin Naji,

Abu Sulaib and Al-Yaseen.

Also hosted by His Highness the Crown Prince was Cassation Court Vice President judge Dr Adel Borely, Public Prosecutor Saad Al-Safran, Cassation Court Undersecretary Ishaq Al-Kandari, and Ministry of Justice Undersecretary Omar Al-Sharqawi. Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah, Minister of Justice Abdulaziz Al-Majid, Amiri Diwan undersecretary and Director of His Highness the Amir's office Ahmad Al-Fahad, as well as Crown Prince office Director Jamal Al-Theyab also attended the meeting. —KUNA



'I Medea' is a research project with a script shedding light on cross-border issues. —KUNA photos

Kuwaiti playwright Al-Bassam presents latest work in Mexico

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti playwright Sulayman Al-Bassam presented his latest play, 'I Medea, During the Arts' festival in Mexico. Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Bassam said that his play that had been shown for two days, exhibited issues related to immigration, identity conflicts and belonging, love, treason and revenge.

It also deals with power of digital platforms in altering the political landscape, in addition to portraying other symbolic modern-time matters. 'I Medea' is a research project with a script shedding light on cross-border issues, backed by an atmosphere of special lighting and poetic touch. Al-Bassam's troupe groups renowned and distinguished characters from Europe and the Arab world, namely the French-Syrian actress Hala Omran, the musical band "The Dragon or Two," the lighting director Samir Shaarawi, Egypt, the production director and actor Usama Al-Jamee, Tunisia, and the Jordanian translator Wafa Al-Faraheen.



A still from 'I Medea, During the Arts'

He has affirmed that his work is inspired from various cultures, stressing that theatrical creation should have no identity, "other than the sole artistic cross-border identity." The work had gotten the lion's share of trophies in the 22nd session of Carthage Theatrical festival held in December 22, 2021. —KUNA



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KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George poses for a group photo with Ambassadors and media-persons during a farewell meeting.

Indian Ambassador ends tenure, bids farewell to Kuwait

KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George expressed gratitude to Kuwaiti media for its support over the past two years as he marked the end of his tenure on Sunday. "Such support and discussions have been pivotal to his success in his mission to strengthen friendly ties between India and Kuwait, and provide optimal assistance to the Indian community," the Ambassador said.

The ambassador gave his formal departure speech at a ceremony held by the media in the presence of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Tajikistan Dr Zabidullah Zabidov, the Dean of Asia, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Dr Bahrom Aliyov,

the Dean of the African Ambassador to Togo, Mohamed Saad Oro, and the Dean of the Americas Ambassador to Mexico, Miguel Angel Isidro.

"An excellent relationship has been built with the diplomatic corps, and with the Kuwaiti media. I'm thankful that I was able to accomplish everything I worked for," he said, while also pledging to follow news about Kuwait through the local journalists.

Ambassador George also said that the coronavirus pandemic further strengthened and deepened India's relations. "I will miss many wonderful things in Kuwait that one cannot find anywhere else, starting with the diwanias," the ambassador said, pointing out that being invited to dinners in Kuwait will tempt one to feast on a diverse palette of dishes from all over the world. "I will also miss the interdependence of families between Kuwait and India, because regardless of status, most families in Kuwait have had contact with India for decades. You do not find this strong relationship in many places around the world," he concluded.

Local

Zain takes part in UN Day special event

Company one of private sector's first strategic partners to UN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, participated in the special event held to celebrate UN Day 2022 under the title: "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition." The ceremony celebrated the United Nations' 77th anniversary and the 60th year of Kuwait's membership in the UN and came under the patronage of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain took part in the special event, hosted by the Cultural Center at Sabah Al-Salem University City, attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations' Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, Kuwait University Director Dr Yousef Al-Roumi, UN Secretary-General's Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Dr Tarek Al-Sheikh, Zain Group's Chief Sustainability Officer Jennifer Suleiman, and Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti.

Zain's participation came as part of its long-term strategic partnership with the United Nations, through which the company worked on supporting many environmental, humanitarian, and community initiatives throughout the past years. Zain is keen on reflecting the private sector's role in shouldering the various international programs, especially climate change efforts. Zain is proud to be one of the Kuwaiti private sector's first companies to form a strategic partnership with the UN.

The event was attended by many social figures, public and private sector officials, diplomats, and Kuwait University executives, who all celebrated the UN Day held on 24 October of every year. This year, the event was even more special as it commemorated the UN's 77th anniversary and the 60th year since Kuwait became a member of the United Nations.

The ceremony came under the theme: "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition," and featured a special exhibition that showcased the youth's efforts and initiatives in supporting sustainable growth and tackling climate change. The event also included many panel discussions, special talks, and workshops that were attended by youth and government officials.

Through its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy, Zain is committed to building climate change scenarios that are aligned with the Paris Agreement (2015) to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate physical and environmental risks. The company is well aware of the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis the world is facing today. Currently, Zain scores A- through its participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a reflection of its success in meeting the standards and requirements of the project. Zain is also one of the few companies in the region's markets to have a membership in the CDP.

Zain established an array of initiatives across its operating companies, including the distribution of reusable bags to all employees, and installing water coolers to reduce the use of plastic bottles. The company also developed its first comprehensive Scope 3 inventory process aligned with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol guidelines for a more accurate and transparent evaluation of its value chain emissions. This allows it to not only disclose and report in a more concise manner but be able to identify areas in which it can reduce its GHG emissions.

Zain continues to address its strategic approach to addressing climate change under its 2020-2025 sustainability strategy. Climate change is a pillar on



KUWAIT: Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah with Dr Yousef Al-Roumi, Dr Tarek Al-Sheikh, Jennifer Suleiman and Waleed Al-Khashti.

which the organization has set three focus areas where Zain can address its negative impacts on the environment and create positive ones: Network and Energy Consumption, Strategy and Communication, and Waste Management and the Circular Economy.

Zain is keen on supporting any efforts that serve sustainability and environmental goals, as it believes this is a crucial topic that affects everyone. The company's social message seeks to tackle the most important issues and reinforce the role of individual efforts like preserving natural resources, decreasing

consumption, recycling, and other concepts that will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change. Zain's part does not stop at raising awareness and supporting environmental programs, but also extends to reducing its own footprint. The company continues to exert more efforts into reducing the environmental footprint of its operations, including preserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption, recycling waste, implementing green solutions for water and electricity management, monitoring the company's overall effects on climate change, and more.



KUWAIT: Ghada Shawqi and Rima Al-Khalidi honor Mustafa Qamhiya during their visit to Kuwait Times.

IWG delegation visits Kuwait Times

KUWAIT: An International Women's Group (IWG) delegation headed by the president of (IWG) Ghada Shawqi, spouse of the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, and (IWG) member Rima Al-Khalidi,

spouse of Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait, have paid a visit to Kuwait Times on Sunday. They were received by Kuwait Times Managing Editor Mustafa Qamhiya who accompanied the visitors on a tour around the premises of Kuwait Times through which they were acquainted with various departments of the newspaper. Topics of mutual interests were discussed during the meeting. The IWG delegation honored Kuwait Times for its continuous support to its various activities.

Initiative to recycle used masks a success

By Mohammed Al-Bahar

KUWAIT: It is disheartening to see how people dispose their used facemasks without any concern for people around them or the environment. It is important to dispose used masks and gloves safely. This will help contain the community spread of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases. It also helps protect cleaning and recycling workers.

The idea was to address this issue, and our initiative came after watching people dispose their masks carelessly. With the support of a few of my friends, we initiated the project in 2020 during the peak days of the COVID-19 pandemic, after realizing that used masks thrown here and there could cause serious health hazards and environmental pollution.

What I did was create boxes for people to dispose their used facemasks, which in return would get recycled into new masks. This was the basic idea of the initiative. As months went by, I started to add innovative ideas to the project. We started to create slippers and small plant bags to use in nature reserves. Initially, we started our project small by placing the boxes at co-ops. As we expanded our project, we got our boxes placed at schools, universities, dental clinics, etc. By collecting and



Mohammed Al-Bahar



Mohammed Al-Bahar with Abdullah Al-Shabib, Director of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's office at EPA.

recycling thousands of facemasks nationally, we hope that the effects of our work would be positive, in accordance with our mission.

We contacted many locations and received approval from eight locations in Kuwait to place our recycling boxes. It was a difficult task as many in group and the others were worried about possible contamination. But we were lucky to convince them as we moved ahead with the project. We have collected and recycled approximately 12,000-15,000 masks since 2020 to date. The initiative has not stopped and our next step is to move to hospitals and other public places where masks are worn on a compulsory basis, such as chemical manufacturers.

inflation index during last September as it was close to its highest levels for the last four decades, according to the Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Index (CPI) that went up by 0.5 percent, compared to last August".

The inflation in US economy is not decreasing as wished by the US Reserve System, which means further financial strict policies during the upcoming months, as well as increasing the interest rate to unprecedented rates, to allow the inflation rate to reach the desired percentages of 2 or 3 percent, on an annual base, he added. The increase in US dollar index by 0.2 percent to stabilize at 110.90 points, while the US Department of Treasury yields (10-year maturity) crossed the 4 percent threshold, Al-Fadhli added.

KCCI joins UN agreement

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Al-Sager met UN Senior Stakeholders Advisor and Country Manager of the Global Compact (UNGC) in Qatar and Kuwait Rabaa Hussein Makki Al-Jumaa on Sunday with the attendance of General Manager of the Chamber Rabah Al-Rabah.

The meeting came within the framework of joining the UN Global Compact, which is considered the biggest initiative in sustainability in the hope to achieve its 17 goals, in which 17,000 members from 4,000 nonprofit organizations from 177 countries have participated. It aims to call companies and institutes to work within the strategy with the biggest global challenges, which consists of 10 global principles in four different fields - human rights, labor, environment and combating corruption.

Sager assured the support of the chamber on the 10 principles and to take responsible action to achieve its goals. The UN Global Compact will provide the necessary tools, including solutions and a center for UN work online, as well as all materials



Mohammed Al-Sager meets Rabaa Hussein Makki Al-Jumaa.

needed to assist participants in taking all necessary procedures to achieve sustainable development.



Unmask boxes at the Sustainability Kuwait event.

It was a stamp of approval for our initiative when our project was recognized and supported by the Environmental Public Authority (EPA) in Kuwait. We had several meetings with EPA officials to discuss the issue of sustainability, and they awarded 'Unmask' with an appreciation letter for the positive work done towards recycling and helping the environment.

Used masks were recycled into new products



Al-Bahar with the Unmask box at Kaifan Co-op.

used at home, such as plastics, plant bags, slippers, etc. Although the project was initiated as an experiment, it became successful and worked. Plant growth bags were developed and used by the Al-Shamiya Nature Reserve. Currently, I am in charge of four volunteers within the team. As a mask recycling initiative, we also participated in the first 'Sustainable Living Event' organized by the NGO Sustainable Living Kuwait.

Gold price plunges \$1644 per ounce

KUWAIT: The gold price went down to \$1644 per ounce by losing \$22 by the end of last week's trading, with a prolonging price pressure for the second consecutive month. The strength of the US dollar is a direct reason behind the severe fluctuations caused by gold, amid expectations of further interest increase by US Federal Reserve (Central Bank), the Kuwaiti Dar Al-Sabaek Company report said. The report quoted the company's head of strategic planning Adel Al-Fadhli as saying, "The US data issued last Friday indicate the steadiness of the

The financial market are expecting the upcoming meeting of monetary policy committee affiliated to the US Federal Reserve System in November, with expectation of an increase in the interest by 75 points for the fourth consecutive time, he said. This comes as an attempt to halt the inflation in US, which would result in further pressure on gold prices in the international markets, he affirmed, he added.

Gold December futures dropped by 1.3 percent, equivalent to \$20.8 per ounce in the international bourses, with expectations of continuous severe fluctuations during the coming weeks, he said. Meanwhile, Al-Fadhli added that the gold price in local market of 24 karat reached KD 16.5 per gram, while 21 karat recoded KD 14.4 per gram, whereas silver registered KD 240 per kilo. — KUNA



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News in brief

PM hosts chief auditor

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Seif Palace Head of the Audit Bureau Faisal Al-Shayea who presented to His Highness a report on examination of departments' final accounts, financial indices and supervisory tasks in the fiscal year (2021-2022). — KUNA

Electoral appeals to be examined

KUWAIT: The Constitutional Court on Sunday said a session would be held to look into electoral appeals in two weeks. The court said in a statement that it would cross examine the contestations on 16th of next month. Kuwait has recently witnessed parliamentary elections, followed with formation of a new government. — KUNA

Kuwait offers sympathy to Iraq

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Sunday said it stands by Iraq's side a day after a tanker blast left scores of people either dead or injured east of the capital Baghdad. Kuwait extends its deepest condolences over the loss of life, a foreign ministry statement underlined, wishing a speedy recovery for those wounded in the explosion. Meanwhile, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry on Sunday voiced the country's sympathy and solidarity with South Korea over the victims of the stampede that occurred in Seoul on Saturday evening and claimed scores of casualties. — KUNA

Kuwait condemns attack in Somalia

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Ministry Sunday condemned the two bombing attacks targeting the Ministry of Education in Somalia, resulting in the death and injury of dozens of people. The ministry stressed Kuwait's firm position against terrorism, expressing condolences to the families of the victims, as well as wishing speedy recovery for the injured. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of the Arabian Sea along the Gulf Road where yachts are anchored on Sunday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Hasan calls for youth initiatives to support sustainability goals

KU celebration marks 77th UN anniversary and 60th anniversary of Kuwait's membership

KUWAIT: Eng Alaa Hasan, delivered her speech during the celebration held by UN, under the slogan "Youth Leads Ambition for Climatic Activity". Kuwait University hosted the special celebration of UN 77th anniversary and 60th anniversary of State of Kuwait membership.

During her speech, Hasan expressed her deep belief in the pivotal role played for supporting youth's ambition and sustainable creative initiatives in Kuwait.

"I was the first to call for such youths' initiatives that support sustainable development goals and

Kuwait 2035 Vision", she said.

Hasan reported her deep interest in green industry flourishing in Kuwait, as being one of the leading countries in such industries. Kuwait is about to establish a plant for producing eco-friendly organic Ethanol, for having environmental benefit, as well as economic benefit for Kuwait. Such industry features its ability to put Kuwait on top of the regional exporting countries.

Hasan referred to the importance of Kuwait production of Ethanol, which could be produced from wastes. She asserted the economic feasibility of Ethanol production, such as incorporation in car fuels, hospitals sanitizers and a number of pharmaceuticals. Additionally, it is used for producing cosmetics and other industrial activities.

During her speech, she said that one of our most significant priorities and attitudes, at this time, is to protect environment, which is the main source of all national and industrial resources. We have to take the move, necessarily, to obligate countries around the globe to conserve environment and atmosphere by internationally accepted laws. In view of industry, we have to enforce such laws and cooperate with the whole world for environment protection. On such grounds, we decided to get involved in the green industry arena and recycling materials into useful products that could be utilized by consumers.

In the mainstream of responding to a question addressed by Kuwait University students, she clarified that the idea of green industry originated when an international company tackled the importance of organic Ethanol to help cut carbon emissions. In addition, Kuwait challenged a serious problem of evacuating the tire graveyard, the biggest in the world, by recycling tires into different products.



KUWAIT: Eng Alaa Hasan delivers her speech during the celebration.

Such projects are highly economically feasible, depending on sustainable development and renewable energy. Organic Ethanol Plant is an economic project and constitutes the Kuwaiti landmark that contributes to increase national income and enhance Kuwaiti exports by an eco-friendly project that supports and creates jobs for national cadres. We have to engage youth's potentials and help them build capabilities in the field of environment conservation, sustainable development and better preparedness for future life.

Hasan concluded by asserting the necessity of engaging youth in such environmental issues, in line with strategy for advancement of Kuwait in the international attitudes of industrial sector and versatile green industries. The whole world started prioritizing such attitudes for producing and developing eco-friendly and organic industries.



KUWAIT: The officials of general secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development during the workshop.

Workshop reviews development plan for media

KUWAIT: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development organized a workshop on Sunday to review the annual development plan for the media, with the attendance of General Secretary Khaled Mahdi and a number of officials.

Mahdi affirmed "the workshop comes within our insistence to understand completely reviewing

reports and what includes as we have conducted the workshop for all media whether audible or readable, they may be. We have noticed lately that there has been wrong reading of the report which reflects negatively on the transfer of knowledge to the public which leads to a distorted representation of facts," he added.

The workshop looked into means of preparing reports and how to submit them until they reach the National Assembly. "The report is prepared by the general secretariat of planning and development and goes through multiple phases before being presented to parliamentary committees," Mahdi said. "All information in the report is taken from related departments that have a project in the plan," he added.

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.





Tropical storm batters Philippines capital before exit

Palestinian attacker shot dead after killing Zionist in West Bank

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SEOUL: A man pours a glass of beverage, in tribute to those who were killed in a Halloween stampede late on October 29, in the district of Itaewon in Seoul on October 30, 2022. — AFP

US soldiers survive S Korea crush

'We are not small guys but we were crushed too before we got out'

SEOUL: For hours, they pulled body after body out of the crushed tangles of limbs that filled the narrow Itaewon alleyway at the epicentre of South Korea's worst ever stampede. But it was often too late. Three off-duty American soldiers stationed in South Korea told AFP how they found themselves caught up in the crowd surge and crush that killed 151 people and injured scores more, describing scenes of chaos, suffering and death as they struggled to help.

An estimated 100,000 people attended the event, which local vendors said was "unprecedented", but the overstretched police force, also dealing with a protest across town, only planned to deploy some 200 officers.

The three US soldiers told AFP they were part of the crowd coming down the narrow, steep alleyway that became a death trap, but they were able to escape onto a ledge-like area at the side. But just after they managed to leap out of the crowd "it started happening-everybody just fell on top of each other like dominoes," Jarnil Taylor, 40, told AFP.

People at the top of the alleyway were trying to force their way down, even though the street was already rammed full-and then people began to fall.

"There were people on top of people-it was layers of people. They didn't have enough people there to help them at once," Taylor, visibly dazed and tired, told AFP Sunday at the scene.

"People in the pile were panicking which made



"There were bodies everywhere"

the situation worse. There were sounds everywhere that made it impossible-screaming people just drowned out all the sounds," he added. He and his friends would try to pull victims out of the crush and carry them to safety so that emergency responders could perform CPR, he said. "We were picking a lot of people and taking them into the

nearby clubs since they had finally opened them up. The clubs' floors were filled with people laid on the ground."

'It just fell apart'

Washington stations some 27,000 US troops in South Korea to help protect it against the nuclear-armed North, and Taylor and his friends are based at Camp Casey in Gyeonggi. On their week off, they decided to go to the festivities at Itaewon, but said that when they found themselves in the huge crowd, they realised something was wrong.

"We were getting nervous too, we were in the middle of it and that's why we got off to the side, and that's when it just fell apart," said Dane Beathard, 32. People were crushed so tightly into the alleyway that emergency workers could not get them out of the packed crowd, he said.

"We helped pull people out all night ... It was a long time for people stuck in there not to breathe," Beathard said. "All of the people crushed were in the front, where they collapsed into a pile," he said, adding that at the worst points it was "a fifteen foot layer of people."

Authorities said the majority of victims were young women in their 20s. "There were a lot of

women in the crowd who got crushed," said Jerome Augusta, 34. "I think because they were smaller their diaphragms were crushed. And because they were panicking, which made it more chaotic," he said. Initially there were barely any police or emergency responders at the scene, the trio said, and the scale of the crowd meant that the people at the back had no idea that disaster was unfolding right in front of them.

"We were screaming at them to back up, but it was too little too late," Augusta said. The soldiers stayed on the edge of the crush all night, desperately trying to pull people out of the piles of bodies, but said that by the time they got to them, it was often too late.

"We are not small guys but we were crushed too before we got out," Taylor said, adding that the disaster had struck so quickly they had not managed to process what was going on. "What you've got to understand is the people stuck in the front they were all on the ground-crushed. So you couldn't push forward and trample everyone in front, so people piled up as they fell," he said.

The trio said they felt lucky to have survived. "When we left there were bodies everywhere, everywhere," the three of them told AFP. — AFP

UK PM faces growing pressure over reappointed Braverman

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faced growing pressure Sunday after reappointing interior minister Suella Braverman despite her resignation over a security breach. Sunak reinstated Braverman as Home Secretary when he became prime minister, just days after she quit predecessor Liz Truss's short-lived government.

Opposition Labour MP Yvette Cooper on Sunday slammed Sunak's "irresponsible" reappointment of Braverman to the position in charge of domestic security issues, also telling Sky News there were questions over possible other security breaches by Braverman.

"It really shows the huge error of judgment that Rishi Sunak has made in reappointing someone just six days after she broke the ministerial code over security lapses," Cooper said. "National security is too important for this kind of chaos, confusion and really irresponsible decision making."

Cooper spoke after Labour leader Keir Starmer on Friday said Sunak should sack Braverman, calling it the "strong thing to do". Braverman is seen as representing the most right-wing Tory MPs. She has enthusiastically supported a plan to send migrants arriving illegally in the UK to Rwanda.

She reportedly had rowed with Truss over immigration policy but quit over a security breach: sending a sensitive document to her private email account and then forwarding it on. Sunak has insisted that Braverman acknowledged her mistake and took responsibility.

Sunak ally Michael Gove, who has returned to



LONDON: A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaking during his first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons in London. — AFP

the job he did under Boris Johnson's premiership as minister for "levelling up", defended Braverman on Sunday as a "first-rate front-rank politician". He told Sky News Braverman is "working hard in order to ensure that our borders can be made more secure, and that policing is more effective".

Gove told the BBC it was his "understanding" that Braverman swiftly reported the incident in the appropriate way, while the broadcaster reported it had been shown an email from Braverman asking the recipient: "Can you delete the message and ignore?"

Gove insisted such a message would be "standard practice". The scandal came as the Mail on Sunday published an unconfirmed report that Truss's personal phone was hacked by suspected Kremlin agents while she was serving as foreign minister.

Gove told Sky he did not know whether the story was true, but stressed: "We take security issues incredibly seriously". — AFP

Brazil votes in Bolsonaro-Lula showdown

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Brazil was on a knife-edge Sunday as voters chose between far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro and his leftist arch-rival, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in a presidential election seen as too close to call.

Both candidates cast their ballots in the morning, expressing confidence in victory in the runoff election, after a dirty and divisive campaign that has deeply polarized the nation of 215 million people. Some Brazilians voted with gusto, while others merely picked the candidate they least disliked.

"I think this has been the best government Brazil has ever had," said Afro-Brazilian lawyer Eliane de Oliveira, 61, who voted for Bolsonaro in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana neighborhood, saying he was happy to have a government "that is not corrupt", in a dig at the graft-tainted Lula.

Standing nearby, physical education teacher Gustavo Souza voted for Lula, who he hoped would "improve the lives of many people." Like many he is nervous about the outcome, reflecting fears that Bolsonaro would not accept the result after months of attacking the electoral system. "I admit I am a little scared about the result today. People have become so radical. They will need some maturity... or it will turn into the third or fourth world war," he said, laughing nervously.

Lula, 77, narrowly won the first-round election on October 2, and enters the finale the slight favorite with 52 percent of voter support, according to a final poll from the Datafolha institute Saturday. However, Bolsonaro, 67, who scored 48 percent in the poll, performed better than expected last time around, and the result this time is anyone's guess.

The president cast his ballot wearing a T-shirt in the yellow-and-green of the Brazilian flag—a symbol he has



BRASILIA, Brazil: A man votes at a polling station in Brasilia, on October 30, 2022, during the presidential run-off election. — AFP

adopted as his own. "God willing, we'll be victorious later today. Or even better, Brazil will be victorious," said the ex-army captain, grinning as he greeted supporters in Rio de Janeiro's Vila Militar neighborhood.

Lula voted in Sao Bernardo do Campo, the southeastern city where he got his start as a union leader, saying he was "confident in the victory of democracy," and that he would seek to "restore peace" in a divided nation if elected. The electoral showdown caps months of mudslinging and personal attacks, in a campaign plagued by disinformation. Lula's camp has called Bolsonaro a "cannibal," "pedophile" and "little dictator." In turn, the ex-president has repeatedly been derided as a "thief" and accused of making a pact with Satan.

Waiting at his polling station in Sao Paulo, psychologist Marcelo Silveira Curi, 35, said he disliked both candidates but was reluctantly voting for Lula. "He's not ideal, but he's the option if you oppose this government," he told AFP, criticizing "lots of economic and social reversals" under Bolsonaro.

The election has global ramifications: Conservationists believe the result could seal the fate of the stricken Amazon rainforest, pushed to the brink by fires and deforestation that have surged under Bolsonaro. — AFP

International

Palestinian attacker shot dead after killing Zionist in West Bank

'Soldiers are conducting searches in the area' for additional suspects

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian assailant shot dead a Zionist in the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday and wounded four others, including another Palestinian, before being killed by a security guard.

The shooting comes just days before Zionist entity holds its fifth election in less than four years and with violence surging in the West Bank, a Palestinian territory occupied by Zionist entity since 1967. Extreme-right Zionist lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir, whose Religious Zionism alliance is eyeing major gains in elections on Tuesday, claimed on Twitter that his Hebron home was the target.

Zionist entity's security forces have not confirmed the allegation and Zionist media, citing security sources, have reported Ben-Gvir's home in a Hebron settlement was not targeted. Zionist's Magen David Adom (MDA) emergency response service initially reported five wounded, including a 50-year-old Zionist man left "unconscious with an injury to his upper body".

A spokesperson for Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center told AFP that man later died of his wounds. The other Zionists suffered less severe injuries, the MDA said, while the Palestinian Red Crescent reported that the Palestinian victim was being treated at a Hebron area hospital.

Zionist entity's army said "a terrorist shot live fire" near a checkpoint in Hebron, a West Bank city which is also home to a community of hardline Jewish settlers. An army spokesperson told AFP that

an Zionist security guard shot the attacker dead at the scene. "Soldiers are conducting searches in the area" for additional suspects, the army said.

'Downward spiral'

The United Nations envoy for Middle East peace, Tor Wennesland, warned on Friday that the West Bank was "caught in a downward spiral" of bloodshed. This year is on track to be the deadliest in the territory in more than a decade.

More than 100 Palestinians, including fighters and attackers but also civilians, have been killed across the West Bank as Zionist has conducted near daily raids targeting alleged militants. The raids were launched following a spate of deadly attacks targeting Israelis that began in March.

Zionist operations have primarily been concentrated in the northern West Bank, while Hebron in the south has seen less unrest. However, Hebron has been rocked by waves of violence through the Zionist-Palestinian conflict as it hosts a disputed holy site, known to Muslims as the Ibrahim mosque and to Jews as the Cave of the Patriarchs, which is revered by both faiths.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid tweeted on Saturday that he was "praying" for those wounded in Kiryat Arba, the Hebron community home to a group of predominately right-wing, religious settlers.

"Terrorism will not defeat us," said Lapid, who is currently serving as caretaker premier but is hoping to secure an independent mandate in



HEBRON, Palestinian Territories: Palestinian children surround a member of the Zionist security forces manning a checkpoint blocking an entrance to the occupied-West Bank city of Hebron on October 30, 2022, a day after a Palestinian assailant shot dead a Zionist. — AFP

Tuesday's vote. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who typically polls well among West Bank settlers, is eyeing a return to power after 18 months in opposition.

About 475,000 Jewish settlers currently live in the West Bank in communities considered illegal by most of the international community, alongside some 2.9 million Palestinians. — AFP

Iran journalists criticize arrest of colleagues

TEHRAN: Iranian journalists on Sunday denounced the arrests of several colleagues as protests sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini 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.

Dozens of people, mainly demonstrators but also members of the security forces, have been killed during the demonstrations, described as "riots" by the authorities, and hundreds more have been arrested.

Reformist daily Sazandegi said Sunday that "more than 20 journalists are still in detention", both in the capital Tehran as well as other cities. Several others have been summoned by the authorities for questioning, the newspaper added.

More than 300 Iranian journalists and photojournalists signed a statement to criticise the authorities for "arresting colleagues and stripping them of their civil rights after their detentions", according to local media.

"They did not have access to their lawyers, they were interrogated and charged before holding a public hearing," the statement added, calling for the journalists to be released. In a statement published in the Etamad newspaper, the Tehran journalists' association dismissed the "security approach" as "illegal" and "in conflict with press freedom".

The union referred to a report by the security services released on Friday into the origins of the protest movement, which pointed the finger at "interventions of the American regime in the recent riots". — AFP

Obama to rescue Democrats from US midterm losses

WASHINGTON: In the run-up to the high-stakes midterm elections next week, President Joe Biden is out on the stump in many states. But his one-time boss, former president Barack Obama, is also campaigning hard to rescue a faltering Democratic Party.

On Friday, the two men spoke at the same time, in two different corners of the United States: Biden in Pennsylvania and Obama in Georgia, two crucial states for Democratic Party aspirations in Congress. Both presidents have employed nearly the same speech: the need to save American democracy by blocking Donald Trump's Republican Party.

'Stealing the show'

Long-known for his oratory skills, Obama has sometimes stolen the limelight from his former vice president, whose campaign appearances are more prosaic. "If they win, there's no telling what might happen," Obama said on Friday about the Republicans, visibly enjoying the enthusiasm of his audience in Atlanta.

"I need you to get off your couch and vote! Put down your phone and give TikTok a rest and vote!" It was a return to the stage for the former president, who governed for two terms ending in early 2017. Out of the public eye, Obama devoted himself to producing documentaries, writing and philanthropy.

But now, as a campaign surrogate, Obama is

keeping very busy. After Georgia, Obama headed to Michigan and Wisconsin for campaign events Saturday. He will be in Nevada Tuesday, then on to Pennsylvania. Obama's deft handling of campaign crowds was on display Saturday in Detroit when a heckler interrupted him. "Right now, I'm talking," Obama said calmly. "You'll have a chance to talk sometime later... It's not how we do things." Recent opinion polls offered the Democratic Party hope of retaining precarious control of the Senate, while losing control of the lower House of Representatives to the Republicans.

Even more recently, though, some right-wing candidates are rising in polls, including some of former president Trump's fiercest Republican defenders. Now, the White House fears the losses in the House could be greater than expected. If those losses spread to key Senate races, it would put both houses of Congress under Republican control.

'Inherent danger'

Barack Obama is, in a way, well-placed to sound the alarm: His party suffered what he himself called a "shellacking" in the 2010 legislative elections marking the halfway point of his first term. "There is an inherent danger in being in the White House and being in the bubble," he said at the time, referring to the 160-year history of midterm elections that almost always punish the party in power.

Joe Biden, who prides himself on being a president of the "middle class," far from the Washington bubble, has nevertheless given the impression since the beginning of the campaign that he does not relish straying into hostile electoral territory.

He travels regularly and raises funds for the Democratic Party, but the unpopular 79-year-old



DETROIT, United States: Former US President Barack Obama campaigns for Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (L) and Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist (R) during a "Get Out the Vote Rally" ahead of the midterm elections. — AFP

president has not ventured into some of the most highly contested states, such as Arizona. Biden will hold a final rally in Maryland, considered a very safe choice. Obama, for his part, expressed concern in an interview posted online in mid-October about the direction Democrats were taking. He fretted that they were mired in abstract polemics around complex social issues, appearing disconnected from people's everyday lives, while Republicans bashed Democrats on crime and the soaring cost of living.

Believing that politics should not be a matter of "buzzkill," Obama warned the party should help people "not feel as if they are walking on eggshells." He urged the party to be "a little more real and a little more grounded," saying that tack would go "a long way in countering what is... the systematic propaganda that I think is being pumped out by Fox News," the preferred TV channel of Republicans. — AFP

Millions at risk of climate...

Continued from Page 1

waters - live less than five meters above sea level, according to the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).

As coastlines are affected, populations will naturally converge on big cities: Cairo, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, the Casablanca-Rabat area and Tangier. But these "hotbeds of climate migration", the World Bank warns, are themselves vulnerable to rising waters. In the Egyptian city of Alexandria, for example, two million people - nearly a third of its inhabitants - could be displaced and 214,000 jobs lost if the sea level rises by half a meter.

Climate-induced urban migration can "increase the pressure on natural resources", according to economist Assem Abu Hatab, "thus leading to social tensions and violent conflict" in a region where agriculture currently accounts for 22 percent of

employment. Already in Sudan, tribal clashes over access to water and land leave hundreds dead every year. In just two days in October, at least 200 people died when violence erupted in the southern Blue Nile state. According to UNICEF, of the 17 most water-scarce countries in the world, 11 are in the Middle East or North Africa.

In Iraq, 20 percent of the country's fresh water could disappear if the world warms by "one additional degree" and rainfall decreases a further 10 percent, according to the World Bank. A third of agricultural land could be deprived of irrigation, creating acute shortages for the country's population of 42 million.

Jordan, one of the world's driest countries, had to double its water imports from the Zionist entity in 2021, and the blockaded Gaza Strip has for years suffered chronic water shortages. The international community has committed - first in Copenhagen and then in Paris - "to help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change", including by supporting "different mechanisms for farming and water management", according to Pope. In order to help communities "find other jobs and thus other sources of income" and stem climate migration, these financial commitments must now be kept. — AFP

successor. A cabinet in a caretaker role cannot, however, take important decisions that might impact the country's fate, Lahham said.

Before bowing out, Aoun delivered a final broadside against Mikati. "This morning, I sent a letter to parliament and signed a decree that considers the government resigned," he told supporters before leaving the palace in the hills above Beirut. Experts say the move will likely not impact the work of Mikati's government, which has remained in a caretaker role since legislative elections in the spring.

But it was part of ongoing political arm-wrestling between Aoun and Mikati, who is also in charge of forming a new government. Aoun told parliament in a letter that Mikati was "uninterested" in forming a new cabinet to deal with Lebanon's myriad problems and called on him to resign. Constitutional expert Wissam Lahham said that "what Aoun is doing is unprecedented" since Lebanon adopted its constitution in 1926.

Under Lebanese law, a government that has resigned continues in a caretaker role until a new one is formed, Lahham said, describing Aoun's decree as "meaningless". — AFP

60 dead in India bridge...

Continued from Page 1

Local media showing videos - which could not be independently verified - of people desperately clinging to the remains of the structure and trying to swim to safety in the dark. The 233-m British-era suspension bridge was only reopened to the public on Wednesday, after seven months of repairs. Broadcaster NDTV reported that the bridge reopened despite not having a safety certificate, and that video footage from Saturday showed it swaying.

Authorities launched a rescue operation following the collapse, with boats and divers deployed to search for missing people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was touring his home state of Gujarat, announced compensation for those killed and injured in the accident. Modi "sought urgent mobi-

lization of teams for rescue (operations)", his office tweeted. "He has asked that the situation be closely and continuously monitored, and (for authorities to) extend all possible help to those affected."

The Gujarat government on its official website describes the bridge as "an engineering marvel built at the turn of the century". Accidents from old and poorly maintained infrastructure including bridges are common in India. In 2016 the collapse of a fly-over onto a busy street in the eastern city of Kolkata killed at least 26 people. Rescue workers pulled out nearly 100 people injured from under huge concrete slabs and metal.

In 2011 at least 32 people are killed when a bridge packed with festival crowds collapsed in northeast India, about 30 km from the hill town of Darjeeling. Less than a week later around 30 people were killed when a footbridge over a river in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh collapsed. In 2006 at least 34 people were killed when a 150-year-old bridge collapsed on a passenger train in the railway station in the eastern state of Bihar. — AFP

helping Somali forces take over primary responsibility for security by the end of 2024. The UN mission in Somalia UNSOM vowed to stand "resolutely with all Somalis against terrorism."

"These attacks underline the urgency and critical importance of the ongoing military offensive to further degrade Al-Shabaab," AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which replaced the previous AMISOM peacekeeping force, said on Twitter late Saturday. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a tweet that Brussels "stands by President Hassan Mohamud and the people of Somalia after the terrorist attack". "Our resolve and determination to fight against terrorism and defeat Al Shabab is higher than ever," he wrote. Pope Francis condoled with the victims of the bloody attack.

"Let us pray for the victims of the attack in Mogadishu in which more than 100 people lost their lives, among whom many children," he said, following his traditional Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said the "cowardly" act proved that Somalia need more support to end the violence and drought. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization said it was ready to help the government treat the injured and provide trauma care to the victims. — AFP

100 killed in Somalia twin...

Continued from Page 1

Mohamad described the incident as "historic", saying "it is the same place, and the same innocent people involved". "This is not right. God willing, they will not be having an ability to do another Zobe incident," he said, referring to the Islamist group Al-Shabaab.

Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement, saying its fighters were targeting the ministry of education. Shop owner Mohamed Jama said he was in the company of four men when the huge explosions hit. His shop which is located next to a bank collapsed and its windows shattered, the flying glass penetrating the flesh of the men. "One of us had serious injuries... we bled there for a few minutes," he told AFP in hospital.

The bloody siege drew international condemnation from Somalia's allies, including the United Nations, Turkey as well as the African Union and its force tasked with

Political crisis deepens as...

Continued from Page 1

Aoun's supporters, some of whom had slept in tents outside the presidential palace near Beirut, came brandishing portraits of the man widely referred to as the "general", dating back to his role in the 1975-1990 civil war. "We have come to escort the president at the end of his mandate, to tell him that we are with him and that we will continue the struggle by his side," said one, teacher Joumana Nahed.

Lebanese lawmakers have tried and failed four times in a month to agree on electing a successor to Aoun. Neither Hezbollah, the powerful armed movement which dominates political life in Lebanon, nor its opponents have the clear majority needed to impose a candidate to succeed him. The president's powers fall to the Council of Ministers if he leaves office without a

International

Danish PM fighting to cling to power as Danes go to the polls

‘The ones who get the middle get the Prime Minister’s seat’

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: Like an episode of political drama “Borgen,” Denmark’s Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen is fighting to cling to power on Tuesday in a legislative election that could well crown an outsider.

In a political landscape split between 14 parties, polls suggest that neither of the two main blocs can garner a 90-seat majority in the 179-seat Folketing, the Danish parliament. The left-wing “red bloc,” led by Frederiksen’s Social Democrats are polling at 49.1 percent, representing 85 seats, compared to 40.9 percent or 72 seats for the “blue” bloc of right-wing parties.

“It’s about winning the middle, because the ones who get the middle get the Prime Minister’s seat,” Kasper Hansen, a politics professor at the University of Copenhagen. The new party occupying the political centre is the Moderates, founded by former Liberal Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen. The polls indicate his party will win 10 percent of the votes or 18 seats, a fivefold increase since September — much to the surprise of political analysts.

And Rasmussen, who boasts solid political experience, has refused to pledge support for either bloc ahead of the election. Party colleague Jakob Engel-Schmidt said they “are ready to work with the candidate who will facilitate the broadest cooperation around the centre to implement necessary reforms”. And what the Moderates want to reform is healthcare and pensions.

Tough negotiations

In their efforts to attract the often less loyal centrist electorate, Frederiksen’s Social Democrats have announced that they want to govern across the traditional political dividing lines. They too have floated the Moderates’ idea of a coalition government gathered in

the centre. “This goes directly opposite to what she’s been saying before, and I think that’s because she senses that she might lose power otherwise,” Martin Agerup, director of the liberal think tank CEPOS, told AFP. Led by two other prime minister candidates — conservative Soren Pape Poulsen and liberal Jakob Ellemann-Jensen, the right wing, have not extended the same hand.

Without a clear majority, there may have to be long negotiations before a government is formed after the election, which could ultimately favour Lokke Rasmussen. “He’s a ferocious guy in negotiations,” Agerup said. “He can basically operate until somebody will get scared enough to point to him and say: ‘Look, yes, you could be Prime Minister’”.

It’s a situation almost out of the hit political drama series “Borgen”, named after the seat of legislative and executive power in Denmark, in which the leader of an imaginary centrist party subtly manoeuvres her way to becoming prime minister.

Split populist right

But outside the fiction, the Social Democrats, the largest party in the country’s political force, are trying to “play the card that they are the right party during uncertain times,” according to Rune Stubager, a professor of political science at Aarhus University. Their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was largely hailed, despite a stumble when they ordered an emergency cull country’s huge mink herd over fears of a mutated strand of the novel coronavirus. That turned out to be illegal. With an economy in turmoil they have since introduced measures to help Danes cope with soaring prices.

They are proposing a carbon tax on agriculture and



ROSKILDE, Denmark: Mette Frederiksen (C), Danish Prime Minister and leader of the Social Democrats, meets voters as she campaigns in Roskilde, Denmark. — AFP

a pay rise in the public sector, while their allies have campaigned mainly on protecting biodiversity and support for children and the vulnerable.

The current government is negotiating with Rwanda to set up a centre to house asylum seekers, while their requests are being investigated. Across the political landscape there is a strong consensus on maintaining a restrictive migration policy, meaning the issue is rarely up for debate. “There’s a clear consensus in Parliament

for strict immigration policies,” Hansen said. The populist anti-immigration right is expected to win more seats this election, but it is split into three different parties who together receive 15.5 percent votes in polls.

“We have to protect our society too and that means we cannot just open our borders,” Bjarke Rubow Jensen a 35-year-old anthropologist and Social Democrat supporter, summed up the Danish mindset to AFP. — AFP



UKHIA, Bangladesh: This handout photograph taken on October 28, 2022, and released by Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion (APBN) shows detained Rohingya refugees sit next to security personnel after crackdown in Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhia. — AFP

Bangladesh crackdown in Rohingya camps after murders

COX’S BAZAR, Bangladesh: Elite Bangladeshi police have launched a crackdown against suspected criminals and insurgents after a rise in attacks on Rohingya community leaders in refugee camps, officers said Sunday. The Armed Police Battalion, tasked with security in 34 refugee camps which are home to nearly one million Rohingya refugees, said they have arrested at least 56 Rohingyas since Friday night.

Some 740,000 Rohingyas fled a military offensive in Myanmar in 2017 and took refuge with more than 200,000 Rohingyas already in camps in Bangladesh’s southeastern Cox’s Bazar resort district. Police said security in the camps had deteriorated sharply in recent months with at least 15 Rohingyas—more than half of them camp leaders—hacked to death or shot by rivals.

“We have launched ‘Operation Root Out’ on Friday and already we have arrested 56 Rohingyas including 24 people involved in the murder of seven majhis (Rohingya community leaders) this month,” APBN spokesman Farouk Ahmed told AFP.

“They are terrorists. We will continue the drive and eliminate the terrorists who are disrupting security and peace in the camps,” he said. Bangladesh security forces regular refer to insurgent groups active in the camps as terrorists.

A top police officer said the Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Army (ARSA), an insurgent group fighting Myanmar’s army in the country’s restive western state of Rakhine, was behind most of the killings. “They are responsible for the murders of seven majhis in the camp,” he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

“Due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, ARSA men have entered the camps and are creating chaos there as it could not survive in Myanmar. They kill their rivals who oppose their terrorist activities,” he said.

Cox’s Bazar district police chief Mahfuzul Islam at least 20 Rohingyas were murdered in the camps this year and 120 people were charged with the killings. Apart from ARSA, police said rival insurgent groups such as the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) and Islami Mahad also operated in the camps. Some of the Rohingyas killed in recent months were members of Islami Mahad, a police officer said.

In September 2021, suspected ARSA men killed top Rohingya rights group leader Mohib Ullah in front of his office. ARSA was also blamed for murder of six teachers and students at an Islamic seminary controlled by Islami Mahad last October. — AFP

vests using a rope to lead them out of the building while children were put on improvised floats. In nearby Kawit town, a corpse in a white coffin floated on a flooded street, an AFP photographer saw.

Residents said a flash flood overnight likely carried it off from a nearby cemetery. Kawit residents emerging from receding floods were cleaning up and trying to dry their wet belongings. “It’s so difficult because we can’t move around due to the flood and we have a two-month-old baby who can’t sleep because there’s no electricity,” Andinor Cairme, a street sweeper, told

DR Congo expels Rwandan ambassador as M23 gain ground

GOMA, DR Congo: The authorities in Kinshasa on Saturday announced they were expelling the Rwandan ambassador as M23 rebels they accuse Kigali of supporting made fresh gains in the east of the troubled country. The announcement, made by government spokesman Patrick Muyaya, came after a government meeting to assess the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The latest advance by rebel fighters prompted the UN peacekeeping mission there to increase its “troop alert level” and boost support for the army.

Muyaya said that in recent days “a massive arrival of elements of the Rwandan element to support the M23 terrorists” against DR Congo’s troops had been observed. “This criminal and terrorist adventure” had forced thousands of people to flee their homes, he added. Given Rwanda’s continued support for the rebels, the defence council, presided over by President Felix Tshisekedi, had decided to ask the government to give Rwandan ambassador Vincent Karega 48 hours to leave the country.

Rebel advances

M23 rebel fighters have seized control of Kiwanja and Rutshuru—centre along the strategic RN2 highway in the eastern province of North Kivu, local officials and witnesses told AFP by telephone earlier Saturday.

Rebels had also been seen at Rugari, just 30 kilometres (20 miles) down the RN2 from the provincial capital Goma, which it links with the north and Uganda. Four peacekeepers were wounded by mortar fire and shooting at Kiwanja, the mission announced. “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.

At Kiwanja, “in our area we recorded three deaths, a man, a woman and her child, killed by shells that landed on houses”, said local resident Eric Muhindo. 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, asking not to be named.

AFP. The storm slightly weakened as it roared out into the South China Sea, the state forecaster said. Port operations have also slowly resumed as thousands of stranded passengers travel in time for the All Saints’ Day holiday on Tuesday, when millions of Filipinos visit the graves of relatives. The civil defence office said 22 people were missing and 40 were injured with bridges, roads and crops also destroyed. An average of 20 typhoons and storms hit the Philippines annually, killing hundreds each year and leaving vast areas of the country in perpetual poverty. — AFP



KAWIT, Philippines: People waded through a flooded street in Kawit, Cavite province on October 30, 2022, a day after Tropical Storm Nalgae hit. — AFP

Tropical storm batters Philippines capital before exit

MANILA: Emergency workers scrambled to rescue residents trapped by floods in and around the Philippine capital on Sunday as Tropical Storm Nalgae swept out of the country after killing at least 48 people. Several neighbourhoods in towns and cities just outside Manila remained under water after the storm raked across the main island of Luzon overnight, cutting power supplies and inflicting damage.

The death toll from the storm rose to 48, the national disaster agency said on Sunday, most of them from a series of flash floods and landslides that destroyed villages on the southern island of Mindanao on Friday. In the Manila suburb of Paranaque, rescuers swam through three-metre (10-foot) floodwaters overnight to reach 60 people including children marooned on an upper floor of a building, a local official said. “They were shouting and crying in panic because they really have no way out” after floodwaters rose as they attended a party, village chief Noel Japlos told AFP. “We did not expect the water to go this high. If we weren’t able to rescue them all, some of them could have died,” he added. Video footage taken by the rescue team showed emergency workers in life

Hostile acts

The UN’s MONUSCO mission condemned “the hostile acts of M23” and called for an immediate halt to the fighting. The mission 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 10 people dead since Sunday and dozens more injured near the RN2. 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, accusing the government of having failed to honour an agreement over the demobilisation of its fighters. It has since captured swathes of territory in North Kivu, including the key town of Bunagana on the Ugandan border in June. The front line 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 (less than three 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. The group’s resurgence has destabilised regional relations in central Africa, with the DRC accusing its smaller neighbour Rwanda of backing the militia.

Rwanda denies the charges and counters that DRC works with a notorious Hutu rebel movement involved in the 1994 genocide of Tutsis, the Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which Kinshasa also denies. A report by independent UN experts seen by AFP in August found that Kigali had provided direct support to the M23. And this week a US representative to the United Nations spoke of Rwandan defence forces providing assistance to the M23.

Angola’s President Joao Lourenco said he would dispatch his Foreign Minister Tete Antonio to DR Congo to mediate the dispute, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said following a phone call between the leaders. Guterres said he was urgently trying to speak to both Tshisekedi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame. M23 first leapt to prominence in 2012 when it briefly captured Goma before a joint Congolese-UN offensive drove it out. The militia is one of scores of armed groups that roam eastern DRC, many of them a legacy of two regional wars that flared late last century. Relations between Kigali and Kinshasa appeared to have improved when Tshisekedi took over as president in DR Congo in 2019 and held several meetings with Kagame. — AFP

Burkina Faso ambush kills 13 soldiers

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso: Suspected jihadists have ambushed and killed 13 soldiers in Burkina Faso’s eastern province, security sources told AFP on Sunday in the latest violence to shake the insurgency-torn west African nation. Four members of the defence forces were also wounded in Saturday’s attack along the road linking Fada N’Gourma with Natiaboani, one of the sources said. “Reinforcements have been deployed to secure the zone and carry out a search,” a second source added, confirming the casualty toll. The unit that came under fire had been sent to relieve a detachment from Natiaboani.

The ambush comes after the powerful Support Group for Islam and Muslims (GSIM), which is linked to Al-Qaeda, claimed Friday it carried out an attack on a military base in Djibo, a major northern town that has been under a jihadist blockade for three months.

The army said at least 10 soldiers died and 50 were wounded in that “terrorist” assault on the 14th regiment on Monday. The army added it killed 18 “terrorists” in mopping-up operations. GSIM also claimed responsibility for an attack on a supply convoy heading for Djibo on September 26 that left 37 dead — 27 of them soldiers. Dozens of truck drivers are still missing. — AFP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2022

Business

Boursa Kuwait records 29.2% increase in net profit for period ended 30 Sept 2022

Net operating profit jumped by 41.5% while total operating revenue increased by 17.7%



Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi:
We continue to consolidate our reputation as a leading stock exchange in the Middle East and a key contributor to the country's transformation into a global investment destination



Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi:
Boursa Kuwait's strategy to enhance the appeal of Kuwait's capital market is yielding important outcomes and attracting investors

KUWAIT: In a meeting of its Board members on October 30, 2022, Boursa Kuwait announced net profits attributable to equity holders of the parent company of KD 15.1 million for the nine month period ended 30 September 2022, recording an increase of 29.2 percent compared to the same period in 2021, when the company recorded net profits of around KD 11.7 million.

Total operating revenue came in at KD 26.4 million, an increase of 17.7 percent over the same period in 2021 which stood at approximately KD 22.5 million, while net operating profit increased 41.5 percent from KD 13.43 million as of 30 September 2021 to KD 19 million as of 30 September 2022. The company generated 75.16 fils earnings per share, an increase of 29.2 percent compared to its total of 58.19 fils over the same period in 2021, while the Group's total assets came in at approximately KD 114.7 million, which is an 8.4 percent increase versus its 2021 total for the same period of KD 105.8 million. Shareholder equity attributable to equity holders of the parent company increased from KD 56.5 million as of 30 September 2021 to KD 62.7 million as of 30 September 2022, an increase of approximately 11 percent. Furthermore, the market capitalization of Kuwait's capital market increased from KD 41.4 billion at the end of 2021 to KD 45.5 billion as of 30 September 2022, an increase of around 9.8 percent.

Commenting on the results, Boursa Kuwait

Chairman Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi said: "The results of the nine-month period ended 30 September demonstrate that Boursa Kuwait's strategy to develop the market as per international standards is continuing to pay off. The exchange plays an essential role in supporting the national economy and the country's National Development Plan, and its efforts help consolidate our reputation as a leading stock exchange in the Middle East and a key contributor to the country's transformation into a global investment destination during this tumultuous period which is marked by geopolitical tensions. I would like to thank my fellow Board members, the Executive Team and the esteemed Boursa Kuwait employees for their efforts to develop and enhance the company and the Kuwaiti capital market."

Guided by a belief in the private sector and its ability to develop a reliable and sound capital market with ever increasing liquidity levels, Boursa Kuwait has developed into a pioneering regional company that adheres to the best-in-class international standards and practices, making it one of the standout companies in the country today, and a leader in the Kuwaiti financial scene over the past few years.

Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi also commented on the company's nine-month results, saying: "Boursa Kuwait's strategy to enhance the appeal of Kuwait's capital market is yielding important outcomes and attracting investors locally, regionally,

and internationally. Boursa Kuwait's indices, as well as those from other capital markets across the GCC, have performed relatively better than their counterparts in Europe and the United States, which has led to institutional investors flocking to this region's markets, with foreign trades constituting 17 percent of the total trades in the first nine months of 2022, a testament to the increasing confidence in Kuwait's capital market."

Since its inception in 2014, Boursa Kuwait has worked diligently to create a thriving capital market that attracts local and foreign investors through a broad spectrum of new products and services, infrastructure upgrades, and market reform initiatives, as part of its multi-phase market development plans. The company was fully privatized in 2019, the first government entity in the country to successfully undergo the process, bringing about greater levels of efficiency. Boursa Kuwait also self-listed in September 2020 and has made great strides in sustaining its operations and business continuity in the face of uncertainties and challenges.

Over the past six years, the company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MD) plans. The company also showcases some of the standout listed companies and the investment opportunities that reside in the Kuwaiti capital market through its series of Roadshows and Corporate Days, putting these



companies in touch with some of the world's leading investment firms and financial institutions and highlighting their financial health and business strategies and outlooks, in an effort to help investors gain an in-depth understanding of the benefits and opportunities of investing in Kuwaiti companies.

ConocoPhillips takes major new chunk of Qatar gas expansion

DOHA: US oil giant ConocoPhillips on Sunday agreed to take another major stake in Qatar's expansion of natural gas production, the Gulf state's energy minister said. Energy Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi also said Qatar was talking with Asian nations—the major market for Qatari gas—over a share in its campaign to increase annual production by 60 percent to 126 million tons a year by 2027.

ConocoPhillips will have a 6.25 percent share in Qatar's North Field South project, part of the world's biggest proven natural gas reserves, Kaabi said at a signing ceremony with the US firm's chairman Ryan Lance. France's TotalEnergies and Britain's Shell both have 9.37 percent stakes in the field, while state-owned Qatar Energy has the remaining 75 percent.

Industry sources said the foreign firms are paying a total of about \$5 billion for the joint 25 percent share in North Field South that will produce about 16 million tons of gas a year. ConocoPhillips and the other Western firms also took key stakes in North Field East this year. Kaabi told a press conference the latest deal "further strengthens our long and fruitful strategic relationship" with the US company. Lance called it a "another milestone in our company's business presence in Qatar".

Despite Europe's campaign to secure new gas supplies, Japan, South Korea, China and India are



DOHA: Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi (right) and Ryan Lance, CEO of American multinational corporation ConocoPhillips, shake hands after signing an agreement at the QatarEnergy headquarters in Doha on October 30, 2022. —AFP

the major markets for Qatar, which is locked into long-term deals with the Asian nations. Kaabi said the nations could take "a small equity participation" in the expansion. "That discussion is still ongoing with several Asian buyers."

The two officials both hit out at reports that the US administration could limit exports of oil and other energy products in a bid to keep down US prices. Lance said that restricting what goes onto global markets would increase international and US

prices. "It's a policy, or a thought, that has short term impacts, but long term it is not good for the United States," he said. Kaabi, whose country has reaped big profits from the international price surge, said "market dynamics" should dictate prices and volumes. "Any restriction—whether it is Asian, European or American—to try to cut oil price by limiting supply, is not something that will be helpful to the market in the long term," he warned. "Either way it will be damaging to free trade." —AFP

US Fed set for steep rate hike as recession fears loom

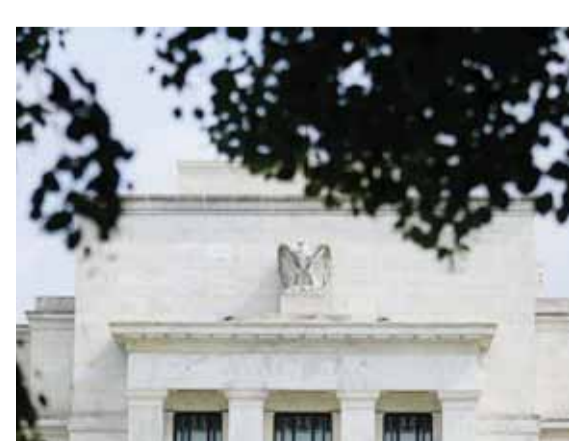
WASHINGTON: The US Federal Reserve is pegged to make a fourth straight steep hike in the key interest rate this week as it battles surging costs, with its aggressive stance fueling expectations of a recession. American households have been squeezed by soaring consumer prices, propelling economic issues to the top spot among voter concerns in upcoming midterm elections. Fed officials walk a tightrope to try and rein in prices while avoiding a downturn.

To raise borrowing costs and cool demand, the US central bank has already cranked up the benchmark lending rate five times this year, including three straight 0.75 percentage point raises. But with persistently high inflation and a tight labor market

supporting wages and spending, analysts say another 0.75 point hike is almost certain at central bankers' next policy meeting. The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) starts its two-day policy meeting on Tuesday, and all eyes are on signals that it may be ready to slow its campaign in the months ahead.

There will be a focus on whether the committee is confident of being "on track" toward a policy stance restrictive enough to manage inflation risks, a Barclays analysis said. Many economists expect the Fed to raise rates again by another half point in December. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has made it clear that there is no "painless way" to cool the economy and avoid a repeat of the last time US inflation got out of control in the 1970s and early 1980s.

It took tough action and a recession to bring prices down and the Fed is unwilling to give up its hard-won, inflation-fighting credibility. "We've been told time and again that the Fed would continue to raise rates aggressively until it sees 'compelling' evidence that inflation is slowing down," said Nancy Vanden Houten, US economist at Oxford



Economics. "I don't think the data so far meets that standard," she told AFP. The Fed's actions have rippled through the economy, with mortgage rates hitting their highest in decades recently and home sales sliding. Further Fed hikes are also expected to dampen consumer and business spending, making it more attractive to save rather than spend. —AFP

EU has frozen 17bn euros in Russian assets

BRUSSELS: The European Union has frozen Russian assets worth around 17 billion euros since Moscow invaded Ukraine, EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders said in an interview published Saturday.

The figure has risen from the roughly 13.8 billion euros (\$13.75 billion) "from oligarchs and other entities" that Reynders announced in July that the EU had frozen, mainly in five countries. Ukrainian officials are demanding that the funds be used to rebuild their country after the war.

The total of frozen assets was 14.5 billion euros by mid-September, when the Commissioner criticized the lack of efforts from several member states, including Hungary. In the interview, Reynders said of the frozen assets that "if it is criminal money confiscated by the EU", it could "be transferred to a compensation fund for Ukraine".

"This amount is far from being sufficient to finance reconstruction," he added. "So far, the assets of 90 people have been frozen, more than 17 billion euros in seven member states, including 2.2 billion euros in Germany," he told German media group Funke, including the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung daily. The sums totaling 17.5 billion euros were chiefly frozen by Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Ireland and Italy, a spokeswoman for the European Commission told AFP, without giving further details. Reynders noted that Western sanctions have also led to the "freezing of 300 billion euros" of Central Bank of Russia foreign exchange reserves around the world, saying this could be used as a guarantee. "From my point of view, it is at least possible to keep these 300 billion euros as a guarantee until Russia voluntarily participates in the reconstruction of Ukraine," he said.

Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, 1,236 people including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, as well as oligarchs including Roman Abramovich, have been subject to asset freezes and bans from entering the EU. —AFP

Business



Al-Subaiee: A qualification to obtain the ranking of 'Market leader' in digital solutions



Al-Mutawa: Implementing large financing deals with mega sectors in Kuwait



Al-Ruwaieh: The ranking of CSR market leader reflects KFH's extended societal journey

Euromoney: KFH tops the highest rankings in Kuwait

Market leader in digital solutions, corporate banking, CSR, and Islamic finance

KUWAIT: Euromoney Magazine has classified Kuwait Finance House (KFH) as a market leader in four categories: digital solutions, corporate banking, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and Islamic finance. The prestigious rankings by such a renowned magazine emphasize the successful business model of KFH and its quality services, efficient digital transformation strategy and its leadership in different areas in a way that it strengthens its standing and strong brand as well as its solid financial position.

The Market Leader ranking obtained by KFH is one of the highest rankings at the level of Kuwait and a global recognition of KFH's leading standing as well as a new milestone added to the success that it has been striving to achieve in various fields.

Digital solutions market leader

Deputy General Manager Sales and Distribution at KFH, Khaled Al-Subaiee said that the ranking of Market Leader in digital solutions at the level of Kuwait crowns the extraordinary achievements KFH achieved in digital banking and customer experience and confirms its successful digital transformation strategy. He added that the ranking was based on independent and comprehensive criteria, data and evaluations, including the number of KFHonline mobile app users, demand for KFH's digital platforms, enabling customers to obtain financing online, the revenues generated from digital banking services, and the features of KFHonline as well as alliances with Fintech companies.

Al-Subaiee said that KFH succeeded in offering unique and innovative digital banking services according to the highest standards of quality and security which in turn contributed to enhancing customers satisfaction and meeting their aspirations. He highlighted that leading the market in terms of digital solutions and continuing innovation in offering banking services and products is a big challenge, indicating that KFH succeeded in the challenge and proved its entitlement to obtain the market leader ranking. Al-Subaiee pointed out that KFH achieves a remarkable growth annually in the number of users and the number of e-banking transactions implemented by customers via KFHonline through mobile app or KFH website which is an indication of the efficiency of the digital services and solutions provided by KFH.

He stressed the continuous efforts to maintain KFH's leading position by keeping pace with the latest financial technology and innovations as well as offering easy, safe and high-quality digital financial services in collaboration with FinTech companies, and by adopting robotics technology and artificial intelligence.

Corporate banking market leader

Meanwhile, Deputy General Manager SME and Business Banking at KFH, Yousef Ibrahim Al-Mutawa expressed his happiness that Euromoney magazine awarded KFH top ranking in corporate banking at the level of Kuwait. He explained that KFH's strategy focuses on supporting and financing corporates as well as responding to the

changing dynamics of customers' demands and competition.

He added that the ranking emphasizes the prestigious standing KFH enjoys as a reference in industry and reflects its successful efforts to meet the aspirations of companies in terms of offering comprehensive package of outstanding financing services and contributing effectively to economic development. Al-Mutawa explained that one of the main drivers of KFH success is the relationship it builds with its customers on the basis of partnership in addition to the mutual interest that constitutes a key pillar of development and contributes to achieving Kuwait's vision 2035.

He said that KFH has a track record of executing major financing deals with giant sectors in Kuwait including, but not limited to, the oil sector. He noted that KFH

in the Mubarakia fire incident, supporting the capital governorate's initiative to beautify its buildings and roads, launching an initiative in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice for the settlement of the liabilities of debtors against whom court orders were passed. The amount exceeded KD 20 million and benefited around 10 thousand troubled debtors. Also, KFH contributed largely to the KD 10 million COVID-19 government relief fund as well as contributing an additional amount to the fund. In addition, KFH supported the efforts of Ministry of Interior by providing 30 vehicles to assist the ministry employees while carrying out their duties towards the state and society.

Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH has supported the efforts to build the Addiction Treatment Center costing KD 4.5 million and volun-

support their various sport, educational and social activities under the umbrella of "KFH Initiators" program which targets the development of creativity and competition. He added that KFH has the privilege of being the first bank in Kuwait to launch "You Are Our Pride" platform as an umbrella to honor toppers in various fields.

Al-Ruwaieh reiterated that KFH efforts shall continue in the "Keep it Green" campaign to support environmental initiatives within the sustainable development strategy. He noted that several distinguished events were organized, and a strategic partnership agreement has been signed with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) to support the plantation and greening campaign of Kuwait areas. KFH has also signed a strategic partnership with the "Sedra" ini-

tiatives' graduation projects, KFH has several partnerships and cooperation initiatives with various universities, colleges, and educational institutions in Kuwait to support Kuwaiti youth who possess major potentials for creativity and success.

Al-Ruwaieh reiterated KFH commitment to participate in various social initiatives, strengthening its market leadership in social responsibility and maintaining its position as the "Market Leader" at Kuwait level.

Islamic finance market leader

KFH received the ranking of "Market Leader" in Islamic finance in recognition of its mega contributions in the development of Islamic finance industry, finance portfolio growth, recognition of sustainable profit, assets growth and fulfillment of customers' needs of innovative sharia-compliant prod-



expands the corporate financing portfolio by developing new products and services that contribute to achieving excellence in corporate banking and benefiting from different markets.

CSR market leader

Group DGM, Public Relations and Media, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh said that classifying KFH as a market leader in social responsibility at the level of Kuwait from Euromoney confirms the prominent social role the bank plays. This role is characterized by diversity and comprehensiveness in more than one important aspect in society and contributes to promoting the concept of sustainable development as well as lays new foundations for the developmental role of the private sector.

He added that KFH's community journey has been outstanding for more than 45 years, making it a role model and a reference at the market level. Meanwhile, he stressed KFH's keenness that its community initiatives have an added value and cover all society segments. Al-Ruwaieh added that among the most prominent societal contributions of KFH have been supporting an initiative to reconstruct the areas damaged

teered to build 15 ambulance centers to enhance the medical system.

He added that KFH has signed cooperation agreements with Kuwait Red Crescent Society to execute social and humanitarian initiatives inside and outside Kuwait, mainly, the execution of relief projects to aid the victims of natural disasters in Turkey. The aid includes the purchase of 12 blood donation vehicles and 2 rescue boats and a 300-day central kitchen. An agreement was also signed with the Disaster and Emergency Management in Turkey "EEAD" to support the establishment of a regional center to respond to the disasters and fires in Antalya - Turkey.

Al-Ruwaieh added that KFH has signed two donation agreements with Kuwait Red Crescent Society and King Hussein Cancer Center in Jordan aiming to cover the treatment expenses of cancer patients. He affirmed that KFH has recently participated in the relief and medical campaign in Jordan, comprising a highly skilled team of Kuwaiti doctors and consultants who provided services to more than 200 patients. Al-Ruwaieh emphasized that KFH social responsibility strategy is focused on sponsoring distinguished and creative Kuwaiti youth and

initiative and the voluntary Green Dream Team, comprising various environmental projects and activities in the plantation of trees and mitigating carbon emissions through "Carbon offset" platform which is the first platform in Kuwait to mitigate carbon emissions.

Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH continues launching and supporting initiatives and activities that encourage and enhance sporting activities and healthcare in the campaign "Better Health for Better Life". He affirmed KFH continued efforts to support the handicapped and noted that a strategic partnership has been signed with the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped (KSH).

Al-Ruwaieh added that KFH is known for its continued endeavor to support all project owners, thus reaffirming its pioneering role in business, encouraging youth, and enhancing the concept of business leadership and youth initiatives. He added that KFH is distinguished for its support to students and graduates, adding that KFH is keen on participating students' graduation ceremonies and job fairs in several colleges and fostering students' graduation projects. Being one of the biggest supporters of stu-

ucts through highly developed and effective channels. KFH has reinforced its leadership in the Islamic banking industry. KFH has spread geographically and provided an integrated system of finance and banking services to enhance the sustainable growth of Islamic finance industry. Also, it has financed several projects and participated in major economic deals and giant projects having positive impacts on related societies and participated in sustainable finance projects "Green Finance".

Ranking standards

Euromoney rankings of the market leader is an international independent ranking of the financial services leaders in every market in several main categories. Euromoney, in ranking leading financial institutions globe-wide, considers research studies and questionnaires in addition to several quantitative and qualitative ranking criteria e.g., business volume, innovation, asset excellence, profit, adequacy ratios and main indices, leadership and credit ratings. Euromoney awards and accreditations are the most distinguished programs for the last 25 years attracting more than 1200 participations from global financial institutions.

Market Leader Rankings from Euromoney



Digital Solutions (Market Leader)



Corporate Banking (Market Leader)



CSR (Market Leader)



Islamic Finance (Market Leader)

Business

US retailers battle high costs clearing Christmas stockpiles

Tangled supply chains caused many shipments to arrive late last year

WASHINGTON: US retailers are hustling to sell their stockpiles of Christmas decorations as the festive season approaches, after tangled supply chains caused many shipments to arrive only after the holidays last year. As major economies bounced back from the pandemic, companies had struggled to keep up with soaring demand, with manufacturing hit by factory shutdowns during virus outbreaks.

The situation was worsened by a shortage of shipping containers, along with delays at ports from a lack of workers to unload products and transport them to retailers.

It was "very difficult with supply" last year, especially to procure enough Christmas trees and products for customers, said Chris Butler, CEO of decorations seller National Tree. "This year is a little bit of the opposite," he told AFP.

"Every retailer, every manufacturer has a lot of trees, has a lot of garlands because everything came late," he added. Due to supply chain problems, retailers said part of their festive decorations arrived only in January or February. "We went from 'we don't have enough' to now 'we have too much,'" said James Zahn, editor-in-chief at trade publication The Toy Book.

Reduced spending

But with soaring consumer prices weighing on household budgets, business executives have expressed concern that customers may tighten their purse strings.

"Consumers might not spend as much," Butler said. Inflation rose 8.2 percent from a year ago in

September, and the elevated figure triggered concerns that price pressures have become more ingrained. The Federal Reserve is now walking a tightrope trying to wrestle cost increases down without triggering a recession in the world's biggest economy.

For toy makers such as Hasbro, which distributes Monopoly, Nerf guns and Transformers action figures, all this means adapting to parents' reduced purchasing power. Customers have "become increasingly price-sensitive as the year has progressed," Hasbro CEO Chris Cocks told an earnings call this month, adding that promotions "will be key in the quarters ahead."

Similarly, Mattel, the seller of Barbie dolls and Fisher-Price toys, said this week that it would have more discounts as the holidays approach. "Instead of shippers ramping up activity to prepare for the holiday season, September brought a change of fortune as shipping volumes slowed and shipping prices declined," said Oren Klachkin, lead US economist at Oxford Economics, in a recent note.

He cited weaker consumer demand and overstocked sellers, factors which experts say could result in steep discounting that cuts profit margins.

Higher costs

Some toys have become about 15 percent more expensive due to inflation, said Zahn of The Toy Book. "That is going to make a difference for families that are already feeling a pinch when groceries and fuel are more expensive," he said.

Even including storage costs and interest, goods that arrived too late for last year's holiday season



NORTH PLAINFIELD: Decorations are displayed at a Christmas decoration showroom of the National Tree Company in North Plainfield, New Jersey. —AFP

were "still a little cheaper" than those added to inventory this year, Costco chief financial officer Richard Galanti told a recent earnings call. Merchants like clothing chain Express are opting to sell their products this year in factory outlets instead of clearing them out at lower margins, said

chief financial officer Jason Judd at a September conference.

"Santa, snowmen and Christmas trees haven't changed a lot," said Jill Timm, chief financial officer at department store chain Kohl's in a recent conference. "They're still going to sell," he said. —AFP

Annual tech gathering takes aim at crypto

LISBON: One of the world's biggest technology get-togethers kicks off in the Portuguese capital on Tuesday, with organizers saying a key aim is to ask tough questions about cryptocurrencies.

Around 100,000 people are expected to gather in Lisbon for the four-day Web Summit and related events, the first full-scale edition since 2019 following the disruption of the pandemic. The conference attempts to bring together start-ups, investors, business leaders and agenda-broadening speakers-linguist Noam Chomsky and heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk are among this year's lineup. Several of the prime slots, though, are taken by cryptocurrency specialists led by Changpeng Zhao, boss of crypto exchange Binance.

And plenty of companies present-from start-ups to billion-dollar behemoths Yuga Labs and OpenSea-are promoting the technology that fans claim will be the future of the web, gaming and ultimately the entire financial system. But crypto has so far been derided as a tool to generate investment bubbles, hide illicit wealth and enable scams. Conference organiser Paddy Cosgrave told AFP there were "a lot of questions to be answered" about crypto, describing it as "largely smoke and mirrors". "We've done our best to persuade many of the leading lights in the space to come, and some of them will get a bit of a kicking on stage, we'll see how that goes," he added.

Crypto sceptics including actor Ben McKenzie (Gotham, The O.C.) have also been given slots. Organisers said the event's 70,000 tickets had sold out, with Cosgrave reckoning some 30,000 more people would be in Lisbon for side events.

Whistleblower focus

Zhao's company is the dominant player in the crypto sector, but it has been repeatedly accused of trying to dodge regulatory scrutiny-claims the company has denied.

And it became embroiled in one of the biggest stories of the week, with a \$500-million investment to back Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter. But the wider crypto sector is struggling with plunging values and flatlining interest from the public. And the tech industry as a whole is also struggling with supply chain problems, trade disputes between the US and China, and economic volatility that has sent investors fleeing.

Cosgrave, though, played down any suggestion that conferences like his had a role in helping to stimulate investment or turn around the fortunes of the sector. "It's not really about the establishment or the dominant companies of today," he said. "It's a gathering of companies that in the future may play some significant role."

As usual, though, the Web Summit will host plenty of figures from the dominant companies-Amazon, Apple, Google and Meta will all be there. But on a lower level than last year, when the conference played host to Facebook's Nick Clegg and to whistleblower Frances Haugen, who accused their company of stoking hatred in return for clicks. Cosgrave highlighted the event's history of giving a platform to whistleblowers-this year Mark MacGann, who revealed details of Uber's aggressive lobbying, will be giving a talk. —AFP

Scottish blueberry farmer donates crop to charity

BLAIRGOWRIE: A Scottish farmer is giving away his entire crop of blueberries, worth £2 million, to charity, saying cheap imports and high labor costs have made harvesting the fruit economically unviable. Peter Thomson has been growing blueberries at his farm in Blairgowrie, northeast Scotland, for more than four decades, producing 300 tons of fruit per year.

But now, he said, growers in Peru and South Africa can sell their berries in the UK at a far lower price, while a shortage of pickers caused by Brexit has made the harvest unviable.

"They've started planting huge areas of blueberries in the subtropics like Peru and South Africa," said Thomson, who started growing blueberries in 1976. "Their costs of production are so low that we can't compete." Normally, said Thomson, 200 workers would have picked around 300 tonnes of blueberries this year with 50 more working in the packhouse.

In 2014, the price paid to Scottish farmers for blueberries was £17.50 per kilo, he said. Today however, supermarkets pay less than £7. Labour costs meanwhile have risen from £7 an hour five years ago to £10.10 today, even before state pension contributions and holiday pay are taken into account.

This meant that the value of crop of berries, which would once have been worth £3 million or more, fell to £2 million this year. Retailers are unwilling to pay a premium for Scottish produce as shoppers target bargains during the cost-of-living squeeze, Thomson said.

Croatia prepares for euro switch amid soaring inflation

ZAGREB, Croatia: With inflation mounting and precarious geopolitical headwinds rattling Europe, Croatia hopes that its upcoming switch to the euro will bring some semblance of protection to the Balkan country in an uncertain world.

On January 1, Croatia will bid farewell to its currency-the kuna-to become the 20th member of the eurozone. The former Yugoslav Republic, which joined the European Union nearly a decade ago, posted an annual inflation rate of almost 13 percent in September, compared to 10 percent in the eurozone. In the build-up to the changeover, authorities have been constantly hammering home the advantages of adopting the euro for the country's 3.9 million inhabitants.

"The euro brings resilience," Ana Sabic of the Croatian National Bank told AFP, arguing that Zagreb will, if needed, have access to more favourable borrowing conditions amid economic hard times. Since July, the European Central Bank has embarked on a policy of monetary tightening as it attempts to rein in galloping inflation caused by soaring energy and food prices triggered by the Russian war in Ukraine. Analysts continue to argue that eastern European countries in the EU with currencies outside of the eurozone, such as Poland or Hungary, have been even more vulnerable to surging inflation.

"It is actually an ideal moment for the euro switch," said Goran Saravanja, the chief economist with the Croatian Chamber of Commerce. "When major uncertainty dominates the global economy, for a small and open economy like Croatia it's always better to be a part of a larger association like the eurozone," he added. Croatia's main trading

The Brexit factor

The cheaper imports started last year after countries including Peru and South Africa, where pickers are paid substantially less, started using a new cultivar of the blueberry plant. The sweet juicy berries grow densely on bushes with scarlet leaves that are planted in rows. Blueberries usually require a frost before they flower, which meant farmers in Scotland had the market to themselves in September and October and could command a higher price.

The new cultivar, however, does not need a frost to thrive. The new blueberry variety is also popular with supermarkets as the fruit are larger and firmer and can be shipped-rather than airfreighted-to UK supermarkets over a number of weeks without spoiling. Another economic impact has come from Brexit, which has pushed up the price of labor and made it difficult to find skilled pickers.

Before Brexit, said Thomson, the farm's village of caravans was filled with skilled European pickers, who were experienced and harvested the berries at a faster pace.

Today the caravans stand empty. "Brexit has had the consequence of making our labour more expensive," Thomson said. "We have to get labour now from places like Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and it comes from so far that it is expensive."

'It is devastating'

Thomson said he had invited the public to fill up buckets of blueberries in exchange for a donation to a cancer charity. A portion of the berries is also being given to food banks. Hundreds of local residents have responded to Thomson's invitation to pick for charity, many of them arriving at the farm with buckets and boxes. Local resident Amanda Taylor, who was one of those picking berries at the farm, said it was devastating to see the crops rotting in a field when so many cannot afford food.

"It's quite an emotional thing actually, that we're



Peter Thomson has been growing blueberries at his farm in Blairgowrie, northeast Scotland, for more than four decades, producing 300 tons of fruit per year.

having to fly produce from Peru when I have this on my doorstep," she said. Pauline Cropper, who is volunteering to organize pickers at the farm, said people were finding it difficult to afford their shopping bills and were picking the cheapest options available. "Meanwhile, the berries here are sitting on the bushes and going to waste-they're falling off the bushes, there's so many of them, because it's not viable for the local farmer to pay a decent wage," she said. Thomson said his plants could have kept producing berries for another 50 years, but continuing to prune and maintain them was too costly.

"It is devastating for us, but it doesn't make economic sense to take the fruit to the shops," he said.

"We have no realistic prospect of making money unless the supermarkets are prepared to pay (more) for Scottish blueberries." He plans to continue farming his other crop, cherries, but may build houses on some of his land. —AFP



ZAGREB, Croatia: Ana Brkic manning her vegetable stand at Tresnjevacki Place open-air market in Zagreb. Croatia is counting down the weeks before switching to the Euro, while some in one of European Union's weakest economies question the timing amid challenged global security and rampant inflation. —AFP

partners are in the eurozone, while the tourism sector-which accounts for 20 percent of its GDP-caters to large numbers of European visitors.

And Croatians have already adopted the euro to a large extent, with about 80 percent of bank deposits denominated in euros. They have long valued their most prized possessions such as cars and apartments in euros, displaying lack of confidence in local currency dating back to the former Yugoslavia which was gripped by high inflation before its breakup. During the Yugoslav era and after Croatia's independence in 1991, properties were mostly valued in the German mark until the introduction of the euro two decades ago.

"Life will be easier, we calculate everything in euros anyway," said Roman, an economist from Zagreb who refused to give his surname. Milan

Batur, a retired pharmacist, dismissed concerns from those who fear some traders are taking advantage of the coming transition to the currency to round up prices. "It's other things, wars, shortages that cause prices to rise. We can't blame everything on the euro," said Batur.

However some still worry they will take a financial hit by the move. "The calendar may not be ideal, we could perhaps have postponed it a little because of the situation in the world," Zdravka Antonic, a florist at a market in Zagreb, told AFP. "People are already worried about how this is all going to end and the euro just adds to the uncertainty." Since early September, the price of bouquets, like those of other goods and services, bears a double label-with a conversion rate set by Brussels at 7.53 kuna to one euro. —AFP

With Twitter, Musk's influence enters uncharted territory

'Musk inserts himself squarely in today's global political conversation'

SAN FRANCISCO: First, Elon Musk revolutionized the automobile industry, then he tackled space travel. By taking control of Twitter, the eccentric billionaire now wields a nearly untold level of influence. In using his fortune to grab hold of such an important platform, experts say, he has even inserted himself squarely in today's global political conversation. "He is not just expressing views on an instrument of communication, he now owns it and sets the policy of how that instrument will be used," Jeffrey Winters, a specialist in elites and oligarchs at Northwestern University, told AFP.



SAN FRANCISCO: The Twitter sign is seen at their headquarters on October 28, 2022 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

Research. Musk did not invent the electric car, but with Tesla, "he showed it was possible in a big scalable way," Colas explained. With SpaceX, Musk introduced internet satellites and reusable rockets, technologies that were "something that's been promised but never really delivered until he came along," Colas added.

For Colas, Musk can in some ways be compared with inventors as prolific as Thomas Edison or iconic Apple founder Steve Jobs. He has proven at least that he knows how to make money: Tesla is by far the highest-valued car company on the stock market and SpaceX is worth more than \$125 billion.

So when the richest man in the world gives his two cents on a business matter, such as his opinion on a company or on cryptocurrency, like an oracle-his fans listen. He can shake up the markets with just a few words. In 2021, when Musk edited his Twitter bio to simply say "#bitcoin," the price of the virtual currency temporarily soared 20 percent.

He could have stuck to his role as a businessman and adopted a low profile. According to Winters, that's what most rich people do, fearing hostile reactions to their wealth. They employ lawyers and lobbyists to discreetly protect their interests, sometimes financing political campaigns. But "Elon Musk is unafraid to be very rich and very visible," Winters said.

Red line?

"The creation of Tesla as an iconic brand brought him to people's attention and great wealth," said Arizona State University communication and marketing specialist Mark Hass. "Then he just was willing to put himself out there continually on social media on issues that other CEOs would never publicly engage (with) the way he did," he added. "He's not afraid to say what is on his mind, regardless of who he insults, regardless of which regulator he angers," said Hass.

When Musk took to Twitter to propose a peace deal between Kyiv and Moscow, he probably viewed himself "as just giving his opinion like anyone else," Winters said. "When you control the satellites that are important for Ukrainians' ability to communicate, your opinion has massive ripple effects," he explained. But in Washington, Musk still has less influence than other financial heavy-hitters such as JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon or Goldman Sachs' David Solomon, who "control the banking system," Colas said. In buying Twitter—largely with his own money, but also with significant backing from investors who expect a return on their own risk—Musk has taken on a huge potential liability.—AFP

The question now is what he will do with that power, starting with the topic on everyone's mind: Whether or not Musk will allow former US president Donald Trump to return to the site.

Without anyone to answer to, Musk "is going to change the constellation of political voices that are going to be expressed through Twitter," Winters said. According to the professor, Musk represents a typical oligarch—a person whose fortune lends them social and political power not available to an average citizen—though Musk does not have any governments or militaries under his control.

Oracle

In the business world, Musk's bona fides as an innovator are well-established. "He goes into directions that people just never go in, and he creates brand new products that proved to be highly effective and successful," said Nicholas Colas, co-founder of DataTrek



YUZHNE, Ukraine: In this file photo taken on August 14, 2022, the first UN-chartered vessel MV Brave Commander loads more than 23,000 tons of grain to export to Ethiopia, in Yuzhne, east of Odessa on the Black Sea coast. — AFP

Ukraine grain exports halted

KYIV: Ukraine's maritime grain exports were halted Sunday after Russia suspended its participation in a landmark agreement that allowed the vital shipments, blaming drone attacks on its ships in Crimea.

The July deal to unlock grain exports signed between Russia and Ukraine and brokered by Turkey and the UN, is critical to easing the global food crisis caused by the conflict. The agreement had already allowed more than nine million tons of Ukrainian grain to be exported and was due to be renewed on November 19. On Saturday, Russia said it was halting its participation after its army accused Kyiv of a "massive" drone attack on its Black Sea fleet, which Ukraine labeled a "false pretext". US President Joe Biden called the move "purely outrageous" while Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Moscow was "weaponizing food". On Sunday, the EU urged Russia to "revert its decision."

The centre coordinating the logistics of the deal said in a statement that no traffic was planned for Sunday. "A joint agreement has not been reached at the JCC for the movement of inbound and outbound vessels on 30 October," it said. "There are more than ten vessels both outbound and inbound waiting to enter the corridor." Ukraine's foreign minister said on Twitter that Russia was blocking "two million tons of

grain on 176 vessels already at sea" that he said was "enough to feed seven million people." He accused Moscow of having planned to "resume its hunger games" in advance and said the Black Sea explosions were "220 kilometers away from the grain corridor." Kyiv and the UN earlier urged that the agreement remain in force. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the Russian move "an absolutely transparent intention of Russia to return the threat of large-scale famine to Africa and Asia". Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said: "It is vital that all parties refrain from any action that would imperil the Black Sea Grain Initiative which is a critical humanitarian effort".

Sevastopol in Moscow-annexed Crimea has been targeted several times in recent months and serves as the headquarters for the Black Sea fleet and a logistical hub for operations in Ukraine. The Russian army claimed to have "destroyed" nine aerial drones and seven maritime ones in an attack on the port early Saturday. "In light of the terrorist act carried out by the Kyiv regime with the participation of British experts against ships of the Black Sea fleet and civilian vessels involved in the security of grain corridors, Russia suspends its participation in the implementation of the agreement on the export of agricultural products from Ukrainian ports," the Russian defense ministry said on Telegram. Moscow's forces alleged British "specialists", who they said were based in the southern Ukrainian city of Ochakiv, had helped prepare and train Kyiv to carry out the strike.—AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 27 OCTOBER 2022

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	37,373	8,091.48	-0.3%	1.8%	5.9%	378,098,660	188,609,200	30,137	27.3	2.5	79.3%
Main Market	9,738	5,428.85	0.3%	1.7%	-7.8%	428,720,843	47,668,549	17,965	15.6	1.3	20.7%
All Share	47,111	7,231.08	-0.2%	1.8%	2.7%	806,819,503	236,277,748	48,102	24.9	2.3	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	29,723	1,769.12	-0.4%	1.5%	9.0%	189,099,352	119,389,366	15,091	24.9	2.5	63.09%
BASIC MATERIALS	770	863.44	0.3%	-4.2%	-15.7%	5,462,796	2,187,202	1,075	9.2	1.2	1.63%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	929	1,386.29	-0.8%	0.1%	3.7%	26,804,759	4,241,705	2,226	32.3	10.9	1.97%
CONSUMER STAPLES	141	462.58	0.5%	-1.0%	-36.7%	5,585,222	2,037,689	246	30.3	1.0	0.30%
ENERGY	210	1,006.45	-3.4%	-5.7%	-29.5%	3,360,671	145,027	237	12.5	1.0	0.45%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,098	1,254.91	-1.5%	0.1%	-11.8%	295,923,262	37,318,964	10,941	33.7	2.0	8.70%
HEALTH CARE	239	481.97	-	4.8%	-39.5%	39	19	8	13.4	3.6	0.51%
INDUSTRIALS	3,841	1,083.03	1.3%	6.5%	-5.1%	100,446,766	45,209,665	8,847	37.4	1.5	8.15%
INSURANCE	633	1,529.09	0.7%	1.9%	-0.3%	940,032	524,970	185	8.8	1.0	1.34%
REAL ESTATE	2,603	1,216.21	0.0%	1.2%	-8.3%	162,233,033	16,286,531	6,134	22.8	1.3	5.52%
TECHNOLOGY	9	628.56	-1.3%	6.7%	-8.1%	215,950	18,255	96	0.0	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,707	1,208.53	1.0%	3.9%	10.9%	14,632,516	8,515,267	2,771	13.8	2.1	7.87%
UTILITIES	209	500.00	-1.0%	-2.6%	-16.7%	2,115,105	403,088	245	14.5	2.1	0.44%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MRC	75	25.00%	105,357	7,157,912	51
OSOUL	91.8	22.40%	1,824,131	140,701,627	81
TAAMEER	24	18.81%	4,340,213	95,802,018	139
MIDAN	695	9.97%	1	0.695	1
KBT	54	8.00%	8,664,678	450,074,604	122

Top Losers

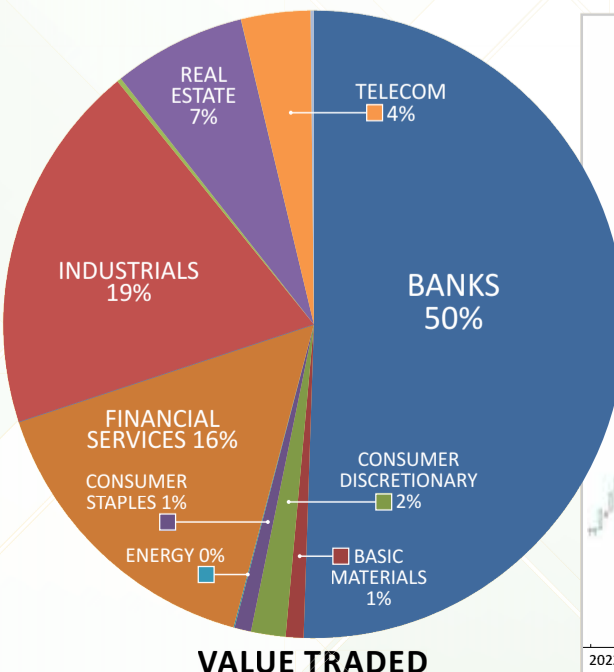
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
ALAQARIA	32.5	-11.44%	171,207	5,543	26
NAPESCO	671	-10.53%	20,081	13,943	41
ALAFCO	163	-9.94%	40,239,053	7,146,008	1,107
SOKOUK	23.5	-9.62%	2,020,511	48,566	89
MENA	29.3	-8.15%	1,954,476	59,980	61

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	801	-1.23%	81,473,520	65,985,403	6,858
AAYAN	124	3.33%	77,409,897	9,620,620	1,243
NCCI	110	0.00%	45,607,225	5,153,297	745
ALAFCO	163	-9.94%	40,239,053	7,146,008	1,107
AGLTY	767	3.23%	39,917,459	30,202,430	4,376

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	801	-1.23%	81,473,520	65,985,403	6,858
NBK	1,055	0.00%	30,078,140	31,734,255	3,155
AGLTY	767	3.23%	39,917,459	30,202,430	4,376
AAYAN	124	3.33%	77,409,897	9,620,620	1,243
ZAIN	597	0.17%	12,584,119	7,455,784	1,908



Market Summary:

- Premier Market's weekly volume and value dropped 9% and 5%, while Main Market rose 4% and 12%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices are reaching critical resistance levels which need high volume to overcome.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7231, with support levels at 7214, 7162, and 7105, and resistance at 7286. The Premier index closed at 8091, with support levels at 8064, 8013, and 7926, while resistance at 8116. The Main index closed at 5428, with support levels at 5393, 5308, and 5247, while resistance at 5467.



In this file photo Brazilian model Gisele Bündchen (center) walks alongside US American football player Tom Brady during a closing ceremony at the FIFA World Cup final at The Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.



In this file photo Gisele Bündchen and Tom Brady arrive for the 2019 Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



In this file photo Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen attend the 2019 Hollywood For Science Gala in Los Angeles, California.— AFP photos

NFL STAR TOM BRADY, SUPERMODEL GISELE BUNDCHEN CONFIRM DIVORCE

NFL star Tom Brady and Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen announced Friday they were divorcing after 13 years of marriage. Brady and Bündchen posted similar statements on Instagram saying they had reached an amicable agreement over the terms of their split. "In recent days my wife and I finalized our divorce from one another after 13 years of marriage," seven-time Super Bowl champion Brady wrote. "We arrived at this decision amicably and with gratitude for the time we spent together," Brady added, describing the decision to proceed with the divorce as "painful and difficult."

"We wish only the best for each other as we pursue whatever new chapters in our lives that are yet to be written," he said, making an appeal for privacy. The wording was echoed by Bündchen, who said in her post, "The decision to end a marriage is never easy but we have

grown apart." Both emphasized they would continue to co-parent their children and prioritize their well-being. Entertainment news website TMZ.com had broken the news of the split early Friday, adding that Bündchen formally filed for divorce in Florida.

Brady and Bündchen, who married in 2009, have two children together, Benjamin, 12, and daughter Vivian Lake, nine. Brady also has a 15-year-old son, John Edward, with ex-girlfriend Bridget Moynahan. The couple has a reported net worth of around \$650 million, with Bündchen estimated to have contributed \$400 million of the fortune.

The divorce comes after months of tabloid speculation concerning the couple's marriage, which reportedly came under strain when Brady reversed a decision to retire from American football. Brady and Bündchen have been one of the most prominent celebrity power cou-

ples on the US pop culture scene, straddling sport, fashion and entertainment.

Retirement tensions

The 45-year-old Brady is a leading athlete in the United States, with a stellar grid-iron career that has spanned more than two decades. Bündchen, 42, is one of the world's most recognizable models and has been the face of countless campaigns for luxury labels such as Versace, Dolce & Gabbana and Ralph Lauren. The quarterback had announced his retirement from the NFL in February only to "unretire" the following month.

Bündchen has repeatedly voiced concern for Brady's long-term health by his continued presence in the sport, and in a 2017 interview said the quarterback had received multiple concussions—a claim later contested by the NFL. Following Brady's record-breaking seventh Super Bowl victory in 2021, in his first season

with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Bündchen famously told her husband: "What more do you have to prove?"

Yet Brady continued playing in 2021-2022, and returned for the current season after his retirement U-turn. Brady took a mysterious extended 10-day leave from Buccaneers' training camp in August, a move which was never properly explained by the player or his team. The former New England Patriots quarterback later hinted at problems in his personal life.

"You just have to try and figure out life the best you can," Brady said at the time. "It's a continuous process." In a September interview with Elle magazine, Bündchen once again reiterated her misgivings about her husband's decision to carry on playing—but said she wanted him to "follow his joy."

"Obviously, I have my concerns—this is a very violent sport, and I have my chil-

dren and I would like him to be more present," she told Elle. "I have definitely had those conversations with him over and over again. But ultimately, I feel that everybody has to make a decision that works for (them). He needs to follow his joy, too."

Brady for his part admitted on his "Let's Go!" podcast in September that juggling personal commitments with his NFL career was a struggle. "You wrestle with different things as you get older and I'd say the only thing that changes over time is you have different priorities when you get older," Brady said. The divorce comes with Brady and the Buccaneers mired in a slump. On Thursday the Bucs lost at home to the Baltimore Ravens—the first time since 2002 Brady has suffered three straight defeats.—AFP

JAKARTA FASHION WEEK 2023



Models present creations by Tanisia Bella during the 2023 Jakarta Fashion Week in Jakarta.— AFP photos



Models present creations by Benang Jarum Nada Puspita during the 2023 Jakarta Fashion Week in Jakarta.



More than 6,000 baby turtles are released in Peru

More than 6,000 hatchlings of three species of endangered turtles have been released into lakes and lagoons in Peru's Amazon basin to help them repopulate, officials said Saturday. To achieve that, wildlife officials collect turtle eggs and transfer them from natural beaches of the Amazon basin, to artificial beaches

where they are artificially incubated for 60 days until they hatch.

Gustavo Montoya, head of the Cordillera Azul del Sernanp National Park, told AFP that over 6,100 baby turtles of the taricaya, charapa and teparo species have been released into the waters of the Amazon basin. "With the release of these species at risk, it will be possible to repopulate the lagoons and rivers of the Amazon," said Montoya. Environmental scientists say that preserving the Amazon rainforest and its ecosystem is vital for the planet because of its ability to absorb greenhouse gasses. —AFP

Mondrian painting hanging upside down for 77 years

A painting by Dutch abstract painter Piet Mondrian has been hanging upside down for 77 years, says a curator at the German museum. A large retrospective of the avant garde artist's work went on display Saturday at the Kunstsammlung museum in Dusseldorf, and one of the pieces on show is "New York City 1", painted in 1941. But as she prepared for the exhibition, curator Susanne Meyer-Buser discovered the painting had been presented to the public rather differently from how it was perhaps intended to be on show.

"In a photo from 1944, I saw that the canvas was the other way around on an easel. It intrigued me," Meyer-Buser told German daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*. The painting, consisting of several lines in blue, red and yellow intersecting at right angles, was then displayed shortly after in the wrong way at MoMA in New York, the curator said. It was then transferred to the Dusseldorf museum in 1980 and put on show in the same way.

The error could have been made because "the painting doesn't have a signature", according to Meyer-Buser.



The decision to present the work in the manner it has been for decades was probably determined by "the artist's name inscribed on the back of the frame by the administrator of the (artist's estate)" at the time of Mondrian's death in 1944. Mondrian, born in 1872, was a noted exponent of the 1920s abstract art movement known as "De Stijl" and was one of the most influential figures in modern art in the 20th century.

In 1940, he moved to New York where the skyscrapers and layout of the city would inspire his horizontal lines. He died in New York in 1944. His most famous artwork is "Victory Boogie Woogie", considered one of the most important artworks of the 20th century. — AFP



FOR WATER-STRESSED IRAQ, WELLS THREATEN RACE TO THE BOTTOM

This aerial view shows machinery digging a water well in a desert area on the outskirts of Iraq's central city of Najaf.

Iraq has long drilled the desert for oil, but now climate stress, drought and reduced river flows are forcing it to dig ever deeper for a more precious resource: water. The war-scarred nation and major crude exporter is one of the world's five countries most impacted by key effects of the climate crisis, says the United Nations. Compounding the water stress, upstream dams, mainly in Turkey, have vastly reduced the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates, the once mighty rivers that gave birth to Mesopotamian civilization.

One of Iraq's millions of hardscrabble farmers bearing the brunt of this ecological crisis is Jabar Al-Fatlawi, 50, a father of five with a rough beard and wearing a white robe. Like his father before him, he has grown wheat and rice in the southern province of Najaf-but not this year, he said, blaming the "severe water shortage". To help him keep alive at least his date palms and livestock, he has paid local authorities to dig a well on his dusty patch of land near the town of Al-Mishkhab.

Fatlawi watched as a noisy drill churned up the ground and eventually hit the water table far below, sending up a jet of muddy water that will allow him to battle on, for now. As Iraq endures its worst drought since 1930, and frequent sandstorms turn the sky orange, he hopes the precious water will allow him to at least grow dill, onions and radishes.

His well is one of hundreds recently drilled in Iraq-at ever greater depth as the groundwater table below keeps dropping. Fatlawi said he had once dug his own, small-scale well, before the government declared it illegal. At any rate, he recalled, "sometimes the water was bitter, some-

times it was salty".

Vanished lake

The short-term solution for farmers like Fatlawi exacerbates a long-term problem as frantic competition heats up for ever more scarce water, experts warn. Another southern farmer, Hussein Badiwi, 60, said he had been planting barley and grass for

Lake in the south, a pilgrimage site, this year vanished for the first time in recorded history as some 1,000 illegal wells had sucked away the water table below.

In a country where one in five people work in agriculture, water shortages have destroyed livelihoods and driven a rural exodus into crowded cities, heightening social tensions. Anger has flared at a

preservation of this wealth". To tackle the crisis, authorities have shuttered hundreds of illegal wells.

But they have also drilled some 500 new ones in this year's first half, with plans for more in at least six provinces ahead of what the ministry predicts will be "another year of drought" in 2023. Najaf's head of water resources, Jamil Al-Assadi,

practiced since ancient times. A United Nations agency has welcomed Iraq's new regulations, but also suggested water meters on wells and "a pricing system to limit groundwater use". On a national level, Iraq provides "no incentives to encourage the use of modern irrigation technologies," said the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.



Iraqi farmer Jabar Al-Fatlawi (right) stands next to a Najaf water resources team headed by Jamil Al-Assadi (center) at the site of a water well dig, in a desert area on the outskirts of Iraq's central city of Najaf. — AFP photos

livestock on the edge of the Najaf desert for 10 years. Like his neighbors, he relies exclusively on water drilling and said the area had seen "a drop in the water level because of the multitude of wells".

"Before, we used to dig 50 meters (165 feet) and we had water," Badiwi said. "Now we have to go down more than 100 meters." Iraq, a country of 42 million, is seeing a race to the bottom for the precious groundwater. The Sawa

government seen as incompetent and corrupt, and sporadic protests have broken out in the south demanding Baghdad pressure Turkey to release more water from its dams.

'Stolen country'

Iraq's ministry of water resources warned during the blistering summer that "excessive groundwater use has led to many problems" and called for "the



This aerial view shows machinery digging a water well in a desert area on the outskirts of Iraq's central city of Najaf.

said fees to drill wells had been reduced by half, and many new ones had been sunk into areas formerly irrigated by rivers and canals. The water is intended for "livestock, irrigating orchards and limited plantations", but insufficient and too salty for wheat fields or rice paddies, he said.

In exchange, "the farmers must use modern irrigation methods" rather than the wasteful flooding of fields they have

Another Iraqi wheat and rice farmer, Salah Al-Faraon, complained that the authorities had limited the land he could cultivate "because there is not enough water". "Without rice and wheat, how can we live without income?" asked the 75-year-old. "We can migrate, but to where? The whole country is being stolen." — AFP



Farmer Hussein Badiwi, 60, is pictured in front of his tent on the edge of the desert of Iraq's central city of Najaf.



A shepherd gathers his sheep on arid land on the edge of the desert of Iraq's central city of Najaf.



Shepherds are pictured with livestock on the edge of the desert of Iraq's central city of Najaf.

Sports

Hornets sting NBA Warriors in overtime, Thunder top Mavs



CHARLOTTE: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors shoots the ball during the game against the Charlotte Hornets on Oct 29, 2022 at Spectrum Center. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: PJ Washington scored 31 points, including six in overtime, as the Charlotte Hornets beat reigning NBA champion Golden State 120-113 as Stephen Curry's hometown heroics didn't pan out. The Oklahoma City Thunder also won in overtime on Saturday, edging the Mavericks in Dallas 117-111. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 38 points, six rebounds and nine assists. Dallas star Luka Dončić had a triple-double of 31 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists, but the Mavs squandered a 16-point lead in the final five minutes of regulation.

It was also close in Utah, where three-point shots by Kelly Olynyk and Malik Beasley put the Jazz up 124-120 with 23 seconds remaining. Dillon Brooks nailed a three-pointer for Memphis with 15.6 seconds left, but the Grizzlies - playing without star Ja Morant - wouldn't get another shot and Utah won 124-123. At Charlotte, Gordon Hayward scored 23 points and Kelly Oubre added 18 for the Hornets, who once again spoiled Warriors star Curry's trip to the city where he played high school basketball and his father, Dell Curry, starred for the Hornets.

The Warriors haven't won in Charlotte since February of 2019, and the Hornets kept that streak alive despite the absence of injured LaMelo Ball and Terry Rozier. Curry led the Warriors with 31 points and 11 rebounds. He missed a contested three-pointer at the end of regulation that would have given Golden State the win. The Warriors, trailing 62-50 at halftime, battled back to seize a four-point lead on Andrew Wiggins' dunk with 62 seconds left in the fourth quarter, but baskets from Washington and Dennis Smith tied it at 107-107 with 23.1 seconds remaining.

Curry had the ball as the clock ticked down, but could barely get the shot up in the face of swarming defense by Smith. "I got wrapped in the trying to play

hero ball in a hometown buzzer-beater type situation," Curry admitted. In overtime, Jalen McDaniels turned the tide for the Hornets with a three-pointer that put them up 114-111 with 2:01 remaining. Smith followed with a driving layup as the Hornets pulled away.

Pacers stun Nets

In Brooklyn, the Nets' early-season struggles continued with a 125-116 loss to the Indiana Pacers. The Nets, featuring the superstar duo of Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, have lost four in a row to fall to 1-5 in the young season. Rookie Benedict Mathurin scored a career-high 32 points for the Pacers, including a career-best six three-pointers. Overall, the Pacers poured in 23 three-pointers, tying the record for most three-pointers made against the Nets in a game. The Pacers also out-rebounded the Nets 53-34.

The Milwaukee Bucks, meanwhile, improved to 5-0 with a 123-115 victory over the Atlanta Hawks. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 of his 34 points in the second half and Jrue Holiday poured in another 34 for the Bucks, who battled back after slipping behind by one in the fourth quarter of a game in which they led by as many as 12. Antetokounmpo also pulled down 17 rebounds as the Bucks withstood a 42-point performance from Atlanta's Trae Young.

In Sacramento, Kevin Huerter drained seven three-pointers on the way to 27 points to help the Kings post their first victory of the young season, 119-113 over the Miami Heat. The victory left the LeBron James-led Los Angeles Lakers as the last remaining winless team in the league, and gave Mike Brown, hired to coach the Kings in the off-season, his first victory at the helm. The Kings led wire-to-wire, pushing the advantage to as many as 22 points, although the Kings sliced the deficit to one point midway through the fourth quarter. — AFP

Tragedy made Akram ditch cocaine habit

LONDON: Pakistani cricket legend Wasim Akram says it took the death of his first wife Huma to spark him into finally kicking his addiction to cocaine which had replaced the thrill of playing when he retired. The 56-year-old former pace bowler and a key member of the Pakistan side that won the 1992 World Cup told the Sunday Times it was Huma who "found me out" and advised him to seek help.

However, that did not work, Akram said an interview to promote his new autobiography "Sultan: A Memoir", because "the doctor was a complete con-man" and he returned to taking cocaine. It took Huma's death aged just 42 in Oct 2009 to finally persuade him to give it up.

Akram - who took over 400 wickets in 104 Tests - said "the culture of fame in south Asia is all-consuming, seductive and corrupting" and he fell into that trap after he retired in 2003. "It was a substitute for the adrenaline rush of competition, which I sorely missed, or to take advantage of the opportunity, which I had never had. My devices turned into vices."

Akram - who was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 30 - said he first took cocaine when he was offered some at a party in England. "My use grew steadily more serious, to the point that I felt I needed it to function," he said.

'Facility was brutal'

Huma lived between England and Lahore with their two sons, Tahmoor and Akbar, but felt isolated as Akram's media commitments took him all over the world. "It (cocaine) made me volatile," he said. "It made me deceptive. Huma, I know, was often lonely in this time... she would talk of her desire to move to Karachi, to be nearer her parents and siblings. I was reluctant. Why? Partly because I liked going to Karachi on my own, pretending it was work when it was actually about partying, often for days at a time."

Akram agreed with Huma he needed help after her "discovering a packet of cocaine in my wallet." "I couldn't control it," he said. "Four (lines) would become a gram, a gram would become two. I could not sleep. I could not eat. I grew inattentive to my diabetes, which caused me headaches and mood swings."

Akram said rehab in Lahore proved a total failure, not least because the doctor placed dollar signs ahead of curing his patients. "This facility was brutal: A bare building with five cells, a meeting room and a kitchen," he said. "The doctor was a complete conman, who worked primarily on manipulating families rather than treating patients, on separating relatives from money rather than users from drugs." Far from cured, he resumed his habit as "the lure of my lifestyle remained" and indulged in it at the 2009 Champions Trophy. However, it was to be the final rush as two weeks after the tournament finished Huma died of mucormycosis, a rare fungal infection. The tragedy finally convinced Akram to give up cocaine. "Huma's last selfless, unconscious act was curing me of my drug problem," said Akram, who has since remarried Australian Shaniara Thompson with whom he has had a daughter Aiyah. — AFP



Shooters eye glory at Crown Prince tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: As HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Third Annual Shooting Tournament continues, shooters are showing eagerness to compete harder to win the coveted cup, as shown earlier by juniors and Saturday by veteran women in the skeet and trap events. Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Assistant Secretary Mohammad Misfer Al-Ghurba said the tournament is progressing as planned and according to schedule. He said shooters are competing hard as they prove themselves in hopes of joining national teams to represent their beloved country Kuwait regionally and internationally. Ghurba said a press conference will be held on Tuesday to speak about the tournament and upcoming events.

Head of the shotgun referees committee Hamad Al-Ruwaisan said the tournament is seeing the participation of a large number of shooters including juniors, especially since there are upcoming international tournaments that may qualify shooters to participate in the Paris 2024 Olympics, adding Kuwait shooters represented Kuwait very well and is the only sport that brought Olympic medals to the country.

He said administrative and technical departments are working on preparing all those related to shooting, referees or shooters, and keep them informed about any changes or updates on the laws or rules by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Ruwaisan thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his patronage of the annual tournament, and his continued care of the shooting sport and shooters.

Astros beat Phillies to pull level in World Series

HOUSTON: Houston starting pitcher Framber Valdez struck out nine over 6 1/3 innings on Saturday, sparking the Astros over Philadelphia 5-2 to pull level in the World Series. The 28-year-old Dominican left-hander, a 17-game winner in the regular season, allowed only one run on four hits with three walks to frustrate Phillies batters. As a result, Houston equalized at 1-1 in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship final, which shifts to Philadelphia for games three through five from Monday through Wednesday.

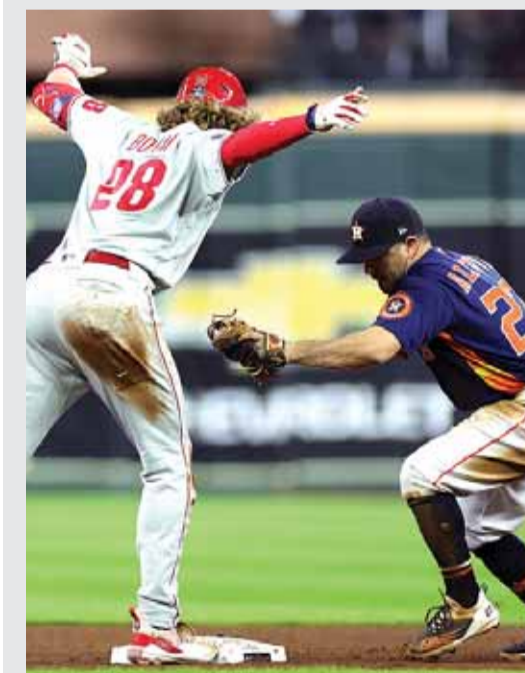
The Astros, playing in their fourth World Series in six seasons, seek their first title since 2017 while the Phillies, in the playoffs after an 11-year absence, seek their first crown since 2008. The Phillies became the first team in 20 years to rally from five runs down to win a World Series game in capturing the opener 6-5, ending the Astros' unbeaten run in this year's playoffs.

Houston leadoff hitter Jose Altuve, batting 4-for-37 in this year's playoffs, went 3-for-4 at the plate. "My confidence and timing were there tonight and hopefully I'll keep going," Altuve said. "I got a couple good pitches I could put a hit on and made some good ones." Valdez struggled in last year's World Series against Atlanta, losing game one and giving up a grand-slam homer in the first inning of game five, which Houston rallied to win.

But he was more than equal to the task in a crucial game, mystifying Phillies batters with masterful command of his pitches. "He was great," Astros manager Dusty Baker said of Valdez. "His sinker was good. His breaking ball, once he got tired, was excellent. He was tough." The Phillies went only 2-for-17 with runners on base. Houston's first three batters - Altuve, Jeremy Pena and Yordan Alvarez - all doubled on only four total pitches from Phillies starter Zack Wheeler to provide the Astros a quick 2-0 lead.

"I was just trying to get my pitch and be on time, basically get a good pitch to hit and hit it hard," said Altuve. "It's always good with one swing of the bat to get the boys going." Alvarez took third base on Kyle Tucker's fly out to centerfield and raced home on an error by Phillies shortstop Edmundo Sosa to give Houston a 3-0 lead after one inning. Alex Bregman blasted a two-run homer off Wheeler with two out in the fifth inning to boost Houston's lead to 5-0, the same edge the Astros had squandered the night before. Bregman's six career World Series homers are the most by any third baseman in MLB history.

The Phillies, 0-for-7 with runners on base through five innings, broke through in the sixth when Kyle Schwarber walked and Rhys Hoskins singled. But Valdez struck out J T Realmuto and Bryce Harper grounded into a double play to end the threat. Philadelphia scored to pull within 5-1 in the seventh inning when Nick Castellanos doubled, took third on Alec Bohm's ground out to shortstop and raced home on Jean Segura's sacrifice fly to left field.



HOUSTON: Alec Bohm #28 of the Philadelphia Phillies is safe at second while avoiding a tag by Jose Altuve #27 of the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park on Oct 29, 2022. — AFP



KUWAIT: Hawally Club Rider Abdelrahman Al-Fuzai won the first round of the second edition of Kuwait Equestrian Federation League. Fuzai was able to jump over obstacles in the fastest time of 34.89 without faults after a tiebreak round for the 140cm height, beating riders Ali Al-Kharafi, Ghazi Al-Jeraifi, Abdullah Al-Awadhi and Enaz Al-Enaz. The 130cm race was won by Kuwait Riding club rider Ali Al-Kharafi. Meanwhile, Maria Bushehri won the 120cm event and Hussein Al-Kharafi won the 110 cm race.

Australia, England cruise into rugby World Cup quarters

LONDON: Reigning champions Australia and tournament hosts England cruised into the quarterfinals of the Rugby League World Cup as group winners on Saturday after crushing minnows Italy and Greece respectively. The Kangaroos, who have won seven of the last eight Rugby League World Cups including the last edition in 2017, dispatched the Italians 66-6 in St Helens in a straightforward Group B outing.

England ran in 17 tries, including four from Newcastle Knights winger Dom Young, in a 94-4

thrashing of debutants Greece in Group A in Sheffield. The results mean Australia and England will play the runners-up in Group C and Group D, likely to be the Michael Cheika-coached Lebanon for the former and Papua New Guinea the latter in quarterfinals next weekend in Huddersfield and Wigan.

"If everything works out with no injuries or illnesses, my plan is from the quarter-finals onwards we will have our best team available for as long as we remain in the tournament," Australia coach Mal Meninga told BBC, in reference to his squad's depth in strength. "It's a tough decision, we all know that. But that's the Kangaroos - we've got great depth and all 24 players are worthy of playing in their positions going forward - that's the beauty of it all."

The Kangaroos ran in 12 tries against Italy, with Valentine Holmes first to get on the scoreboard after picking off a Dale Cherry-Evans' crosskick. Murray

Taulagi nabbed a brace while skipper James Tedesco, who played for Italy at the last two World Cups, forced his way over for a try against his old representative team. Campbell Graham (2), Latrell Mitchell, Isaac Yeo, Liam Martin, Cameron Murray, Jeremiah Nanai and Lindsay Collins all also crossed for tries, Nathan Cleary hitting nine conversions.

Rinaldo Palumbo added a consolation try for Italy midway through the second half. Three-time semi-finalists Fiji made sure of second place in Group B after laboring to a victory over Scotland in Newcastle. The Fijians will play the winners of Group C, New Zealand, in the quarterfinals. The Kiwis, champions in 2008, brushed Ireland aside 48-10 on Friday.

Earlier, Young scored four first-half tries as England put Greece to the sword at Sheffield's Bramall Lane. The winning margin was England's largest at a World

Cup, surpassing their 76-4 victory over Russia in 2000. Debutants Greece offered up some early resistance and trailed 10-4 after Siteni Taukamo crossed the whitewash. But after that there was only one side in it as Young, Matty Lees, Ryan Hall, Tom Burgess and George Williams all crossed to help the tournament hosts to a 44-4 half-time lead.

The Greeks fared no better in the second period as Tommy Makinson and Marc Sneyd both notched up tries, along with another each for both Burgess and Hall. Andy Ackers (2), Joe Batchelor and Kai Pearce-Paul also got their names on the scoresheet, Sneyd slotting over 13 conversions. "It is sudden death now," England coach Shaun Wane told BBC. "Game on, these are the games I like where it is the pressure and we have to win. "Papua New Guinea excites me, I can't wait but we want the big one. We will get challenged by teams left in the competition." — AFP

Sports

Majestic Messi helps PSG fight back to beat Troyes

PARIS: Lionel Messi starred with a goal and an assist as all of Paris Saint-Germain's front three scored in a 4-3 victory over Troyes on Saturday which restored their five-point advantage at the top of Ligue 1. The league leaders responded to second-placed Lens' win over Toulouse on Friday by twice coming from behind to see off a spirited Troyes at the Parc des Princes. The attacking trio of Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe have scored 43 goals between them already this season.

PSG coach Christophe Galtier can now turn his attention to Wednesday's match at Juventus, which the French club have to win to be sure of finishing top of their Champions League group. In Paris, Troyes forged ahead with a shock opening goal inside three minutes, as Rony Lopes stabbed the ball back for Mama Balde to lash a fine volley into the net past PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The hosts hit back midway through the first half, as Neymar's clipped pass found the run of Carlos Soler and the midfielder slotted into level. The reigning champions then started to dominate, with 'keeper Gauthier Gallon forced into a good save to keep out a Messi header. But the visitors stunned the home crowd again early in the second period, with Guinea-Bissau forward Balde netting his second with a low strike on the turn.

Any thoughts of PSG suffering their first defeat of the season were quickly put to bed in the space of seven Messi-inspired minutes. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner hammered home his 12th goal of the campaign with a wonderful strike from 25 yards

which arrowed into the corner. PSG took the lead for the first time in the game just after the hour mark, as Messi threaded a perfect pass through the Troyes defense for Neymar to fire past Gallon.

Galtier warning

Mbappe should have made it a two-goal advantage, but he shot too close to Gallon after Neymar followed a mazy run through midfield with a remarkable flicked pass. The France striker did get himself on the scoresheet with 14 minutes left, drilling a penalty high into the net. Ante Palaversa pulled one back for the away team late on, but PSG held on. Galtier though warned his team could not show the same sloppiness on Wednesday.

"The team thought much more about attacking, but it can't be like that. There is a balance to respect," he said. "We have a lot of things to correct. If you concede three goals in the Champions League, you have little chance of winning."

Another team with the Champions League on their mind, Marseille, threw away a two-goal lead at Strasbourg as they allowed the home side to force a point with a thrilling comeback. Bamba Dieng and Issa Kabore gave Marseille the lead at half-time but Strasbourg's intense pressure paid off as their South African forward Lebo Mothiba chested down a pass and fired home on 75 minutes. Then two minutes into stoppage time, Kevin Gameiro scored an equalizer that sent the crowd at La Meinau into raptures.

Marseille, now 11 points behind PSG, will have to



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi fights for the ball with Troyes' US defender Erik Palmer Brown at The Parc des Princes Stadium on Oct 29, 2022. — AFP

pick themselves up quickly as they host Tottenham on Tuesday looking for a place in the Champions League knockout round. On Friday, Belgium international Loïs Openda scored a hat-trick after coming

on as a second-half substitute in Lens' 3-0 victory over Toulouse. That win moved Lens three points clear of third-placed Lorient ahead of their match against Nice on Sunday. — AFP

Bayern reclaim top spot after Mane and Musiala masterclass

MUNICH: Bayern Munich manager Julian Nagelsmann lauded his "fun to watch" side as they reclaimed the Bundesliga's top spot with a dominant 6-2 home defeat of Mainz. "It is a lot of fun to watch them. (We are) a great mix of quality and configuration," Nagelsmann said. "Huge compliments (to the team). It's unbelievable at the moment." Sublime performances from forwards Jamal Musiala and Sadio Mane pushed Bayern two points clear at the top of the table, the first time they have led the league since August.

Serge Gnabry opened the scoring after just six minutes thanks to an assist from Mane, while teenager Musiala scored his seventh league goal of the season in the 28th minute. Mainz centre-back Alexander Hack fouled Mane in the box in the 40th minute. The former Liverpool striker took the penalty and while 'keeper Robin Zentner saved his shot, the Senegalese pounced on the rebound to put Bayern 3-0 ahead.

Mainz, who missed a 45th minute penalty, had another brief glimmer of hope before the break when Silvan Widmer headed in from a corner, but Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka scored from a Mane cross in the 58th minute to give Bayern an unassailable 4-1 lead. French striker Mathys Tel, 17, and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting added goals for Bayern late on, while Mainz's Marcus Ingvartsen pounced on a mistake from Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich to leave the final score at 6-2. Mainz manager Bo Svensson congratulated Nagelsmann and Bayern "on a well-deserved victory", but was deeply unhappy with his own side. "We missed everything. I didn't like what I saw in the second half," he said.

Dortmund go third

In the late game, Jude Bellingham scored a crucial second-half goal to send Borussia Dortmund to third with a 2-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt. Dortmund's Julian Brandt opened the scoring for the visitors in the 21st minute, latching on to a looping cross from winger Donyell Malen to send a low shot through the legs of Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp.

Frankfurt equalized just four minutes later when a poor attempted clearance from Mats Hummels found its way to Randal Kolo Muani. The French



MUNICH: (From left) Bayern Munich's German midfielder Joshua Kimmich, Mainz' South Korean midfielder Jae-sung Lee and Mainz' Luxembourgian midfielder Leandro Barreiro vie for the ball on Oct 29, 2022. — AFP

striker patiently attracted the attention of several Dortmund defenders, before laying off to Japanese international Daichi Kamada to score his seventh league goal of the season. The visitors reclaimed the lead in the 52nd minute when Bellingham, 19, collected a backheeled cross from Youssef Moukoko, 17, before curling a strike past Kevin Trapp for his fourth goal in four games.

Immediately after the goal, Dortmund withstood a furious assault from the home side, with centre-back Nico Schlotterbeck clearing off the line to prevent a certain equalizer from former Dortmund forward Mario Goetze. Dortmund survived a fiery injury time, with five players - three from Frankfurt and two from Dortmund - picking up yellow cards. After the match, Frankfurt manager Oliver Glasner lamented the "brutal" loss, pointing to a denied first-half spot kick against Danish forward Jasper Lindstroem which referee Sascha Stegemann later admitted "should have been a penalty."

Referring to the denied penalty Dortmund manager Edin Terzic said after the game "this is one of those situations where we were lucky." Lindstroem told AFP "Frankfurt deserved more" out of the game, but refused to blame the referee. "It's football and it's about scoring goals - and today Dortmund scored two, and we scored one." Elsewhere, RB Leipzig lifted themselves up to within touching distance of the top four with a 2-0 win at home against Bayer Leverkusen thanks to goals from Christopher Nkunku and Timo Werner. — AFP

Lewandowski snatches Barca win at Valencia; Atletico, Sevilla lose

VALENCIA: Barcelona, bruised after Champions League elimination in midweek, snatched a late 1-0 victory at Valencia on Saturday in La Liga, with Robert Lewandowski stretching to convert a 93rd minute winner. The Polish forward managed to divert Raphinha's cross home at the death to pull Barcelona level on 31 points with Real Madrid at the top of the table, before the champions hosted Girona on Sunday.

It was a hard-fought win - the Catalans lost centre-backs Jules Koumou and Eric Garcia to injury, and they will be worried for their national teams, France and Spain respectively, ahead of the Qatar World Cup which starts in under three weeks. Valencia saw Uruguayan Edinson Cavani go off injured with an ankle problem too, with the game billed as a shoot-out between him and fellow veteran marksman Lewandowski, who came out on top with his late goal.

Osimhen treble fires Napoli six clear, Inter eye top four

MILAN: Victor Osimhen fired Napoli six points clear of the chasing pack on Saturday with his first Serie A hat-trick in a 4-0 thumping of Sassuolo, while in-form Inter Milan beat Sampdoria 3-0 to close in on the top four. Nigeria forward Osimhen struck twice in the first 19 minutes in Naples and then dinked home his third with 13 minutes remaining to ensure Luciano Spalletti's team extended both their club-record winning streak to 13 matches and their lead on champions AC Milan, who face Torino on Sunday.

The 23-year-old has burst back into the team after over a month out with a thigh injury, rattling in six goals in his last four matches between Serie A and the Champions League. Saturday's clinical display of finishing took his league tally this season to seven goals in eight appearances and moved him level with Bologna's Marko Arnautovic at the top of the scoring charts in Italy. "I just want to help keep the momentum going, I want to keep helping my

"It was not brilliant football, today we were not inspired," said Xavi. "The anxiety of this week weighed on us, Valencia defended very well. These are three vital points. I am happy for the win, it was deserved, and each victory is celebrated, and when you don't win, the alarms sound, it's normal, this is a big club."

Gennaro Gattuso said he and Barcelona counterpart Xavi Hernandez played almost different sports in their playing days, but their teams were evenly matched at a feisty Mestalla. The visitors had the upper hand from the start, although Valencia's tricky forward line caused them concern at the back, with Samuel Lino and Justin Kluivert particularly hard to handle. Ansu Fati should have opened the scoring when set up by a perfectly timed Pedri pass, but onrushing Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili saved the forward's attempted dink with his face.

Freddie de Jong hammered an effort wide from distance, while Fati, on a rare start, could not direct a header from Ousmane Dembele's cross low enough to cause problems. Valencia thought they had broken the deadlock early in the second half when Lino slid home but Marcos Andre hand handled a cross into his path and the goal was disallowed. — AFP

team," Osimhen told DAZN. "I think this season the coach has given me as much confidence as I can get and I'm really happy to work under him."

Osimhen's first two goals were laid on by Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, this year's revelation who also netted the third in an exciting performance on the day Napoli celebrated late club icon Diego Maradona's 62nd birthday, which would have been Sunday. Georgia winger Kvaratskhelia has scored eight times and set up eight more since arriving in the summer and plays for Napoli with the kind of zest and freedom which few have since Maradona fled Italy in disgrace in the early 1990s. Napoli are still unbeaten, have netted 50 times in all competitions and are starting to look like the real deal, a team which could end a 32-year wait for the league title for southern Italy's biggest, football-mad city.

Inter are fifth after seeing off Sampdoria 3-0 on a strange night in which their hardcore fans left the San Siro at half-time following the murder of one of the club's most notorious "ultra" supporters not long before kick-off. Simone Inzaghi's side were on a high after reaching the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday, and they are fifth, level on 24 points with third-placed Lazio and Atalanta who both play on Sunday, after their sixth win in seven matches in all competitions. — AFP

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINU PAULOSE VAYARAKUNNIL Son of PAULOSE DEVASIA Holder of Passport No. M330956, Plaparambil House, Chirayirambu PO, Maramon 689549, Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India, has changed my name from VINU

PAULOSE VAYARAKUNNIL to VINU PAULOSE. (C# 2430)

I, Bajjul Alam Daptari S/o Mansur Ali Daptari residing at Boalia, Santipur, Nadia 741121, W.B, have changed my name from Bajjulalam Daftari S/o Mansur Ali Daftari to Bajjul Alam

Daptari S/o Mansur Ali Daptari, Passport No. M8391715. (C# 2432)

I have to change my name from HUSSAINI holding Indian Passport No. S3693025 to HUSSAIN ZAINY for all purposes. In future be called and known by new name HUSSAIN

ZAINY, 38, Parshuram Colony, Neemach Kheda, Dewali, Udaipur Raj. (C# 2435) - 31-10-2022

I, Mohammad Tafueeq 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 Tafueeq Ur Rahman for all purposes as per my Adhar card -number 413944116687. (C# 2427)

I, SALMANKHAN AKABER PATAN holder of Indian Passport

No. M7462056 having permanent address H. No. 1414 Mastimol Canacona, Goa - India, Pin Code 403702, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given name SALMANKHAN and Surname as PATHAN. (C# 2428) - 28-10-2022

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Mirqab	22456536
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South Africa in control after India win

Pak hammer Netherlands to keep hopes alive • B'desh edge Zimbabwe in last-ball thriller



PERTH: India's Arshdeep Singh appeals against the wicket of South Africa's Rilee Rossouw during an ICG men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match at the Perth Stadium on Oct 30, 2022. — AFP

PERTH: South Africa took control of Group 2 at the T20 World Cup on Sunday with a nervy win over India after Pakistan kept their faint semifinal hopes alive with their first win of the tournament in Australia. Bangladesh got their challenge back on track and moved level on points with India by holding off Zimbabwe in a thriller to leave Group 2 in the balance with five teams separated by three points with two games to play.

David Miller and Aiden Markram both hit half-centuries to lead South Africa to a five-wicket win with two balls to spare after the Proteas' fast bowlers, led by Lungi Ngidi who took 4-29, restricted India to an under-par 133-9 on a lively Perth pitch. Miller, who scored 59 not out, and Markram, who made 52, put on 76 after the side's top order fell cheaply as they made hard work of what looked like a routine chase. "Fortunately we got the momentum we needed," said captain Temba Bavuma of his middle-order pair.

"We came into the tournament as non-favorites and we will keep flying under the radar," he added with his side unbeaten after three matches. "We will keep improving and that's what we are doing."

India's attack made early inroads with left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh striking twice in three balls. First he removed Quinton de Kock, caught by KL Rahul for one, then two balls later had Rilee Rossouw, who made a century in the previous match against Bangladesh, lbw for nought.

Markram and Miller steadied the innings from 24-3, crawling to 40-3 at the halfway mark. The pair then went after off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was left crestfallen when the normally safe hands of Virat Kohli at deep midwicket dropped a routine chance from Markram when he was on 35.

'Match-winning partnership'

India dragged the game to the final over where, needing six to win, Miller finished in style with two fours to round off an unbeaten 46-ball innings. "We expected the pitch to have something in it," said India captain Rohit Sharma, "which is why you saw that 130 was not an easy chase. I thought we fought well till the end but South Africa played well. "It was a match-winning partnership from Miller and Markram. But we

were not good enough on the field."

Earlier Ngidi led a fiery pace onslaught after India chose to bat with only Yadav, with a 40-ball 68, standing firm after India slumped to 49-5. Ngidi was ably supported by fellow fast bowler Wayne Parnell who finished with 3-15 after starting the innings with a T20 rarity - a maiden over.

Pakistan hammered the Netherlands by six wickets in Perth, reaching their target of 92 off just 13.5 overs, but they still lie fifth in Group 2 on two points, three points behind leaders South Africa, two behind India and Bangladesh and one behind Zimbabwe. Pakistan restricted the Dutch to 91-9 and then cruised to 95-4 with Mohammad Rizwan making 49.

Pakistan need to win their remaining matches against South Africa on Thursday and Bangladesh in a week's time, and need other results to go their way, to have any chance of securing a semifinal place. "Very happy. Performed very well in the bowling and in the batting," said Pakistan captain Babar Azam. "A win always gives you confidence." Man of the match Shadab Khan took 3-22 as Pakistan dominated a Dutch side who are now out

of the semi-final running after a third straight defeat. "I have bowled against a few of their players in county cricket, so I know how they play," said Shadab.

Last-ball drama

Earlier in Brisbane, Bangladesh secured a dramatic last-ball win over Zimbabwe, aided by opener Najmul Shanto's maiden half-century and Taskin Ahmed's three wickets. Shanto's 71 helped steer Bangladesh to 150-7 in a match that went to the wire with Zimbabwe needing 16 off a last over that turned into an incredible finale. Two wickets fell, a big six was hit before the teams walked off thinking the match was over, only to be called back on the field.

Bangladesh believed they had won when Blessing Muzarabani, needing five to win, was stumped off the last ball. A review showed wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan had taken the ball in front of the stumps, which is illegal, and therefore a no-ball. The teams had to return to the field for a free hit with four needed to win, but Muzarabani missed again leaving Zimbabwe short on 147-8. — AFP

Rashford scores 100th goal; 5-star Arsenal back on top

MANCHESTER: Marcus Rashford's 100th goal for Manchester United sealed a 1-0 win against West Ham as the England forward made his push for a World Cup place on Sunday. Rashford has been one of United's most improved players this season after several years in the doldrums. But the 24-year-old is still not guaranteed a place on England's flight to Qatar for the World Cup in November.

Rashford, who was left out of England's most recent Nations League squad, took the chance to remind Three Lions boss Gareth Southgate of his qualities with a fine display capped by the first-half winner at Old Trafford. With Southgate watching from the stands, Rashford's seventh goal in all competitions this season was perfectly timed before the

England manager names his World Cup squad.

After netting against Sheriff in the Europa League on Thursday, Rashford said Erik ten Hag was a "joy" to play for as he hailed the United manager's role in his revival. Thanks to Rashford, the 22nd player to score a century of goals for United, and a series of superb saves from David de Gea, Ten Hag's side are up to fifth place in the Premier League. Unbeaten in their last eight games in all competitions, United are one point behind fourth-placed Newcastle in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Meanwhile, Reiss Nelson was the unlikely hero as Arsenal retook top spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 thrashing of Nottingham Forest on Sunday. Nelson was introduced for the first time in the Premier League this season after Bukayo Saka was forced off with a concerning injury for England boss Gareth Southgate just weeks ahead of the World Cup. Saka set up the opening goal for Gabriel Martinelli after just five minutes before being replaced due to an ankle injury.

Nelson struck his first Premier League goal since July 2020 early in the second half to give Arsenal breathing space. He added a second just three minutes later and then teed up Thomas Partey to curl into the top corner. Martin Odegaard rounded off a performance that shrugged off doubts over Arsenal's ability to contend for the title by firing high past Dean Henderson 13 minutes from time. Victory lifts Mikel Arteta's men a point above Manchester City at the top of the table.

Jürgen Klopp admitted Liverpool are putting Champions League football next season at risk with a disastrous start to the season after Leeds stunned Anfield with a 2-1 on Saturday. Crysencio Summerville's 89th minute goal inflicted the Reds first home league defeat in front of a crowd since April 2017. Liverpool have now lost twice as many games in the first 12 league games of this season as they did in 38 last season. Leeds began the night second bottom of the table but climbed out of the relegation zone thanks to their first win in nine games. — AFP



GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador: Flamengo players celebrate after winning the Copa Libertadores final against Athletico Paranaense at the Isidro Romero Carbo Monumental Stadium on Oct 29, 2022. — AFP

Flamengo win Copa Libertadores

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador: Flamengo won the all-Brazilian Copa Libertadores final on Saturday with a 1-0 victory over Athletico Paranaense in the Estadio Monumental. Gabriel Barbosa grabbed the decisive goal on the stroke of halftime, slotting home a fine cross from Everton Ribeiro at the back post. The goal came just minutes after Athletico central defender Pedro Henrique was sent off after picking up a second yellow card for a late challenge on Ayrton Lucas.

Down to ten men for the remainder of the game, Athletico, coached by veteran former Brazil national team coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, struggled to create enough chances to mount a comeback. The victory earns Rio club Flamengo their third Libertadores title

following their successes in 1981 and 2019 and is the fourth straight year that a Brazilian team has been crowned champions of South American club football.

For the 73-year-old Scolari, who is expected to retire from coaching at the end of the Brazilian domestic season in November, there was to be no fairytale end to his 40 year coaching career. Scolari had been hoping for a third Libertadores title to add to those who won with Gremio in 1995 and Palmeiras in four years later. Scolari may be noted for a cautious approach to the game but his side began positively in the mid-afternoon heat.

Flamengo's former Paris Saint Germain and Chelsea defender David Luiz was caught out early on by Vitorino who tested Santos with a near post drive as Athletico enjoyed some early pressure. Moments later, a long throw into the Flamengo box caused confusion and Alex Santana blasted just over with a spectacular effort. Although Flamengo gradually took a grip on the midfield, Athletico looked comfortable before Pedro Henrique's rash challenge changed the game. — AFP



Marcus Rashford