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Govt to submit new residency law to Assembly after election

KD 500 deposit for every worker, tougher penalties for violations mullied

Shamiya Nature Reserve: An urban oasis



KUWAIT: Noha Al-Kharafi, one of the founders of Shamiya Nature Reserve, tends to a plant in the park. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

KUWAIT: A new residency law will be submitted by the government to the National Assembly after the elections to address the demographic structure, reduce expatriate numbers, localize jobs, increase Kuwaitization in the private sector and reform the economy. "The laws that were submitted by the government to the previous National Assembly are going to be submitted again to the new Assembly with a few changes that were requested by previous members of the parliament and some of the candidates running in the elections," sources told Kuwait Times.

The proposed new law bans sponsors from bringing in expatriate workers without permission from the Public Authority of Manpower. Moreover, the minister should issue a decision on the procedures, documents and fees required from the sponsor. Anyone who illegally employs workers or run-aways will be subject to heavy fines ranging from KD 5,000 to a maximum of KD 50,000, in addition to paying all costs related to deporting the workers. In case of repeated offences, the violations will be referred to the public prosecution.

The proposed law also prohibits sponsors contracted for government projects from submitting to competent authorities a request to recruit workers from outside the country, or recruit more workers

than the numbers required, which will help stop the trade in iqamas. "In order to reduce expatriate workers who are not needed, all sponsors must pay a deposit of KD 500 for every worker they sponsor to ensure they are employed and salaries are paid until the end of their service, as well as following procedures regarding health insurance and the costs of sending the workers back to their countries," the sources said.

The sources said the proposed law stipulates that in case of nonpayment of workers, the employer will be punished with a fine equivalent to twice the total dues of the workers that they failed to pay, adding a new article will include rules, procedures and conditions for granting permission to leave the country.

"All sponsors must ensure a place of residence for the workers and health insurance, as well as travel expenses related to sending them back after their project is completed, with tough punishment for any violations," the sources added. "It is likely that these changes will occur during the new Assembly term because the general public is convinced that there is a demographic imbalance, a rise in unskilled workers and an increase in the number of violations regarding the relationship between sponsors and workers," the sources added.

Restrictive rent rules an 'imported culture': Expert

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Tenants these days are burdened by new rental conditions, which a real estate expert charged are an "imported culture". The rent-free grace period given to

tenants from the day of the signing of the rent contract to the day the tenant moves to the new apartment has been cancelled by some real estate offices, and it has become mandatory for tenants to pay a deposit of half or full month's rent in advance (although it will be refunded when leaving the apartment). Moreover, the real estate offices demand a commission of half or full month's rent that tenants have no choice but to pay.

These issues not only putting pressure on tenants, but have led to a decrease in demand for apartments. Kuwait Times spoke to Qais Al-Ghanem, real estate expert and

former secretary of the Kuwaiti Real Estate Union to discuss the issue. "Despite there being no official rules or regulations that permit the previously mentioned issues, it has become a kind of common law that controls the rental market," Ghanem said.

"These rules are an imported culture adopted by some nationalities who control the real estate market in Kuwait, especially the rental market. These conditions were not seen in Kuwait in the past. This is a new culture in the rental market that we are not used to," he claimed. (See Page 3)



KUWAIT: 'Investment' residential buildings are seen in this illustrative file photo. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Hamas executes 5 'collaborators'

GAZA: The Hamas Islamist movement ruling the Gaza Strip announced on Sunday that it executed five Palestinians, including two for "collaboration" with the Zionist entity. The executions for collaboration are the first carried out in the Palestinian coastal enclave for more than five years. "On Sunday morning, the death sentence was carried out against two condemned over collaboration with the occupation, and three others in criminal cases," Hamas said in a statement. It added that the defendants had previously been given "their full rights to defend themselves".

Hamas's interior ministry provided the initials and years of birth of the five executed Palestinians, but did not give their full names. The two executed over "collaboration" with the Zionist entity were two men born in 1978 and 1968. The older of the two was a resident of Khan Yunis in the south of the blockaded Gaza Strip. He was convicted of supplying the Zionist entity in 1991 with "information on men of the resistance, their residence... and the location of rocket launchpads", Hamas said.

The second was condemned for supplying the Zionist entity in 2001 with intelligence "that led to the targeting and martyrdom of citizens" by Zionist forces, the statement added. The three others executed had been convicted of murder, the statement said.

Continued on Page 6

Trump brands Biden 'enemy of the state'

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania: Donald Trump branded Joe Biden an "enemy of the state" Saturday as he hit back at the US president's assertion that the Republican and his supporters are undermining American democracy, and slammed last month's FBI raid of his Florida home. Making his first public appearance since the August 8 raid, Trump told a rally in Pennsylvania that the search was a

"travesty of justice" and warned it would produce "a backlash likes of which nobody has ever seen."

"There can be no more vivid example of the very real threats from American freedom than just a few weeks ago, you saw, when we witnessed one of the most shocking abuses of power by any administration in American history," Trump claimed, despite long-standing protocols by which the Justice Department and the FBI act independently of the White House.

Trump told cheering supporters at the "Save America" gathering in the city of Wilkes-Barre that the "egregious abuse of the law" was

Continued on Page 6

Money transfer firms replace Lebanon banks

BEIRUT: Like many people in crisis-hit Lebanon, Elias Skaff used to wait for hours to withdraw cash at the bank but now prefers money transfer companies as lenders have evaporated. Anyone who relies on traditional banks to receive their money "will die 100 times before cashing it", said Skaff, 50, who has survived Lebanon's three-year-old

economic downturn with the help of US dollar payments from a relative abroad.

Once the flagship of Lebanon's economy, the banking sector is now widely despised and avoided after banks barred depositors from accessing their savings, stopped offering loans and closed hundreds of branches and slashed thousands of jobs. Last month, a local man was widely cheered as a folk hero after he stormed a Beirut bank with a rifle and held employees and customers hostage for hours to demand some of his \$200,000 in frozen savings to pay hospital bills for his sick father.

Continued on Page 6



WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania: Former US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally on Sept 3, 2022. — AFP



BEIRUT: Employees serve customers at a money transfer office on July 27, 2022. — AFP

Local

Shamiya reserve: Oasis in the desert

Volunteer team transforms abandoned space into idyllic nature reserve



The founding members of the Reserve with the volunteer team. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: A tropical forest can be found in the center of Kuwait at Shamiya Nature Reserve Youth Center, with thousands of different types of trees, orchids, flowers and spice plants. The idea of the reserve sprouted in 2014, and the dream was to see residential areas full of trees, says Noha Al-Kharafi, one of the founders of the reserve.

Speaking exclusively to Kuwait Times, Al-Kharafi remembers that the idea was initially rejected by the residents of the area despite support from several ministers and the capital governor.

"Our passion for the project was stronger. So, in 2016, we started work on Shamiya Reserve with personal funding and donations from residents in the area to plant trees."

The idea took shape when three women - the founders of the reserve: Al-Kharafi, Adiba Al-Fahad and Mazna Al-Mutairi, decided to act on a suggestion put forth by their friend Salwa Al-Ghanem, who lived next to the youth center, to use the deserted and empty space for a productive initiative.

"We were given land without any financial resources to achieve our goal. We strived hard to achieve what we have today and our efforts coupled with the efforts of more than 40 volunteers contributed to what we have today," she explains.

Al-Kharafi explains that the reserve aims to create an agricultural ecological model for residential areas and hopes to promote the benefits of working in such community initiatives among the youth. She outlines the efforts taken by volunteers in the team, who belonged to different age groups in preparing the reserve and planting it. She revealed that the



Noha Al-Kharafi with Ahmed Al-Saffar



Adiba Al-Fahad



A picture of the abandoned space before the transformation.

reserve is the first stage of the project and plans are underway to expand the initiative to include larger areas. "There is an upcoming project ready to be launched, where we have a vision of a similar reserve spread over 3,000 square meters, but we need a sponsor. We have a clear vision and great ideas waiting to be implemented. Our team wants to beautify Kuwait with Kuwaiti cadres," she asserted.

Meanwhile, another founder, Adiba Al-Fahad, said that the idea of Shamiya Youth Reserve is the result of understanding and cooperation between volunteers who were passionate about agriculture and in working with various institutions of the state, stressing that the team's most important goals include spreading awareness of the importance of hydroponics and other clean crops. "We want to help Kuwait combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. When we become conscious societies,

this will positively effect climate reform," she added.

"Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi adopted our idea before he became a minister, and young and old civil society members invested in this place. We have machines and equipment to take advantage of organic waste from the gardens, especially large branches. Machines are used to reduce carbon footprint but we are trying as much as possible to attract young people into the clean economy. We seek to reduce electricity and water consumption in several ways and educate the community about it."

Architect Ahmed Al-Saffar, one of the volunteers, said: "My participation in the Shamiya Nature Reserve is voluntary, because it represents the perfect model of community work and activates the roots of the society's role in cooperation with its top branches and government agencies. The reserve enhances cooperation and participatory work with

civil society institutions and voluntary groups and teams," he said.

Noha Al-Kharafi also called on the government to consider developing the passion of Kuwaiti children in whatever field they are interested in, hoping that the government changes the method of teaching and education for the advancement of the country.



The reserve after the transformation

Local

Unofficial rental terms dictate market: Al-Ghanem

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: When you decide to move from your current apartment to another, usually it is a matter of choosing the specifications you are looking for, like the number of rooms, area of the flat, number of parking spots and so on. But nowadays, tenants are burdened by new conditions, such as cancelling the rent-free grace period given to tenants from the day of the signing of the rent contract to the day the tenant moves to the new apartment. In addition, it has become mandatory for tenants to pay a deposit of half or full month's rent in advance (although it will be refunded when leaving the apartment). Finally, the real estate office demands a commission of half or full month's rent that tenants have no choice but to pay.



Qais Al-Ghanem

These issues are not only putting pressure on tenants, but have led to a decrease in demand for apartments. Kuwait Times spoke to Qais Al-Ghanem, real estate expert and former secretary of the Kuwaiti Real Estate Union to discuss the issue. "Despite there being no official rules or regulations that permit the previously mentioned issues, it has

become a kind of common law that controls the rental market," Ghanem said. "These rules are part of an imported culture adopted by some nationalities who control the real estate market in Kuwait, especially the rental market. These conditions were not seen in Kuwait in the past. This is a new culture in the rental market that we are not used to," he claims.

On the other hand, Ghanem pointed out that despite the financial pressures that could burden the tenants, it is a legitimate right for the building or apartment owner to ask for a deposit due to the damage some tenants cause to the apartment, so the owner will use this money to repair the flat. Regarding the laws and regulations in Kuwait related to this issue, Ghanem said there are no laws in Kuwait that regulate or control these practices by real estate offices. If there is a ministerial decision regulating this issue, then it won't be a problem," he said.

Ghanem stressed that a lack of workers and high wages have affected the market and placed an additional burden on the tenants. "There will not be any solution or laws about these issues in Kuwait due to several factors such as supply and demand and marketing and services that differ from one company to another," he said.

Kuwait Times spoke to real estate office workers to ask them about the reasons they have tightened their rental terms. "When investment building own-



ers rent their apartments through our offices, they are rid of the pressure of dealing with tenants, which pushes us to apply restrictive conditions," Ahmad Saeed said. Fares Abdullah said that the market is based on demand and supply, and people can choose whatever they prefer. But these policies help the office to pay for basic materials, annual repairs and wages, that are all rising. "We are

under financial pressure as well," he said.

So if the rent of an apartment is KD 500 a month, after adding the deposit, office commission, cancelled grace period and the rent that the tenant is paying for still residing in their previous apartment, the total amount that a tenant will pay before shifting will be around KD 2,000, not to mention the costs of moving itself.

Citizens weigh in on upcoming elections

KUWAIT: With the announcement of the legislative elections to be held on later this month, Kuwaiti citizens expressed delight and hope, calling the elections a pivotal point in the country's political future.

Abdullah Al-Hamar, a citizen, commented that the recent steps taken by the political leadership in Kuwait has revitalized the country's political ambitions. "We are hoping that the outcome of these elections will help us steer Kuwait away from economic recession and help us achieve the new Kuwait 2035 vision and its sustained developmental goals." He added that the government and the elected officials were in a race against time to combat corruption, calling it "the only road towards achievement."

Meanwhile, Ghazi Al-Otaibi underlined education as an important area of concern for every citizen, calling it a pillar of development and awareness. "The responsibility of furthering education and ensuring its compatibility with the job market falls on both the government and the parliament." Al-Otaibi also touched on other issues to be addressed including the housing crisis, unemployment and traffic congestion.

Speaking on the issues faced by corruption in the country, Nawaf Al-Fahad described the upcoming elections as a good opportunity for Kuwait, especially as the government has been keen to crack down on illegal activities of unauthorized primary elections, vote-buying and transfers in between constituencies. He also voiced hopes that there would be more elected representatives from the youth, as he felt that they were capable of fac-



ing challenges and contribute to laws that would enable the youth to assume senior positions and help transform the country.

Ahmad Al-Fadhli said that the qualities of observation, review and accountability were stepping-stones to success. He also stated that the new phase required shying away from harmful favoritism and hoped that the elections would bring in a phase of success and achievement.

Highlighting the role of women in Kuwait, Sarah Kamal said that "Kuwaiti women play an equally important role in society as men". She added that she hoped that a number of female candidates could gain access to Abdullah Al-Salem Hall, calling on Kuwaiti women and youth to have faith in their own roles.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Abdulaziz added that collaboration, good intent and determination were vital in

order to overcome hurdles and achieve the aspirations of the people of Kuwait. Abdulaziz urged voters to choose the right candidate and produce a parliament capable of shouldering responsibilities and facing challenges.

The citizens collectively agreed that for this election to achieve the desired reformation and development, it must adhere to the recent cabinet decisions—one aimed to improve and develop the life of the people in Kuwait. They also unanimously agreed that the legislative and executive authorities should work hand in hand in an optimal efficient way to achieve the aspirations of the people of Kuwait. The citizens also spoke at length about the issues that needed to be addressed in the upcoming legislative term, in the fields of housing, healthcare, and education to bring in progress, prosperity and development to the country. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Health Ministry inspectors discovered several serious violations, as they inspected 21 pharmacies in the Jahra Governorate. The inspection was carried out by seven teams from the ministry who were conducting a routine check.

Eager Lion drill kicks off in Jordan

AMMAN: The Jordanian military forces brought together 26 countries, including Kuwait for its military exercise 9 'Eager Lion', aimed at boosting cooperation and bilateral ties between all participating military forces and governmental institutions, announced, Mustafa Al-Hiyari, Head of the kingdom's Military Information Directorate. The drills, which will be held until Sept 15 will attract around 3,000 troops, with participants gaining expertise from several meetings, seminars and classes to promote the concepts of cooperation and international partnerships, he added. — KUNA



Legalese

Power of Attorney



By Fajer Ahmed

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A Power of Attorney is a document that legally authorizes a person to act on behalf of another person, with their permission. For example, a brother can sell his sister's car, a father can obtain a passport on behalf of his daughter or your lawyer can file a case for you, with a POA. In Kuwait, a POA is obtained from the Ministry of Justice through a very easy and simple process. It is also recognized by governmental institutions, the judiciary powers, as well as other corporations. Power of attorneys are widely referred to as POAs.

Question: What are the different types of POAs and where are they usually obtained from?

Fajer: There are so many different types, but here are a few main ones:

1. From a client to a lawyer
2. From a person to another person to take care of governmental paperwork or to make transactions on their behalf
3. From a company to a person to act on behalf of the company in certain situations.
4. From a shareholder of a company to a person to act on behalf of the shareholder making decisions with other shareholders for the company.

These can be obtained from offices managed by the Ministry of Justice, from locations across Kuwait. You can also provide a POA for bank transactions which is obtained from your bank itself.

Question: Are POAs only for lawyers?

Fajer: No, it can be to anyone, except for what we call a lawyer's attorney, which needs to be given to a lawyer

Question: How can I cancel a POA?

Fajer: From the same places that provide them, you can take a copy of the POA or the original and request that it be canceled and void

Question: Any advice for someone obtaining a POA?

- Fajer: Always make sure of the following:
1. To give the POA to someone who is trustworthy and whom you personally trust
 2. Make it as specific as possible
 3. A lot of governmental transactions will request that you verify the transaction on the governmental apps such as Sahil and Hawati
 4. Cancel it once the person has completed the transaction you have requested of them

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Customs confiscate 40 kgs of Lyrica powder

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Airport Customs have seized 40 kgs of powdered Lyrica, Sulaiman Al-Fahad, Head of Kuwait Customs announced. He said, "the illegal powder had come from an Asian country inside a food supplement case," adding that "we are continuously training our employees in seizing illegal substances and will not go easy on any violator." Al-Fahad appreciated the cooperation between the Kuwait Customs and the Ministry of Interior in conducting the raid and arrest.



KUWAIT: Photo of the confiscated substance.

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of Shaheed Park. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Nazaha thanks MoI for electoral propriety

KUWAIT: Nazaha has expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Interior for allowing accused candidates to still run for the upcoming elections.

Mohammed Al-Otaibi, Head of Nazaha said, "This is a positive move which gives the right impression that Kuwait respects the political rights of its citizens. It also shows that we are a country governed by a legal framework."

"It is important to be transparent in the public sector as it is a reflection on the reputation of the country," he added.

"Nazaha appreciates the work of the MoI represented by acting minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled and all sectors who are taking great pains to ensure the success of the electoral process.



Mohammed Al-Otaibi,
Head of Nazaha

KRCS appreciates Kuwait's donor efforts

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has expressed its appreciation for the donations provided by citizens and private sector companies in the country and for their continued efforts in supporting humanitarian causes.

Maha Al-Barjas, Secretary General of the KRCS, said during a celebratory event for the global philanthropy day that "this is a perfect occasion to focus on Kuwaiti humanitarian and philanthropic work, especially when it comes to helping people affected from natural or man-made disasters."

"The KRCS has led important humanitarian initiatives since its inception in 1966 with more than 104 countries and humanitarian organizations from across the globe receiving its aid," she said, adding that, "We have also given help to 3300 families in need inside the country as well as to orphans and people of special needs." Al-Barjas urged all organizations and citizens in the country to continue their aid for the organisation to continue their humanitarian help locally and internationally. — KUNA



جمعية الهلال الأحمر الكويتي
Kuwait Red Crescent Society

Traffic dept provides personnel for Municipality

KUWAIT: The public relations department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has announced that they have provided the Municipality with a number of technical inspectors to be employed across all governorates to facilitate better services for nationals in the distribution of food supplies. "Clients' demands can now be catered to promptly in accordance with the regulations," the public relations department at the interior ministry said.

Multi-vehicle crash in Wafra

KUWAIT: Four cars and a truck were involved in an accident in Wafra, the public relations department of Kuwait Fire Force announced. "Fire squads from Wafra and Nuwaiseeb stations were dispatched by the central command, and upon arrival, found the truck driver stuck in his vehicle and suffering from injuries. The driver was pulled out and sent to the paramedics for treatment," KFF said.

News in brief

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) promotes 198 officers

KUWAIT: Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad, Director General of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has announced the promotion of 198 KFF officers. The order was given as part of an official statement adding that the promotions were in recognition of the officers' efforts to protect the society. The statement added that Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior approved the promotions. As per the announcement, 35 officers were promoted from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel, 157 officers from Major to Lieutenant Colonel and six officers from the ranks of Captain to Major and from Lieutenant to Captain.

Over 90 iqama violators arrested

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced the arrest of over 90 iqama violators in Naayem and Rai. "76 violators have been arrested in Friday Market in Rai during an inspection campaign while 19 iqama violators from different nationalities have been arrested during a campaign in Naayem scrapyard," the MoI public relations department said. Legal procedures have been taken against all violators.

Frontliners to be rewarded for pandemic services

KUWAIT: Based on a request put forth by officials of the Ministry of Defense, National Guard and Kuwait Fire Force, the government has agreed to reward the services rendered by servicemen during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The award places them in the same position as their fellow servicemen in the Ministry of Interior, therefore an official request was made to the Civil Service Commission in order to proceed with the necessary rankings," sources revealed to Kuwait Times. Sources also revealed that the current law concerning frontliner awards issued by the previous National Assembly did not specify any rankings, but added that a KD600 m budget was allocating for them.

Naeem Co-operative management disbanded

KUWAIT: Fahad Al-Shuraiyan, Minister of Social Affairs has announced to replace the management of Naeem cooperation society and hire Saad Al-Mutairi to lead the society as manager for a year. "The move was announced in continuation with the governmental efforts to combat corruption," the ministry said.

CSC recruitment drive continues

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has said that it is still recruiting nationals and fresh graduates for government jobs subject to requirements. "The ministries are yet to confirm the new job levels assigned for fresh graduates, as it is dependent on the national budget, which will not be announced before November this year, after the national assembly commences," the CSC revealed. The CSC also said that "some ministries have postponed the employment of fresh graduates as all job vacancies have been occupied for the year, but ministries that still have vacancies in their levels are employing applicants as soon as employment procedures are finished."

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Pakistan floods wash away family's marriage hopes

UK favourite for PM vows action on energy bills

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BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (2ndR) shakes hands with outgoing Ukrainian Ambassador to Germany Andriy Melnyk (2ndL) as Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal (R) looks on during a welcoming ceremony in the courtyard of the Chancellery in Berlin on September 4, 2022. —AFP

Ukraine PM pleads for more weapons

Shmygal to meet Scholz, thanked Germany 'for solidarity with Ukrainians and support'

BERLIN, Germany: Ukraine Prime Minister Denys Shmygal brought Kyiv's plea for more weapons to Germany on Sunday, saying his country needed additional help in its battle against Russia. Shmygal is the first high-level Ukrainian official to visit Germany in months, in a sign of eased tensions between Kyiv and Berlin after a rocky patch.

The first stop on his trip was a meeting with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, where Shmygal "discussed the military situation, strengthening sanctions and the need to provide weapons for Ukraine," he said on Twitter.

Shmygal, who will meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz later Sunday, also thanked Germany "for solidarity with Ukrainians and support". Germany will "continue to stand reliably by Ukraine's side," Steinmeier reassured Shmygal, according to the German president's spokeswoman.

The Ukrainian prime minister's visit marked a sharp change in tone, after a row erupted in April when Kyiv rebuffed Steinmeier's offer to travel to

Ukraine. Steinmeier, a former foreign minister from Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democratic Party, had been shunned over his years-long detente policy



"Discusses military situation"

towards Moscow — something which he has admitted was a mistake following the outbreak of war.

"Special responsibility"

Germany's SPD has historically championed close ties with Russia, born out of the "Ostpolitik"

policy of rapprochement and dialogue with the then Soviet Union, devised by former SPD chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1970s.

That tradition contributed to Germany initially refusing any weapons deliveries to Kyiv, with a previous decision to send only 5,000 helmets sparking anger and mockery. But Scholz's coalition, which also includes the Greens and liberal FDP, has since made a sharp U-turn.

Howitzers, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft missiles are among the weapons that have arrived in Kyiv. Heavier weapons like the IRIS-T anti-aircraft systems, rocket launchers mounted on pick-ups and anti-drone equipment are due in a further military aid package worth over 500 million euros.

Ukrainian soldiers are currently being trained in Germany to use the anti-aircraft Leopard tanks. Ahead of his trip, Shmygal said that Germany "has made huge progress in its support of Ukraine with weapons."

But the Ukrainian prime minister also stressed

that Kyiv needs more from Berlin, including "modern combat tanks" like the Leopard 2.

In a speech on his vision for Europe on Monday, Scholz said he saw Germany taking on "special responsibility" to help Ukraine build up its artillery and air defence systems. Germany, he added, will maintain its backing for Ukraine for "as long as it takes".

On the humanitarian level, Germany has taken in almost a million Ukrainian refugees, with some 155,000 Ukrainian children now enrolled in German schools. Ahead of Shmygal's trip, Scholz's coalition partner the Greens, traditionally known as pacifists, said Germany wants to "boost" its armament deliveries to Ukraine.

"Military means never bring the solution, but it sometimes creates windows of opportunities in which conflicts can be politically resolved in a rules-based world order," the party's leadership said in a motion put forward for consideration at its next congress. —AFP

Pope beatifies 'Smiling' John Paul I

VATICAN CITY, Holy See: Thousands of people gathered in St Peter's Square on Sunday as Pope Francis presided over the beatification of John Paul I, the so-called "Smiling Pope" who led the Catholic Church for just 33 days before dying in contested circumstances.

John Paul I, the son of a bricklayer from the Dolomite mountains and a particularly warm and pastoral figure, was elected pope on August 26, 1978, at the age of 65. He died just 33 days later, on September 28, 1978, of a heart attack, making him the shortest serving pontiff in modern church history.

A crowd of several thousand including Italian President Sergio Mattarella gathered under umbrellas through a thunderstorm to listen to the beatification mass—a step before canonization and becoming a "saint".

"With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord," said Pope Francis during Sunday's mass. "How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbours resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past."

A wall hanging representing the late pope was hung on the front of St Peter's basilica. The death of John Paul I death sparked intense speculation as to the cause, from suicide—he seemed reluctant to take on the position of pope-to murder, allegedly by those who opposed his plans to reform the church, particularly the powerful Vatican bank.

Many have since discounted this and biographer Christophe Henning said the swirling rumours can be explained by the sudden nature of his death and the "calamitous communication" by the Vatican at the time.

No autopsy was conducted to determine the cause of death, and the Vatican issued inconsistent



VATICAN CITY, Holy See: A wall hanging representing late Pope John Paul I is displayed on the facade of St Peter's basilica on September 4, 2022 during John Paul I's beatification mass presided over by Pope Francis. —AFP

and false information about what happened. For example, his lifeless body-sitting in bed, his reading glasses on his nose and typewritten documents in his hand—was found by a nun.

However, the Vatican did not want to acknowledge the presence of a woman in his bedroom, so said his secretary found him. "For me it does not seem that there is really a doubt" about his death by natural causes, particularly given "we know that he was in fragile health", Henning told AFP.

"Friendly to everybody"

The Vatican announced in October 2021 that it had recognised a miracle attributed to John Paul I, allowing him to become beatified, a process when a person becomes "blessed" and the final step before becoming a saint.

The miracle was the sudden healing of a gravely

ill 11-year-old girl in Buenos Aires in 2011, after a local priest prayed to the late pontiff. Under the rules of the Catholic Church, in most cases a second miracle needs to be recognised before someone can be made a saint.

Born as Albino Luciani on October 17, 1912, in the northern Italian town of Canale d'Agordo, John Paul I rose to become Patriarch of Venice, Cardinal and then head of the Catholic Church. The last Italian pope, he was seen as a man of consensus, of humility and simplicity and a strong sense of pastoral duty.

"Open to dialogue and listening, he gave priority to pastoral visits and direct contact with the faithful," the Vatican said in a beatification brochure. He defended the church's opposition to abortion and contraception while also seeking to reform its governance. —AFP

Iraq parliament staff resume work after long hiatus

BAGHDAD, Iraq: Staff at Iraq's parliament returned to work Sunday for the first time since powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's supporters stormed the legislature in late July, an assembly official said. The development came as speaker Mohammed al-Halbusi suggested an agenda for an upcoming national dialogue session following an 11-month political paralysis that sparked deadly clashes in Baghdad last week.

"All parliament staff have returned to work," following orders issued on Saturday night, the parliament official told AFP, on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media. "Operations in parliament had been suspended since protesters stormed the legislature's building," he said.

The protesters had staged a sit-in outside the assembly for weeks after initially storming it to demand fresh elections and the dissolution of parliament. They pulled out last Tuesday at Sadr's orders following nearly 24 hours of violence pitting them against the army and Iran-backed factions that left more than 30 Sadr supporters dead.

The battles that started when Sadr supporters stormed the government palace in the capital's fortified Green Zone marked one of the deadliest episodes of street violence in the country in nearly three years.

In a statement posted on Twitter on Sunday, Halbusi suggested an agenda for a second national dialogue session, following a previous round that was held on August 17. The dialogue sessions are part of a bid to end a political stalemate that has left Iraq without a new government, prime minister or president since elections last October. —AFP

International

Soothing despair - Red Cross teams tracing Ukraine conflict missing

‘All you need to know on the personal level about this conflict’

VERSOIX, Switzerland: A beautiful old manor on the outskirts of Geneva seems the image of peace and tranquility, but inside the horrors of the war in Ukraine are ever present. Dozens of people, most speaking Ukrainian or Russian, are urgently working phones and computers to help locate and determine the fate of prisoners of war and others who have disappeared in the conflict.

“Sometimes it is too hard. Emotionally hard,” said Natalia Novyk. She heads a team of Ukrainian speakers taking calls from people seeking news of their loved ones from the Red Cross’s Central Tracing Agency (CTA).

Shortly after Russia invaded its neighbour in February, the International Committee of the Red Cross created a special CTA bureau focused exclusively on searching for those captured or missing in the fog of that war.

The ICRC first set up its CTA system more than 150 years ago to help people locate lost loved ones in times of crisis. But this is the first dedicated CTA bureau set up for a specific international armed conflict in more than 30 years, and its largest operation since World War II. The Ukraine war bureau counts 28 telephone operators and dozens of other staff, spread across three offices in Ukraine, Russia and the Swiss centre.

Invisible scars

During a recent tour of the centre, ICRC Director-General Robert Mardini told AFP its work was hard, but vital. “This is very often one of the less visible scars of war. But it’s so important for families to know about the fate of their sons and husbands in the midst of violent armed conflict,” he said.

Nearby, in the buzzing Ukrainian-language call centre, Novyk recalls wives bursting into tears when told their husbands had filled out a registration card proving they were alive and being held as a prisoner of war.

Her blue eyes well up with tears as she describes how, despite no space on the card to write anything other than identification details, the men often squeezed in a personal message to say “he loves you and he is alive”.



“He loves you and he is alive”

Anastasia Kushleyka, who heads the Russian-language case workers seeking to track those reported missing, also describes the strange, privileged feeling of passing on personal messages from families to PoWs. “People are announcing the births of their children,” she said. “It is extremely, extremely emotional, (and) gives us value every day.”

900 enquiries a day

Some of those messages also expose the complex nature of this war, she said, pointing to a Russian PoW being held in Ukraine. In his message to his



VERSOIX, Switzerland: Picture taken on August 26, 2022 in Versoix near Geneva, shows the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Central tracing agency (CTA) focused exclusively on searching for those captured or missing of the war in Ukraine. — AFP

mother he asked: “Can you please send me the phone number of grandma who is in Kyiv, so on the way back I can stop by?”

This note, Kushleyka said, contains “all you need to know on the personal level about this conflict”. Often though, there is no information to share. The bureau manages around 900 enquiries a day and since March it has been able to provide more than 3,000 families with information about the fate of their loved ones.

But it has also received nearly 29,000 calls and emails seeking information, Mardini said, acknowledging that “much more needs to be done”. Marta

Pawlak, head of the CTA front office, stressed that taking down details and trawling through data “is the visible part of what we do”.

“The invisible part of this work is basically to listen,” she told AFP, pointing out that often, callers “are in despair, they’re in distress... They are crying”.

And staff never know what awaits them when they pick up the phone or open an email. “It is very heavy. Sometimes you have calls of despair, you have calls of gratitude, but you also have angry calls,” she said, stressing that all those working at the centre have access to psychological support and counselling. — AFP

UK favourite for PM vows action on energy bills

LONDON: The frontrunner in the race to become the UK’s next prime minister, Liz Truss, vowed Sunday that if appointed she will present a plan to tackle soaring energy bills within a week. Talking to the BBC a day ahead of the Conservative leadership announcement, the foreign minister expected to succeed Boris Johnson said: “If I’m elected prime minister, I will act immediately on bills and on energy supply.”

She declined to give details before her appointment is confirmed, saying simply: “Within one week I will make sure there is an announcement on how we are going to deal with the issue.” The Tory leadership race has stretched over eight weeks as Britain faces decades-high levels of inflation and is tipped to enter recession later this year.

British households are facing an eye-watering 80-percent average hike in electricity and gas bills, in a dramatic worsening of the cost-of-living crisis before winter. Truss, 47, has topped polls among the estimated 200,000 Conservative Party members who pick the next leader, outshining her rival Rishi Sunak, the 42-year-old former finance minister.

Truss previously decried direct handouts, but last week vowed to “deliver immediate support to ensure people are not facing unaffordable fuel bills” this winter. Truss’s campaign has promised tax cuts but critics note those would do nothing to benefit the poorest.

On Sunday she stressed she believes tax cuts that benefit the wealthy are fair and promote growth. “To



LONDON: Handout picture released by BBC on September 4, 2022 shows Britain’s Foreign Secretary and a contender to become the country’s next Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative party Liz Truss (L) speaking during an interview with BBC journalist Laura Kuenssberg (R) on the TV set, in London. — AFP

look at everything through the lens of redistribution (of wealth), I believe is wrong,” she said. Sunak has promised further government support to help people pay their energy bills and said curbing inflation would be his priority, attacking Truss’s tax-slashing plans as reckless.

“Helping people with the cost of living and energy bills comes above everything else that I might like to do,” he told the BBC on Sunday. Sunak appeared to accept his likely defeat and offer backing to Truss, saying that if he loses: “I look forward to supporting the Conservative government in whatever capacity” and confirming he would stay on as an MP.

The announcement of the next party leader, who will become prime minister, will be made Monday. Queen Elizabeth II will then formally appoint Johnson’s successor on Tuesday. — AFP

Three Palestinians - Ashraf Abu Leila, Hisham Al-Aloul and Abdallah Al-Nashar - were executed then over their involvement in assassinating a Hamas military leader. The men were publicly executed, with hundreds of people allowed to watch the sentences being carried out. They had been arrested just weeks earlier over the killing of Mazen Faqha, who was allegedly shot dead on behalf of the Zionist entity.

While Hamas keeps the death penalty on the statute books, Palestinian officials in the occupied West Bank have not carried out such a sentence in recent years. Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, seated in the West Bank city of Ramallah, has signed up to the United Nations’ treaty opposing the death penalty. Abbas’ Fatah movement and Hamas have been divided since 2007, following the outbreak of fighting between the Palestinian factions.

The Palestinian Authority operates in the West Bank, home to nearly three million Palestinians who live alongside 475,000 Zionist settlers. Hamas, meanwhile, rules over 2.3 million Palestinians who have lived under a crippling Zionist-led blockade for 15 years. — AFP

spokesman Najj Abou Zeid. Lebanon has been battered by its worst-ever economic crisis since the financial sector went into meltdown in 2019. The local currency has lost more than 90 percent of its value on the black market, as poverty and unemployment have soared. Angry protesters have often targeted banks, trashing their ATM machines with rocks and spray cans. “We can’t even withdraw a penny” from the bank, said 45-year-old Alaa Sheikhani, a customer standing in line at an OMT branch. “How are we supposed to trust them with our money?”

Elie, 36, who recently got married, said he used Wish Money, a Lebanese money transfer firm, to set up his wedding gift registry, something he said saved wedding guests time, hassle and money in fees. “Rather than waiting for hours at the bank, which is often crowded, they can hand over the money to an agency,” said the man who asked not to be fully named. “In terms of time saved and costs, it’s incomparable.” — AFP

Chile to reject dictatorship-era constitution

SANTIAGO, Chile: Chileans head to the polls on Sunday to choose whether to adopt a new constitution that aims to shift its market-driven society into one that is more welfare-based, while enacting broad institutional reforms. Although Chileans previously voted in droves for a rewrite of the current constitution-adopted in 1980 during Augusto Pinochet’s dictatorship-opinion polls suggest the new text will be rejected.

Social upheaval that began in 2019 as tens of thousands of people demanded a more equitable society provided the impulse to overhaul the constitution, but several clauses of the 388-article proposed draft have proved controversial.

“I will reject it because it was a constitution that started badly,” Maria Angelica Ebnes, a 66-year-old homemaker, told AFP in Santiago. “It was forced, through violence.” In October 2019, protests sprung up mostly in the capital led by students initially angered by a proposed metro fare hike.

Those demonstrations spiraled into wider discontent with the country’s neoliberal economic system as well as growing inequality. Although polls predict the new constitution will be rejected, those in favor are still holding out hope, not least because of what they see on the streets.

On Thursday night, an estimated 500,000 people turned out for the official closing of the “approve” campaign in Santiago, whereas no more

than 500 people did so for the “reject” gathering. “People will go out to vote en masse and the polls will be wrong once again,” said Juan Carlos Latorre, a legislator in the ruling coalition of leftist President Gabriel Boric, who supports the new text.

More than 15 million Chileans are eligible to vote in the compulsory referendum. Chief among their concerns is the prominence given to the country’s Indigenous peoples, who make up close to 13 percent of the 19 million population.

Proposals to legalize abortion and protect the environment as well as natural resources like water, which some say is exploited by private mining companies, have also garnered much attention. The new constitution would also overhaul Chile’s government, replacing the Senate with a less powerful “chamber of regions,” and requiring women to hold at least half of positions in public institutions.

5% possibility of ‘approve’

While recent polls have had the “reject” vote leading by as much as 10 percentage points, sociologist Marta Lagos believes “approve” may yet carry the day. In the vast Santiago metropolitan area, the majority of people appear likely to vote in favor of the new constitution, even though some parts of the city-particularly in northern and southern areas-are largely against the changes, Lagos said.

“There’s always the possibility that all the polls are wrong and effectively the advantage for ‘approve’ in Santiago could compensate for the disadvantage in the north and south,” Lagos told AFP. “I don’t think this possibility is more than five percent, and ‘reject’ is 95 percent likely to win.” But what she is certain about is that “the gap will not be 10 points like the three polls published in the last two weeks say.” Only a simple majority is required for the new constitution to be adopted. — AFP

Hamas executes 5 ‘collaborators...’

Continued from Page 1

Omar Shakir, the Zionist entity and Palestine Director at Human Rights Watch, described the executions as “abhorrent”. “Death as government-sanctioned punishment is a barbaric practice that has no place in the modern world,” he wrote on Twitter.

Gaza’s Palestinian Centre for Human Rights meanwhile said the executions were “in violation of Palestine’s international obligations”. The center said it “demands the authorities in the Gaza Strip do not use the death penalty, and replace it with life imprisonment with hard labor”. Hamas has in recent years sentenced numerous people to death for “collaboration” with the Zionist entity, but the executions announced Sunday are the first carried out since May 2017.

Money transfer firms replace...

Continued from Page 1

Increasingly, as Lebanon’s deep crisis shows no sign of abating, money transfer agencies are filling the gap, also offering currency exchange, credit card and tax payment services and even setting up wedding gift registries. Skaff said he now receives his money via a Beirut branch of Western Union’s Lebanese agent OMT, which says it operates more than 1,200 branches nationwide and handles 80 percent of money transfers outside the Lebanese banking sector.

“We create services similar to those that banks provide at the request of our customers,” said OMT

Trump brands Biden ‘enemy...’

Continued from Page 1

going to produce “a backlash the likes of which nobody has ever seen”. He also hit back at Biden’s speech this week in which the president said his predecessor and Republican supporters “represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic.”

Speaking in Philadelphia, the cradle of US democracy, on Thursday, the president launched an extraordinary assault on those Republicans who embrace Trump’s “Make America Great Again” ideology - and urged his own supporters to fight back in what he billed as a “battle for the Soul of the Nation”. Trump slammed it as the “most vicious, hateful and divisive speech ever delivered by an American president”. “He’s an enemy of the state. You want to know the truth. The enemy of the state is him,” Trump said.

“Republicans in the MAGA movement are not the ones trying to undermine our democracy,” continued Trump, who has repeatedly claimed the 2020 presidential election, which he lost, was rigged; and whose party has made unfounded claims of voter fraud a central plank of their platform. “We are the ones trying to save our democracy, very simple. The danger to democracy comes from the radical left, not from the right,” Trump added. He was appearing at the rally ahead of November’s midterm elections, which could see Biden’s Democrats lose control of both houses of Congress.

Even although Trump is not on the ballot, Biden, 79, is seeking to turn the vote into a referendum on his predecessor in a bid to hold on to the Senate and House of Representatives. At the Wilkes-Barre rally - where Trump took to the stage to support his candidate in the Senate race, TV physician Mehmet Oz - Trump supporter Edward Young said he had been “disgusted” by Biden’s speech. “He declared

war on me. He declared war on half of America,” Young told AFP.

The dueling visits by Biden and Trump to Pennsylvania, a key battleground state, come as the Republican is under increasing legal pressure over the documents found by the FBI at his Mar-a-Lago estate. The Justice Department has said in court filings that highly classified government documents, including some marked “Top Secret,” were discovered in Trump’s personal office during the raid.

A detailed list of what was seized also showed Trump held on to more than 11,000 unclassified government records that he claims are his to keep - but legally are owned by the National Archives. Among the papers seized were 18 documents labelled “top secret”, 53 labelled “secret” and another 31 marked “confidential”. Of those, seven top secret files, 17 secret files and three confidential files were retrieved from Trump’s private office.

Agents also found several dozen empty folders labelled “classified” in the office, raising speculation that sensitive documents may have been lost, destroyed or moved. Trump, who is keeping supporters and commentators guessing about whether he intends to run for president again 2024, has sued to have the documents turned over to a neutral “special master”, a move that could slow the government’s probe. — AFP



A supporter of former US President Donald Trump holds a flag prior to a campaign rally. — AFP

International

Kenya poll winner Ruto vows to respect court ruling

Supreme Court to deliver its judgement on Presidential election petition

NAIROBI, Kenya: William Ruto, who was declared winner of Kenya's presidential election in August, said Sunday he would respect the Supreme Court's decision expected Monday confirming or invalidating the results of the vote, disputed by his rival Raila Odinga.

Ruto, the outgoing vice president, was proclaimed the victor by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEBC) with about 233,000 votes (50.49 percent to 48.85 percent) ahead of Odinga, a veteran opposition figure backed this year by incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta and his Jubilee party.

But Odinga has rejected the outcome of the August 9 vote and filed a petition at the top court alleging fraud in the vote tallying process. He said the IEBC's servers had been hacked to enter falsified results and that about 140,000 votes had not been counted.

"Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will deliver its judgement on the Presidential election petition. Because we are country that adheres to the law, we will equally respect the decision of the court,"

said William Ruto after a Sunday service in the central city of Nakuru.

"That is how we will be able to have an all-inclusive country. There is no bigger or lesser Kenyans, all Kenyans are equal before the law," Odinga's running mate Martha Karua said Friday that the pro-Odinga coalition would also respect Monday's decision.

"Our Constitution stipulates that if one is dissatisfied with the results, they have to seek legal redress and that is what we did," she said, according to The Nation daily. "When the verdict is out, we all respect that. We want to maintain peace but for this to be achieved there must be justice because peace without justice is not sustainable."

During the last presidential election in 2017, the Supreme Court overturned the election and ordered a new vote, a first in Africa. Elections in Kenya have repeatedly been sources of violence. The deadliest, in 2007, left more than 1,100 people dead in politically motivated clashes and displaced hundreds of thousands. —AFP

All Kenyans are equal before the law



NAIROBI, Kenya: Lead counsel for election outcome challengers, the Raila Odinga led Azimio la Umoja, Philip Murgor (R) prepares for the start of submissions as legal teams await the arrival of Supreme Court judges led by Chief Justice Martha Koome (not pictured) at the Supreme Court of Kenya in Nairobi. —AFP

3 women among Ivorian troops held in Mali released

LOME: Three women among the 49 Ivorian soldiers held since July in Mali accused of being mercenaries have been released, Malian, Ivorian and Togolese officials said Saturday. Talks are underway for the release of the other soldiers, said Togolese Foreign Minister Robert Dussey.

"I would like to announce that the President of the transition, President Assimi Goita of Mali, has agreed... to proceed with the release of some prisoners," Dussey told reporters in Togo's capital Lome.

He was speaking alongside Mali's foreign minister, Abdoulaye Diop, and Ivory Coast's cabinet director, Fidele Sarassoro. The three Ivorian soldiers were present in uniform. "Discussions are underway to ensure that the other soldiers in detention can very quickly regain their full freedom", Dussey added.

Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe has been acting as a mediator in the dispute that sparked a diplomatic crisis between military-ruled Mali and its West African neighbour. Ivory Coast "deplores the fact that shortcomings and misunderstandings were at the origin of this high-

ly regrettable event", Sarassoro said at the news conference. His country, "anxious to maintain good neighbourly relations with Mali, undertakes to respect the procedures of the United Nations as well as the new Malian rules and provisions enacted concerning the deployment of military forces in Mali", he added.

A statement from Mali's Public prosecutor Samba Sissoko Saturday said that the magistrate in charge of the case had approved a request for the release of the three soldiers and the dropping of charges against them.

Long list of charges

The soldiers were arrested after their arrival at Bamako airport on July 10. Ivory Coast says they were unfairly detained after being sent to provide backup for the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, MINUSMA. They say their role within the mission was "well-known to the Malian authorities".

Mali's government however says they were detained after landing on a special flight without supporting documents and has described them as mercenaries. A day after the detention of the troops, MINUSMA spokesman Olivier Salgado backed Ivory Coast's position, but the peacekeeping mission later acknowledged there had been "dysfunctions" in deploying the Ivorian troops.

The ruling junta expelled Salgado from the country for having published "unacceptable information" on the affair. It also suspended rotations of UN peacekeeping troops, although they have since resumed.

In mid-August, Malian prosecutors filed charges against all 49 soldiers. Public prosecutor Sissoko on August 15 said the charges comprised "criminal association, attacking and plotting against the government, harming state external security, holding, carrying and transporting combat weapons and complicity in these crimes". But negotiations continued, according to diplomatic sources, and Saturday's announcement appears to be the first concrete result from those talks.

Talks continuing

Diplomats close to the talks have said that Mali has also been demanding that Ivory Coast acknowledge its responsibility in the affair and express its regrets for the deployment of the soldiers. Bamako also wanted Abidjan to hand over people who have been on its territory since 2013 who are wanted in Mali, said the sources in mid-August.

The junta has accused Ivory Coast of encouraging regional partners to impose harsh sanctions on Mali that were lifted in July. Mali has been dominated by the military since an August 2020 coup ousted elected leader Ibrahim Boubacar Keita following mass protests over the handling of a long-running and bloody jihadist insurgency.

MINUSMA is one of the forces in the Sahel state to help it fight rebels linked with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, which began their operations in 2012 and have spread their influence across northern and central Mali. —AFP

News in brief

Five wounded in shooting

JERUSALEM: Five people were wounded on Sunday in a shooting attack on an Zionist bus in the occupied West Bank, medics said. "We saw two gunshot victims outside of the bus who were being treated by IDF (Zionist military) medics and other people who were at the scene," said paramedic Matti Carmi, from the Magen David Adom emergency medical services. Those shot in the northern West Bank incident were both conscious and were airlifted to Rambam hospital, in the Zionist city of Haifa. Three others were hit with glass fragments and subsequently transferred by road to another hospital in the north, MDA said. A photograph published by a union representing bus drivers showed the vehicle's windshield peppered with bullet holes. Zionist Defence Minister Benny Gantz said security forces "immediately went in pursuit and got their hands on suspects in the attack".

Lagos building collapse

LAGOS: At least two people were killed and more were trapped on Sunday after a seven-storey unfinished building collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos, rescue authorities said. Building collapses are common in Africa's most populous nation where many reside in dilapidated structures and construction safety regulations are often ignored. The seven-storey building collapsed in a commercial area of Lagos, with the structure almost completely flattened, according to photographs released by rescue officials. Two bodies had been recovered from the rubble on Sunday, Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) told AFP by text. At least four other people were believed trapped inside, and operations were ongoing, local rescue authorities said. No reason was given for the collapse. —AFP

1,000 migrants cross Channel

LONDON: Nearly 1,000 migrants crossed the Channel in small boats on Saturday, the UK government said Sunday, as growing numbers of arrivals have exacerbated tensions between Britain and France. The defence ministry said 960 migrants were detected making the dangerous crossing in 20 boats. This came after 1,295 migrants were spotted making the crossing on August 22, setting a new record for a single day. The issue has caused a major political headache for the UK government, which promised tighter border controls after leaving the European Union. Tensions have risen between London and Paris, with the UK government accusing France of not doing enough to stop the crossings. So far this year there have been more than 26,000 crossings, while now is the peak time of year for those attempting to enter the UK this way. Over the whole of 2021 just over 28,500 migrants were detected in around 1,000 boats. The UK last month vowed to speed up removals of Albanians illegally entering the country as official statistics showed they were now the largest single group making small-boat crossings of the Channel. —AFP

Pakistan floods wash away family's marriage hopes

FAZILPUR, Pakistan: Truck driver and father-of-seven Mureed Hussain was planning for his daughter's October wedding when floodwater inundated his home, taking away the entire back wall and, with it, her hard-earned dowry.

"I had been collecting her dowry for almost three years," Hussain told AFP from the courtyard of his four-room house, which he shares with his brother's family. "I would provide for the house and also spend a little on her dowry."

Record monsoon rains have caused devastating floods across Pakistan since June, killing more than 1,200 people and leaving almost a third of the country under water, affecting the lives of 33 million. The hardest hit are the poor in rural parts of the country, who have seen their homes, belongings, life savings, and crops washed away.

Hussain's village in Punjab province was badly affected, with floodwater destroying or damaging scores of buildings. Also washed away are marriage plans for Hussain's daughter, Nousheen. Each month Hussain would put away a couple of thousand rupees for her dowry from the 17,000 rupee salary (\$80) he makes driving trucks.

It is customary for families in patriarchal Pakistan to provide extravagant dowries when a daughter is married. In many areas, parents are expected to start saving up for their daughters' dowries from the day they are born.

While demanding a large dowry is officially banned by law, it is still a practice observed by many. The families of grooms frequently present the parents of their future daughter-in-law with an extensive list of demands—including furniture, household goods and clothing. In the case of wealthy families, it can even include cars and homes. Failing to come up with the goods is considered shameful, and the bride-to-be often



JAFFARABAD, Pakistan: Aerial photograph shows flood-affected people as they collect relief bags given by Pakistan army from a helicopter after heavy monsoon rains in Jaffarabad district, Balochistan province. —AFP

faces ill-treatment by her in-laws if a decent dowry is not provided.

Shock and tears

"I wanted to marry off my other two daughters after her and one remaining son," Hussain said. "I had thought I would be able to do it gradually." When the floods reached his home, Hussain fled with his wife and family to a nearby railway station on elevated land.

When the waters receded, Hussain trudged through mud two days ago and returned to his home with his wife and daughters. "They started crying when they saw the damage," he said.

His wife, Sughra Bibi, teared up again as she recalled her shock at the condition of the home—and her daughter's

dead and 117 injured.

The sources said at least eight vehicles were travelling on a road between the towns of Beledweyne and Maxaas when the insurgents intercepted and burned them and killed the passengers overnight Friday to Saturday by Afar-Irdood village. "The terrorists massacred innocent civilians who were travelling... last night. We don't have the exact number of victims, but 19 dead bodies have been collected," local clan elder Abdulahi Hared told AFP.

"The dead bodies are still being collected, including women and children. They could be more than 20," said Ali Jeyte, the governor of the Hiiraan region where the attack happened. "This was a horrible attack that has never happened in our

region. These were innocent civilians who did nothing to deserve this," added another local clan leader, Mohamed Abdirahman.

Al-Shabaab in a statement said they targeted fighters from a local sub-clan that recently helped government forces and that they killed 20 "militiamen and those who were transporting material for them", destroying nine of their vehicles.

Local fighters and the security forces recaptured several villages from Al-Shabaab in the region in late August. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud "strongly condemns the despicable acts of murder against innocent civilians", the Somali presidency said on Twitter.

"The President underscored that his government will leave no stone unturned in the fight

against terrorism in Somalia and the region." Ali Gudlawe, president of Hirshabelle state where the attack took place, released a statement offering condolences to the victims' loved ones and promising to continue "operations to cleanse" the region of Al-Shabaab.

"The only way we have is to be united to fight and liberate our country from them. I call upon the society not to be discouraged," said his counterpart in Jubaland state, Ahmed Madobe.

The Al-Qaeda-linked group has been fighting Somalia's internationally backed federal government since 2007. It has been driven out of the country's main cities, including Mogadishu in 2011, but remains a serious security threat in large areas of the countryside. —AFP

Al-Shabaab kill at least 19 Somali civilians

MOGADISHU, Somalia: Fighters from the Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab have killed at least 19 civilians in a night-time attack in central Somalia, clan chiefs and local officials said on Saturday. The attack comes two weeks after Al-Shabaab, which has waged a long insurgency against the Somali state, besieged a hotel in the capital Mogadishu for 30 hours, leaving 21 people

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

Business

Dollar shortage wreaks havoc on retail, industry sectors in Egypt

Cairo slaps import curbs on clothes, cars, home appliances and luxury food items

CAIRO: A severe dollar shortage caused by the Russia-Ukraine war has forced Egypt to impose a restriction on imports, particularly of non-essential items such as clothes, cars, home appliances, car tires and luxury food items, which has wreaked havoc on the retail and industry sectors.

Higher global energy, food and shipping costs resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February have swelled Egypt's already huge import bill of about \$80 billion a year.

Higher US interest rates have made it more expensive to service Egypt's foreign debt of \$83 billion and made the country's bond and treasury bill issues less attractive to foreign investors. An estimated \$20 billion of foreign investment has been pulled from the local debt market this year because of the uncertainty over emerging markets.

The war also halted the flow of Russian and Ukrainian visitors - who normally account for about 30 per cent of all foreign arrivals - just as the tourism industry was starting to recover from the slump caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Egypt's foreign currency reserves, a psychologically important indicator, fell from about \$40 billion at the end of 2021 to \$33.14 billion in July, according to reports.

The government has responded by devaluing the currency by 14 per cent in March, banning the export of essential food items and opening negotiations with the IMF to reach a deal on further structural reforms and a possible loan from the Washington-based lender. The result overall has

been a steep rise in prices, pushing the inflation rate up to nearly 14 per cent in July, the last month for which official figures are available. There is growing expectation that there will be another currency devaluation, which would push prices up further.

The spike in prices forced the government to introduce costly measures to ease the burden on the poor and middle class. Last month, the government said it would allow holders of state-issued food cards to buy more subsidized items. It also pledged to keep the price of subsidized bread, a staple for Egypt's 103 million people, unchanged despite paying more for wheat imports that total about 12 million tons annually.

On Wednesday, the government announced a package of measures to clear the backlog of goods piled up at the country's ports, but some industrialists and businessmen are skeptical about whether it will be enough to repair the damage caused by the import restrictions.

The import restrictions and currency devaluation have had a domino effect, with some businessmen taking advantage of the lack of new supplies to raise prices beyond the levels needed to compensate for the depreciating pound. "My supplier is charging me three times what I paid for materials before the devaluation," said an industrialist whose factory produces sports supplements. "I have raised my prices by 15 per cent and I am not even breaking even. If I raise more, my sales will slump."

In a move that underscored the seriousness of



From clothes to food.. the dollar crisis hits the Egyptian markets.

the problem, the government in August dimmed the lights at Cairo's Tahrir Square and ordered shops and malls to turn down air conditioning to reduce

electricity consumption and free up some of the natural gas used by power plants for export to earn more foreign currency. — Agencies

Germany unveils €65bn inflation relief package

BERLIN: The German government on Sunday unveiled a new multi-billion euro plan to help households cope with soaring prices, and said it was eyeing windfall profits from energy companies to help fund the relief. German businesses and consumers are feeling the pain from sky-high energy prices, as Europe's biggest economy seeks to extricate itself from reliance on Russian supplies in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Rapid measures to prepare for the coming cold season will ensure that Germany would "get through this winter," Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at the unveiling of the €65 billion (\$65-billion) package.

The latest agreement, which brings total relief to almost €100 billion since the start of the Ukraine war, was hammered out overnight into Sunday by Germany's three-way ruling coalition of Scholz's Social Democrats, the Greens, and the liberal FDP. Among the headline measures are one-off payments to millions of vulnerable pensioners and a plan to skim off energy firms' windfall profits.

The government's latest relief package came two days after Russian energy giant Gazprom said it would not restart gas deliveries via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline on Saturday as planned after a three-day maintenance. The government had made "timely decisions" to avoid a winter crisis, Scholz said, including filling gas stores and restarting coal power plants.



BERLIN: (Left to right) The co-leader of the Greens Party Omid Nouripour, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Finance Minister and Free Democrats Party (FDP) leader Christian Lindner and Germany's Social Democratic SPD party co-leader Saskia Esken address a press conference on the government coalition's relief plan to cope with soaring energy costs, on September 4, 2022 at the Chancellery in Berlin. —AFP

But preventative measures, including a drive to reduce consumption, have done little to break a sharp increase in household bills.

Third package

The latest announcement follows two previous relief packages totalling €30 billion, which included a reduction in the tax on petrol and a popular heavily subsidized public transport ticket. But with the expiration of many of those measures at the end of

August and consumer prices soaring, the government has been under pressure to provide new support. Inflation rose again to 7.9 percent in August, after falling for two straight months thanks to previous government relief measures. The take-off in energy prices is expected to push inflation in Germany to around 10 percent by the end of the year, its highest rate in decades. Scholz said however that not everyone is suffering from the high consumer prices. — AFP

NASA unsure next Moon rocket launch possible this month

CAPE CANAVERAL, US: After scrapping a second attempt to get its new 30-storey lunar rocket off the ground due to a fuel leak, NASA officials said Saturday it may not be possible to try again this month.

The current launch window for NASA's Artemis I mission to the Moon ends Tuesday and is "definitely off the table," said Jim Free, associate administrator for Exploration Systems Development, at a press conference Saturday. The next possible launch window is September 19 to October 4, and failing that, October 17 to 31, NASA said.

The ability to take off during those windows "will really depend on the options that the team comes back with likely on Monday or early Tuesday morning," said Free. Millions around the globe tuned in to live coverage and crowds gathered on beaches in Florida on Saturday hoping to witness the historic blastoff of the Space Launch System (SLS).

But a leak near the base of the rocket was found as ultra-cold liquid hydrogen was being pumped in, forcing a halt. The Artemis I space mission hopes to test the SLS as well as the unmanned Orion capsule that sits atop, in preparation for future Moon-bound journeys with humans aboard.

The first launch attempt on Monday had also been halted after engineers detected a fuel leak and a sensor showed that one of the rocket's four main



CAPE CANAVERAL, US: (Left to right) Kennedy Space Center Press Secretary, Jackie McGuinness; NASA Administrator, Bill Nelson; Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Development, James Free; and Artemis Mission Manager, Mike Sarafin; hold a press conference after the launch of the Artemis I unmanned lunar rocket was postponed, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on September 3, 2022. —AFP

engines was too hot. "This is a whole new vehicle, a whole new technology, a whole new purpose of going back to the moon and preparation to go to Mars," said NASA administrator Bill Nelson. "Yes, it's hard."

Artemis mission manager Mike Sarafin described the hydrogen leak as "large," and said one of their "leading suspects" was a seal on a fueling tube.

Engineering teams believe they will have to replace the seal, either directly on the launch pad or after taking the rocket back to its assembly building a few miles away. It was "too early" to entirely rule out a launch before the end of September, said

Sarafin, who promised a status update next week.

NASA has previously said that the early October period would be complicated to coordinate because a crew of astronauts will be using the Kennedy Space Center for a rocket launch to the International Space Station. In addition to the leak, another problem facing the SLS is its emergency self-destruct system. Designed to explode in case the rocket deviates off course, the system will likely need to be reexamined before the next launch, which can only be done in the assembly building. Bringing the rocket in and out of the building will take "several weeks," Sarafin said. — AFP

Norway's future CO2 cemetery takes shape

OYGARDEN, Norway: On the shores of an island off Norway's North Sea coast, engineers are building a burial ground for unwanted greenhouse gas.

The future terminal is to pump tons of liquefied carbon dioxide captured from the top of factory chimneys across Europe into cavities deep below the seabed. The project in the western municipality of Oygarden aims to prevent the gas from entering the atmosphere and contributing to global warming.

It "is the world's first open-access transport and storage infrastructure, allowing any emitter that has captured his CO2 emissions to deliver that CO2 for safe handling, transport and then permanent storage," project manager Sverre Overa told AFP. As the planet struggles to meet its climate targets, some climate experts see the technique, called carbon capture and storage, or CCS, as a means to partially reduce emissions from fossil-fuel-based industries.

Norway is the biggest hydrocarbon producer in Western Europe, but it also boasts the best CO2 storage prospects on the continent, especially in its depleted North Sea oil fields. The government has financed 80 percent of the infrastructure, putting €1.7 billion (\$1.7 billion) on the table as part of a wider state plan to develop the technology. A cement factory and a waste-to-energy plant in the Oslo region are set to send their CO2 to the site. But the most original feature of the project is on the commercial side: inviting foreign firms to send their CO2 pollution to be buried out of harm's way.

Pipeline plans

Using CCS to curb carbon pollution is not a new idea, but despite generous subsidies the technology has never taken off, mainly because it is so costly. One of the world's largest carbon capture facilities, at the Petra Nova coal-fired plant in Texas, was mothballed in 2020 because it was not economical.

There are only a couple of dozen operational CCS projects around the world, according to the industry-run Global CCS Institute. But the failure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with Paris Agreement goals and a massive influx of government subsidies have breathed new life into the technology. Energy giants Equinor, TotalEnergies and Shell have set up a partnership-dubbed Northern Lights—which will be the world's first cross-border CO2 transport and storage service at its scheduled launch in 2024. A pipeline will inject the liquefied CO2 into geological pockets 2,600 meters below the ocean floor, and the idea is that it will remain there for good.

On Monday, the Northern Lights partners announced a first cross-border commercial agreement. From 2025, it is to ensure 800,000 tons of CO2 are captured each year at a plant in the Netherlands owned by Norwegian fertilizer manufacturer Yara, then shipped to Oygarden and stored there. —AFP

A cap on Russian oil prices? G7 eyes untried, risky plan

Plan to purchase Russian oil at a discount from prevailing market prices

WASHINGTON: Capping the price of Russian oil, an approach G7 members said Friday they want to pursue "urgently," would be an unprecedented move and one which some analysts say could backfire.

How would a cap work?

Russian oil would be purchased at a discount from prevailing market prices, to limit Moscow's profits as it prosecutes its war against Ukraine; but it would keep the price above the cost of production to ensure incentive for its export. The discounted rates, calculated separately for crude oil and refined petroleum products, could be regularly revised, according to a US Treasury official.

Are there any precedents?

There have been international systems aimed at preventing a nation from exporting oil—such as those now targeting Iran and Venezuela—or at limiting trade, as in the UN "Oil-for-Food" program which, from 1995 to 2003, allowed Iraq to sell oil but only to pay for food, medicine and humanitarian needs. But there has never been an attempt to impose a differentiated price on a country.

Will others join the G7 plan?

G7 members (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States) have already limited or suspended their Russian petroleum purchases. But for the plan to be effective, other countries will have to take particularly big countries like India and China, some of Russia's most important clients. While the G7 plan offers the prospect of lower prices, "China and India are already getting cheaper—cheap enough—oil," said Bill O'Grady of Confluence Investment.

"Russia could say, 'Look, we're just going to sell this oil at this price. We're not going to sell it to Europeans.'" John Kilduff of Again Capital agreed. "I don't think that the Chinese or the Indians or the Turkish will go on" with the G7 plan, he said, noting that those countries had not joined in Western sanctions punishing Russia for the Ukraine war. "I think the flows to those coun-



WASHINGTON: G7 members said Friday they want to pursue "urgently," the possibility of capping the price of Russian oil.

tries from Russia will continue."

How will Russia react?

For the price cap to work, Russia will have to yield to the pressure and continue exporting to the participating countries. But Russia's deputy prime minister Alexander Novak warned Thursday that Moscow would not sell petroleum products to countries capping their price, Russian news agencies reported.

Global oil prices rose Friday. Kilduff attributed that at least partly to the G7 announcement. He said it had raised fears of a contraction in world supply and thus a damaging new surge in prices.

If petroleum prices have declined from their peaks shortly after the Russian invasion in February, they remain historically high, and extremely volatile.

Would a cap undercut European sanctions?

The European Union (with the exception of three members) is preparing not only to ban Russian petroleum imports as of December 5, but also to block European insurers from covering transport costs to non-EU destinations. "I do think that Washington is really uncomfortable" with those insurance restrictions, said O'Grady, adding that they would "really be a big deal." Roughly 90 percent of maritime petroleum transport is insured by EU and British parties.

"I think the administration's afraid that if that (the insurance ban) gets put into place, that Russian supplies will really fall," O'Grady said. The price-capping plan, initiated by the US and then endorsed by the G7, would exempt from the embargo the transport of cargoes sold at reduced price-limiting its impact. —AFP

Sweden to issue guarantees to energy groups

STOCKHOLM: Sweden said Saturday it would provide liquidity guarantees to Nordic and Baltic energy companies worth "billions of dollars" in a bid to prevent a financial crisis sparked by Europe's energy crunch. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson warned Sweden was facing the prospect of a "war winter", and said the exact details of the guarantees remained to be worked out.

The announcement came after Russia said Friday it was cutting off the Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany indefinitely due to what it said were leaks in a turbine.

The closure is expected to lead to even higher production prices for electricity companies when the market opens on Monday. Speaking to reporters, Andersson said the guarantees were aimed at giving energy groups "the breathing room that is needed".

She said there was "a clear security policy agenda behind Russia's actions".

"Russia's energy war is having serious consequences for Europe and Swedish households and companies, especially in southern Sweden which is dependent on electricity prices in Germany, which in turn is very dependent on gas," she said. "This threatens our financial stability. If we don't act soon it could lead to serious disruptions in the Nordics and Baltics," she said. "In the worst-case scenario we could fall into a financial crisis." —AFP



Magdalena Andersson



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 01 SEP 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	35,880	8,527.00	-2.1%	-0.8%	11.6%	305,771,812	167,419,809	27,334	27.3	2.6	77.4%
Main Market	10,452	5,808.15	-0.9%	-1.0%	-1.3%	974,360,396	65,466,302	27,951	17.7	1.4	22.6%
All Share	46,332	7,644.42	-1.8%	-0.8%	8.5%	1,280,132,208	232,886,110	55,285	25.1	2.4	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	27,580	1,848.00	-1.7%	-0.7%	13.9%	159,397,297	96,917,823	13,331	26.8	2.6	59.53%
BASIC MATERIALS	894	1,001.96	-0.9%	-0.8%	-2.2%	3,652,227	1,897,091	761	10.8	1.4	1.93%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	1,021	1,525.33	-1.8%	-0.1%	14.1%	490,157,500	26,729,340	8,925	37.5	12.0	2.20%
CONSUMER STAPLES	160	526.37	0.3%	-1.5%	-28.0%	6,257,628	2,592,290	366	35.1	1.2	0.35%
ENERGY	230	1,103.05	-7.3%	-8.1%	-22.8%	47,257,819	1,083,264	1,382	13.4	1.1	0.50%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,625	1,415.34	-1.4%	-0.8%	-0.6%	310,034,149	35,147,345	12,754	18.3	2.0	9.98%
HEALTH CARE	209	422.22	-3.4%	-2.4%	-47.0%	24,786	12,882	15	11.4	3.4	0.45%
INDUSTRIALS	4,220	1,189.35	-3.6%	-2.0%	4.2%	50,583,433	33,740,947	7,029	39.6	1.6	9.11%
INSURANCE	659	1,583.37	0.9%	0.5%	3.3%	2,520,878	161,597	329	9.1	1.1	1.42%
REAL ESTATE	2,697	1,258.43	-0.8%	-0.7%	-5.1%	168,296,800	15,594,807	6,665	25.0	1.3	5.82%
TECHNOLOGY	9	632.92	3.1%	4.2%	-7.4%	99,500	8,329	13	0.0	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,805	1,240.61	-2.6%	-0.7%	13.9%	25,870,198	15,762,052	3,162	14.5	2.1	8.21%
UTILITIES	222	531.58	2.0%	0.5%	-11.4%	15,979,993	3,238,344	553	15.5	2.3	0.48%

Top Gainers

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GIH	355	0.24	6,383,829	2,068,616	270
REMAL	14.7	0.12	13,206,958	194,226	493
EKTTITAB	13.6	0.10	60,099,635	852,873	1,344
KUWAITRE	300	0.09	885	258	7
QIC	93	0.09	164,093	15,379	7

Top Losers

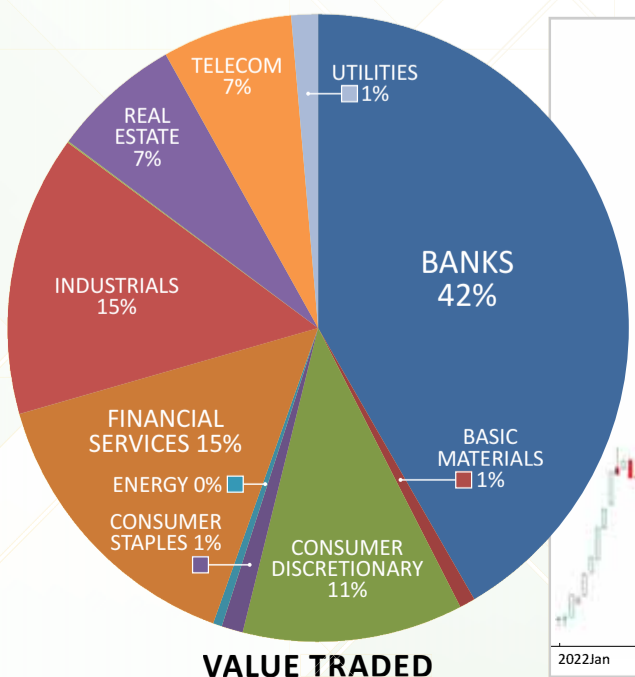
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
ENERGYH	25	-0.48	6,354,278	179,851	349
KSHC	35.2	-0.12	2,745,247	111,263	210
GFC	80	-0.11	12,650	1,026	15
ALAQARIA	36.1	-0.10	66,536	2,552	17
ACICO	122	-0.10	2,945,921	379,037	300

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
IFAHR	41.8	-0.09	376,709,273	17,598,863	3,724
JIYAD	31.2	0.02	104,128,919	3,573,413	3,335
EKTTITAB	13.6	0.10	60,099,635	852,873	1,344
KFH	900	0.00	52,671,565	47,443,498	6,324
GFH	92	-0.02	48,690,449	4,519,324	1,702

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	900	0.00	52,671,565	47,443,498	6,324
AGLTY	819	-0.05	31,953,316	26,937,292	4,279
NBK	1,040	-0.03	22,594,704	23,832,877	2,424
IFAHR	41.8	-0.09	376,709,273	17,598,863	3,724
ZAIN	600	-0.03	24,997,849	15,209,039	2,589



Market Summary:

- Premier Market M. Cap is 35.88 billion KD (%77.4), while Main Market is 10.45 billion KD (%22.6).
- Currently both Premier and Main indices are struggling to overcome the resistance level, a scenario that has been repeating itself lately.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7644, with support levels at 7635, 7574, and 7556, while resistance at 7726. Premier index closed at 8527, support levels at 8527, 8426, and 8335 while resistance at 8687. The Main index closed at 5808, with support levels at 5780, 5750, and 5723 while resistance at 5880.

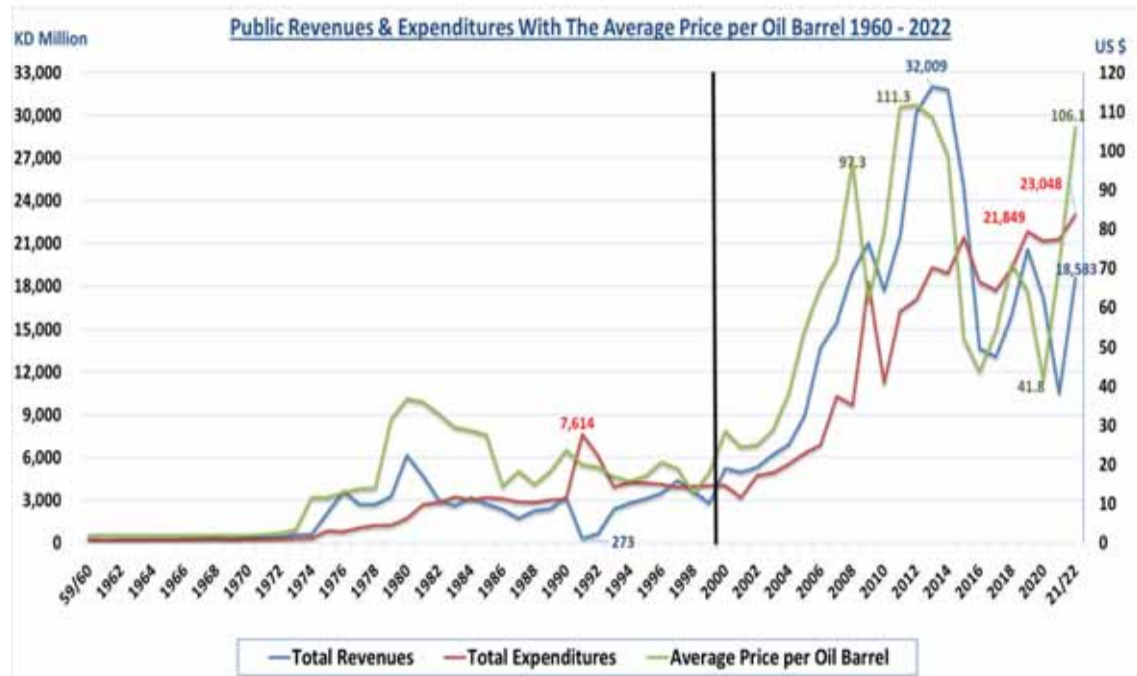
Business

Al-Shall Weekly Economic Report

Kuwait budget could achieve a surplus of KD 10.362bn for fiscal year 2022/23

Kuwait must take a step towards the goal of public financial sustainability

Chart No. 1



KUWAIT: The monthly average price of Kuwaiti oil reached \$104 per barrel by the end of August 2022, the 5th month of the current fiscal year 2022/2023. It is \$39 or 60 percent higher than the new estimated hypothetical price of \$65 of the current budget and \$59 higher than the average hypothetical price of \$45 of the past fiscal year. The average oil price for the month of August is 30.2 percent higher than the recorded yearly average price of \$79.9 per barrel for the past fiscal year 2021/2022. According to the Ministry of Finance, the average price for August is \$29 higher than the new budget's parity price of \$75 (without the deduction of 10 percent of revenues for the future generations' reserve). Kuwait is supposed to have achieved actual oil revenues of KD 2.417 billion in August.

Assuming that the production and prices continue at the current levels, although an unrealistic assumption, Kuwait's oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year would reach KD 30.233 billion after deducting annual production costs pertaining to the entire current fiscal year.

It would be KD 13.429 billion higher than the estimated revenues of KD 16.741 billion for the

current budget. Adding KD 2.078 billion in non-oil revenues, total budget expected revenues for the current fiscal year would amount to KD 32.311 billion.

Comparing this figure with the expected expenditures of KD 21.949 billion, it is likely that the public budget will achieve a surplus of KD 10.362 billion for the current fiscal year 2022/2023. With oil revenues being the only decisive factor, while the oil market situation due to the Russian/Ukrainian war is exceptional, a prudent fiscal policy is required to estimate a discount rate that quantifies future risks that may be inevitable and substantial in anticipation of falling into the repeated pitfalls of the past.

As the cost of producing a barrel of oil has multiplied five times in 20 years, as education expenditure has equaled that of developed countries despite its poor outputs, and as the huge government yields low productivity, slimming these sectors represent top priorities.

In our recent reports on the hypothetical priorities, we stated that the most dangerous (act) is repeating the historical sin of dealing with the public finance, that is, uncontrolled finance poli-

cies with the first oilprice increase and regret when it drops.

Public expenditures have inflated and multiplied 5.75 times from the year 2000 to 2022 during which the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) was 8.27 percent. That unruly era of fiscal policy was not accompanied by any progress in productivity. Education, health services, infrastructure, housing and even the country's cleanliness and environmental pollution are all worse than they were in the less-spending era.

Competitiveness

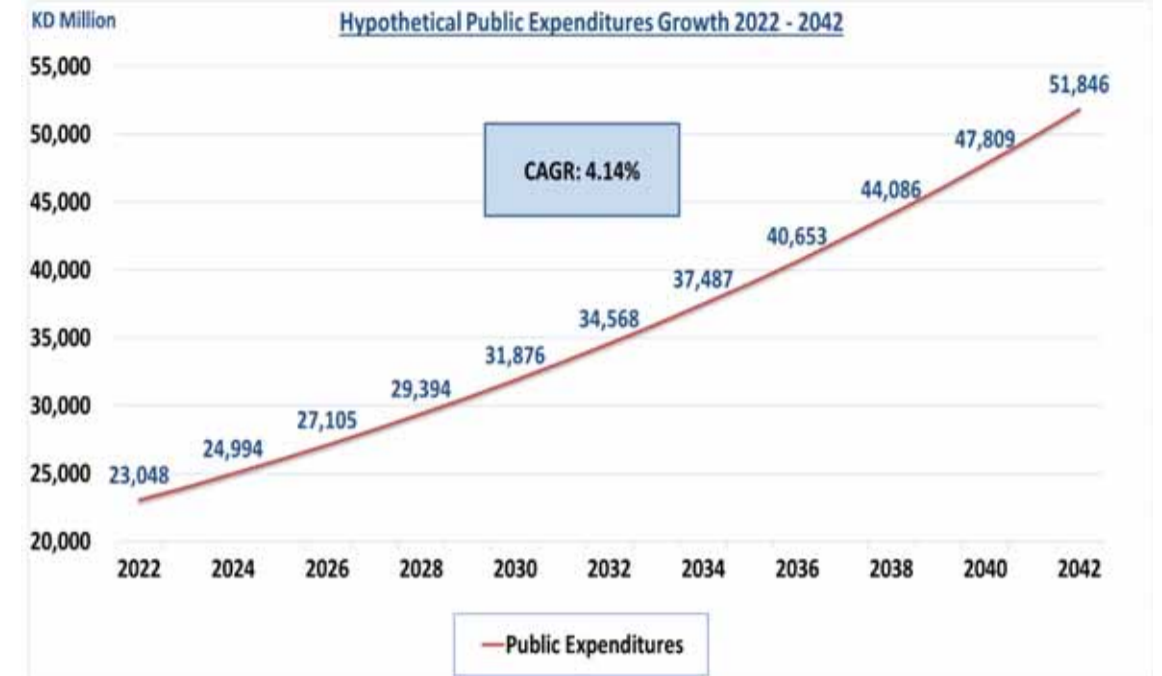
During this era, the economy lost its competitiveness, or as it is scientifically called an advanced case of the Dutch disease. Yet, that is not the worst; the worst is an unsustainable situation. Assuming that the fiscal policymakers are able to reduce the compound annual growth rate of public spending to half of its value in the past twenty-two years, or at a rate of 4.14 percent for the next twenty years, spending levels will become unbearable as it may reach KD 51.8 billion in 2042.

In addition, oil will be subject to a fierce attack in the future by consuming countries, rightly or not,

for political reasons or by technical progress, specifically in the transport sector, we can realize the importance of early adoption of proactive policies aimed at sustaining the public finance, which some neighboring countries have already done so.

Kuwait has an advantage over others, as it can take a fundamental step towards the goal of public financial sustainability by providing the income of its investments in order to finance it with a commitment not to harm its origin and change its function. This gives it time to plan to diversify its income sources without unbearable pressure. This however will not succeed without stopping the huge waste resulting from the size of its government and without resisting the spending corruption by cleaning up those who practiced and practice it starting from the top without delay. There is still time to save the country and even ensure its superiority. There is still time to save those who are in charge of the current generation of young citizens and those who have not yet been born, but saving the country and its superiority are dependent on the fundamental restructuring of the public administration, with its forthcoming executive part being the most important.

Chart No. 2



African countries to stand by 1.5C target at climate talks

LIBREVILLE, Gabon: African countries agreed on a common push to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius—a goal that scientists fear is increasingly elusive—at upcoming UN climate talks. The five-day Africa Climate Week, held in the Gabonese capital of Libreville, is one of a series of regional confabs ahead of the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, from November 6 to 18.

The talks "reiterated the need to further accelerate climate action on all fronts, namely in adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, and adopting more ambitious mitigation measures to keep the 1.5-degree target within reach," Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, who will chair the COP27, said in a statement. African countries are among the nations that are least to blame for the fossil-fuel gases that stoke global warming, accounting for less than four percent of global emissions of carbon dioxide.

But they are also among the countries that are most exposed to climate impacts, such as worsening drought, floods and cyclones.

Funding to help poorer countries curb their emissions and strengthen their resilience is traditionally one of the thorniest issues at COPs-Conferences of the Parties-under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. According to the African Development Bank, Africa will need as much as \$1.6 trillion between 2020-2030. In many rich countries, catastrophic heatwaves and wildfires this year have strengthened demands for action on climate. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the threat to growth posed by the Covid-19 pandemic have also cast a shadow on prospects for meeting funding needs.

"The geopolitical realities and energy crisis confronting the world have opened the door for backtracking on climate commitments and we must do everything to ensure this does not happen," warned Shoukry. In 2015, 196 UN members meeting in Paris set the goal of keeping warming to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial levels, and preferably to 1.5C.

But experts say that surging carbon emissions have endangered the lower goal. "Science tells us if we continue business as usual, global average temperature will rise... more than 3C by the end of the century," said the UN's deputy climate chief, Ovais Sarmad. In May this year, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said there was an even chance that the 1.5C target would be breached within the next five years. The Libreville meeting brought together around 2,300 delegates from government, NGOs and the private sector from around 50 African countries. —AFP

The all-round stylish Huawei MatePad Pro available now in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The all-round stylish and pro flagship tablet Huawei MatePad Pro is now available on Huawei's official website and select retailers in Kuwait. It combines the ultimate entertainment experience with Pro-level Productivity features. The new tablet features a top-notch display to be ever used on a Huawei tablet and brings many upgraded productivity features, including PC-like Videoconferencing and the newly upgraded App Multiplier and Multi-Window for more efficient multi-tasking. It also offers support for the Huawei Smart Magnetic Keyboard and the upgraded Huawei M-Pencil (second generation).

Huawei MatePad Pro

The Huawei MatePad Pro features an 11-inch OLED Huawei FullView Display with 4.2 mm ultra-narrow bezels, achieving a 92 percent screen-to-body ratio. It supports a 120 Hz refresh rate, offering a smoother visual experience and a 10-bit color depth that can display 1.07 billion colors. Huawei MatePad Pro is also the first tablet to receive German TÜV Rheinland Full Care Display 3.0 certification and uses a hardware solution to lower blue light to protect users' eyes. As the first tablet to come equipped with Huawei Sound,

US confirms China tariffs to remain in place pending review

WASHINGTON: The US government confirmed Friday it will continue enforcing the tariffs on Chinese goods imposed by former president Donald Trump, following hundreds of requests from American companies. President Joe Biden had been considering how and whether to remove some of the tariffs by his predecessor, amid pressure to offer some relief to soaring US inflation.

But his team was divided, with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai pushing to keep the punitive duties in place. The tariffs could have been terminated on their four-year anniversary dates—July 6 and August 23, respectively, for two rounds—if there were no objections from domestic firms, but they remained in force while USTR awaited comment as part of the scheduled review.

USTR said Friday it "received numerous requests" tallying more than 350 firms asking that tariffs remain in place. "Because requests for continuation were received, the tariff actions have not terminated and USTR will conduct a review of the tariff actions," the trade agency said in a statement. That next step will include time for further com-



Huawei MatePad Pro uses a 6-speaker, high and low-frequency division design to support its Stereo Vibe and Ultra-Bass technology. It is also the lightest 11-inch tablet available on the market weighing only 449g.

Huawei MatePad Pro is a Pro-level Productivity tablet just as much as it is for entertainment. To improve online meetings, Huawei upgraded its self-developed AI noise cancellation feature and optimized algorithms that tap into the Deep Neural Network to reduce the residual noise. To further improve the tablet's productivity features, Huawei has launched a new detachable Smart Magnetic Keyboard. Also, the new Huawei M-Pencil (2nd generation) retains the excellent hardware capabilities of its predecessor while comprehensively upgrading its appearance, materials, and writing experience. Huawei MatePad Pro allows users to access Huawei's native apps in landscape mode, and the Multi-window has been upgraded to support one-tap interaction.

Huawei MatePad Pro supports Tablet-PC Multi-screen Collaboration capabilities which come with three modes: mirror mode, extend mode and collab-



orate mode. The new color capture feature allows you to select and apply colors across different apps in any usage scenario, including multi-window, app multiplier, or small window. After multi-screen collaboration is established between a phone and tablet, you can click and select a color on a phone window and apply it to the tablet, improving the efficiency of cross-device working and creation.

Multi-screen collaboration enables simple drag-and-drop file transfers between smartphones and tablets. Peripheral sharing lets users type on the smartphone using the tablet's keyboard and screen, play music saved on the smartphone with the tablet's speakers and more. This solution also makes it possible for users to pick up calls or respond to text messages directly from the tablet, facilitating a seamless multi-device experience.

Huawei MatePad Pro also features an 8300mAh ultra-large battery in its thin and small form that supports 8.5 hours of web browsing and 11.5 hours of 1080p HD movie playing on a single charge.



ment from stakeholders and consideration of "the effectiveness of the actions in achieving the objectives," USTR said, without providing details on the timing or the criteria. The statement noted that the Biden administration could make changes and the final decision will weigh "the effects of such actions on the United States economy, including consumers."

Trump imposed tariffs on about \$350 billion in

annual imports from China in retaliation for Beijing's theft of American intellectual property and forced transfer of technology. Tai has said she was reluctant to give up the leverage the tariffs provide, while Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has argued that some of the duties "serve no strategic purpose" and reconfiguring them could ease inflation, which has reached a 40-year high and is squeezing American families. —AFP

Lifestyle | Features

K-POP, K-DRAMA AND K-ART: FRIEZE FAIR LANDS IN SEOUL



Korean American K-pop star AleXa (center), who recently won the American Song Contest, takes part in a rehearsal with her dance crew in a dance studio of South Korea's ZB Label in Seoul. Korean-American K-pop star AleXa has wanted to be on stage since she was a kid, but her search for fame in South Korea was also fuelled by another reason—to help her mother find her birth family. —AFP



Lisa accepts the Best K-pop award for 'Lalisa' onstage at the 2022 MTV VMAs at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

The art world landed in Seoul this week for the inaugural edition of Frieze in Asia, as the vibrant South Korean capital looks to position itself as the region's next art hub. Previous Frieze fairs have been held in traditional art capitals like London, Paris and New York, but industry experts say Seoul was a natural pick for the first Asian edition of the prestigious event.

South Korea has emerged as a cultural powerhouse in recent years with the global success of the Oscar-winning film "Parasite" and the Netflix series "Squid Game", and with K-pop superstars BTS sweeping the Billboard music charts. "Frieze looks to cities where there is a vast appreciation of culture," Patrick Lee, the inaugural director of Frieze Seoul, told AFP.

Seoul boasts a rich art scene, he added, with "incredibly talented artists, world-class museums, corporate collections, non-profits, biennales and galleries, which make it an ideal location for an art fair". The fair also takes place at a time when

the art world is turning away from Hong Kong—long considered the hub of the lucrative Asian art market—over looming financial and political uncertainties, as well as quarantine restrictions still imposed on visitors.

"Seoul is definitely the most vibrant and exciting market in Asia for now," said Alice Lung, director of Galerie Perrotin, which opened its second Seoul gallery last month. Tim Schneider, art business editor of Artnet News, said the openings by major Western galleries like Pace, Lehmann Maupin, Perrotin and Thaddaeus Ropac, followed by Frieze, confirmed that Seoul had "levelled up" on the international art stage. "Frieze Seoul is just the final confirmation that the demand has been here," he told AFP.

COVID boost

The local art market has seen explosive growth since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with local art fairs seeing record foot traffic and sales figures last

year. "When the borders were closed for a while, people focused on online viewing," Lung of Galerie Perrotin told AFP. "This helped Korean artists and galleries grow faster without any physical limitation, bringing in new collectors," especially millennials and Generation Z, she said.

During this time, skyrocketing housing prices prompted many young South Koreans to seek alternate investment options, such as stocks, cryptocurrency and, for some, artworks. "Many young people tasted bitter losses from stock and crypto investments and artwork appeared a safe bet, especially after high-profile success cases," said Hwang Dal-seung, president of the Galleries Association of Korea.

The late Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee left a trove of antiques and artworks—including works by Claude Monet, Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso—reportedly worth two to three trillion won (\$1.5-2.2 billion) which had soared in value during his decades-long ownership, Hwang added. Schneider said South Korea was a

"microcosm of Asia" in terms of the rise of collectors born after 1980, who now exercise heavy influence on the market.

"Buyers from this age group and this region have been reshaping the hierarchy of which artists are most in demand internationally, as well as significantly ramping up the speed at which artists can transition from the emerging level to blue-chip prices and global fame," he added. The country's art market was estimated to be worth around 532.9 billion won in the first half of 2022, according to a July report from the state-run Korea Arts Administration Service—more than the whole of 2021.

Fresh approach

Thaddaeus Ropac, who opened his Seoul gallery last year, said South Korea offered a balanced demographic of collectors. "You have very established collectors who are not too young anymore and who have incredible experience and who collect art for 30 years or 40 years and you

see the results, which I think is quite astonishing in its quality," Ropac told AFP.

"But then you also feel a very fresh new approach to art" from younger collectors, he added. The Austrian gallerist, who began working with South Korean artists nearly two decades ago, said the country's art scene—artists, curators, collectors—had been "built for generations". The arrival of Frieze Seoul would certainly open new doors for South Korea's art market, he said, but it was "also a result of what Seoul has become".

Schneider added: "Historically, anytime a grade-A international fair sets up shop in a new city, it simultaneously confirms that the art-market infrastructure there is sustainable." But he dismissed framing Seoul's rise in terms of Hong Kong's potential fall. "I think it's misguided to act as if Asia—a massive continent composed of numerous countries with unique cultural histories and tremendous wealth—can't support two legitimate art-market hubs," he said. —AFP



(Left-right) Questlove, Floyd Rance, Stephanie T Rance, Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, and Margaret Brown attend the premiere of Netflix's 'Descendant' during the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival at MV Performing Arts Center in Edgartown, Massachusetts. —AFP

Barack Obama: President, Nobel laureate, and now Emmy winner

Hollywood newcomer Barack Obama was awarded an Emmy for narrating his Netflix documentary series "Our Great National Parks," the Television Academy announced Saturday. The former two-term US president had already won a pair of Grammy Awards - for audio versions of his memoirs "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams from My Father" - so he now only needs an Oscar and a Tony to complete the estimable EGOT.

According to an Entertainment Weekly tracker, only 17 people have achieved an EGOT, including Mel Brooks, Whoopi Goldberg, Audrey Hepburn and - most recently - Jennifer Hudson. One other president had already been awarded an Emmy - Dwight D Eisenhower in 1956 - although his was an honorary award.

After leaving office in 2017, both Obama and his wife Michelle have each written best-selling memoirs, and in addition to their non-profit foundation, have

established a production company which has inked a major deal with Netflix, reportedly worth tens of millions of dollars. Their company's first documentary for the streaming service, "American Factory," won the Oscar for best documentary feature and an Emmy for directing, though the awards went to the filmmakers and not to the Obamas themselves.

Obama's successor to the presidency, Donald Trump, did not win an Emmy for his reality competition show "The Apprentice," although he was nominated twice. Other nominees in Obama's narrator category included former NBA star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ("Black Patriots: Heroes Of The Civil War"), Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o ("Serengeti II") and veteran naturalist David Attenborough ("The Mating Game"). Obama also received the Nobel Peace Prize after his 2008 presidential election win, for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." —AFP

'Lord of the Rings' prequel is Amazon Prime Video's biggest premiere

Amazon announced Saturday that its big budget series "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," based on the works of JRR Tolkien, had marked the biggest premiere in the history of Prime Video — with 25 million viewers. With this flagship production that started streaming Friday, Prime Video aims to counter the lure of HBO and its prequel, with nearly 10 million viewers in the United States alone. "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power attracted more than 25 million global viewers on its first day, breaking all previous records, marking the biggest premiere in the history of Prime Video," a company statement said. It has aired the first two episodes.

HBO also has said it had its best premiere, with its prequel, with nearly 10 million viewers in the United States alone. "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power attracted more than 25 million global viewers on its first day, breaking all previous records, marking the biggest premiere in the history of Prime Video," a company statement said. It has aired the first two episodes.

"It is somehow fitting that Tolkien's stories - among the most popular of all time, and what many consider to be the true origin of the fantasy genre - have led us to this proud moment," said Jennifer Salke, head of Amazon Studios. The series, which will



In this file photo, fans attend 'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' panel in Hall H of the Convention Center during Comic-Con International in San Diego, California. —AFP

air until October 14, is crucial for Amazon, which wants to play in the ultra-competitive streaming landscape, where Netflix, Disney+ and HBO Max are already battling it out.

"The Rings of Power" is set during Tolkien's Second Age in Middle-earth, thousands of years before the events of "The Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings", Tolkien's cult trilogy which has already been adapted for film. Amazon paid \$250 million to buy the rights, and some \$465 million was spent on the first season alone. The group having committed to five seasons, the final sum should top one billion dollars by far. —AFP

Ukrainian wins top photojournalism prize for Mariupol coverage

Ukrainian photojournalist Evgeniy Maloletka won the Visa d'Or, one of the profession's most prestigious prizes on Saturday, for his work during the devastating Russian siege of Mariupol. Maloletka, visibly moved, dedicated his prize to the Ukrainian people, at a ceremony in the southern French city of Perpignan.



Ukrainian photographer Evgeniy Maloletka

The 35-year-old journalist, who works for the Associated Press news agency, was along with his AP colleague video journalist Mstyslav Chernov, one of the first journalists to enter Mariupol on February 23, an hour before the first Russian bombs fell.

He was also one of the last to leave, finally quitting the city on March 15, by which time it had been almost entirely destroyed by Russian shelling. Those 20 days he spent there, he told AFP, were like one long, unending day, "becoming worse and worse". His



This photograph shows people visiting the 'Mariupol, Ukraine' exhibition by Ukrainian photographers Evgeniy Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov during the 34th edition of the Visa pour l'Image international photojournalism festival in Perpignan, southern France. —AFP

pictures showed the full horrors of the conflict there: children killed during the siege, heavily pregnant women lying among the ruins of bombed-out buildings, hastily improvised common graves.

The Russian bombardment of this port city of 400,000 inhabitants, in particular a direct hit on a maternity hospital, provoked outrage around the world. The other two photographers nominated were Daniel Berehulak, an Australian of Ukrainian origin, for "People lived here", his reportage for the New York Times on the massacre of civilians in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv; and Marcus Yam's assignment for the Los Angeles Times: "The fall of Afghanistan." The war in Ukraine has been one of the dominant themes at the International Festival of Photojournalism, which opened on August 27. —AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Film opens debate on spy who leaked US nuke plans to Russia



US director Steve James poses on September 2, 2022 during a photocall for the film 'A Compassionate Spy' presented out of competition during the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy. —AFP

The little-known story of a teenage scientist who passed US nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union is the subject of a new documentary that premiered at the Venice Film Festival this week. "A Compassionate Spy", by celebrated US filmmaker Steve James, hopes to reignite debate about nuclear weapons at a time of rising geopolitical tensions. "Climate change and other issues have taken our attention away from that threat but it's always been there and it's coming back," James told AFP in Venice.

Ted Hall was just 19 when he was recruited to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project during World War II that led to the creation of the world's first nuclear weapon. Sympathetic to the Communist cause, and fearing a future in which only the US had the bomb, Hall decided to pass designs to Moscow. The story has been largely forgotten, even though Hall came clean in the last years of his life in the 1990s.

"Many people will no doubt conclude that he should not have done it, that his fears of the US

becoming fascist or the US pre-emptively striking the Soviet Union were not grounded," said James, who is known especially for his landmark 1994 documentary "Hoop Dreams". "But there's no question he did it for the right reasons—he didn't do it for profit or fame, he did it because he had a genuine fear of what the US is capable of. "And ultimately, we're the only ones who have dropped a nuclear bomb so it's not an unreasonable fear."

Although the FBI long suspected Hall of espionage, they were never able to find conclusive evidence. But the tension for him and his family was almost unbearable, especially when two other spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were executed in the US in 1953. The film makes clear the vastly different attitudes towards Russians in 1944, when the Soviet Union was a wartime ally, seen as heroically standing up to Nazism. Hall later said he would not have done it had he known about the crimes of Joseph Stalin at the time. "Maybe he was willfully naive," said James. "But we have to remember, he was so young." —AFP

'Greek tragedy' set in neglected suburbs electrifies Venice

Civil war sparks with lightning speed in Romain Gavras' film about riots in Paris' neglected suburbs, but don't ask the director to take sides on the violence plaguing France's tough "banlieues". "It's not a film about police against youth," Gavras told AFP Saturday at the Venice Film Festival, adding that he did not consider his movie a political statement. The French director imagines the youth insurrection in one of the countless gritty high-rise neighborhoods ringing urban centers as a Greek tragedy in "Athena", giving heft and timelessness to one of France's most intractable social problems.

In the vein of 1995's "La Haine" or 2019's "Les Misérables", whose director here serves as producer and co-writer, "Athena" gives us a front-row seat inside the explosive suburbs as they careen towards chaos for a frenzied 24 hours, to tragic effect. "I don't think I make films that have a message, I think I make films that try to transmit emotions," said Gavras, the son of fiercely political film-maker Costa-Gavras.

"When you work through emotions, with symbolism, you're more moved," he said. France has struggled for decades to integrate its grim housing project neighborhoods, home to a racially mixed community of mostly first- and second-

generation immigrants. Long neglected, and marked by high unemployment and few opportunities, the "banlieues" are prone to recurring social unrest and tensions with the police, exacerbated by episodes of police brutality.

Enraged

Not one minute into Gavras' film, all hell breaks loose. The youth of Paris' projects are enraged over the latest episode of police brutality against one of their own and brazenly attack a police station. From the moment the first molotov cocktail is thrown, Gavras never lets up the tension, capturing the euphoria, fear, recklessness and danger as the situation spirals out of control. At the centre of the drama is a story of three brothers, whose differing responses to tragedy fuel the action.

Abdel, played by Dali Benssalah, is a soldier who returns home to his restive neighborhood to attend his brother's funeral. His attempts to diffuse tensions in his neighborhood are thwarted by younger brother Karim, newcomer Sami Slimane. Older brother Mokhtar (Ouassini Embarek), meanwhile, is focused on keeping his drug-dealing business afloat as the violence escalates. "This familial anger spills over to a



(From right) Italian director Emanuele Crialese, Spanish actress Penelope Cruz, Italian actress Luana Giuliani and Italian actor Vincenzo Amato arrive by taxi boat at the pier of the Excelsior Hotel on September 4, 2022 during the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy. —AFP photos

group of people and a neighborhood and a nation," Gavras said.

Images in the film—such as the young rioters stripped to their waist and kneeling before police or officers hurling tear gas canisters into crowds of protesters at close range—are easily identifiable from recent events in France. But weighing in on

how to fix the cycle of violence is not his job, Gavras said. "I make images, I have no solution, I am not a politician," Gavras said. "I don't know if films can stop the anger," he added. "On the other hand, giving a vision, like Greek tragedy does, of a dark future, that's interesting." —AFP



(From left) French actor Anthony Bajon, French actor Dali Benssalah, French actor Sami Slimane, French director Romain Gavras, French screenwriter and director Ladj Ly, French actor and screenwriter Alexis Manenti and French Algerian actor Ouassini Embarek pose during a photocall for the film 'Athena' presented in the Venezia 79 competition at the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy.



(From left) US director Darren Aronofsky, US actress Hong Chau, US actress Sadie Sink and US Canadian actor Brendan Fraser pose on September 4, 2022 during a photocall for the film 'The Whale' presented in the Venezia 79 competition as part of the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy.

Argentina's 'Dirty War' trial on screen at Venice

Argentine director Santiago Mitre still has vivid memories of the 1985 trial that put the country's repressive military junta on the stand for the disappearances of tens of thousands of citizens. That historic episode—and the success of Prosecutor Julio Strassera in winning guilty verdicts for many of those responsible—is now the subject of Mitre's latest film that premiered at the Venice Film Festival Saturday, "Argentina, 1985". "I still remember the day Strassera read his indictment: the commotion in the courtroom, the emotion of my parents, the streets finally able to celebrate something that wasn't a soccer game, the idea of justice as an act of healing," said Mitre.

An estimated 30,000 people disappeared during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship, whose "Dirty War" against opponents unleashed a wave of kidnappings, torture, rapes and murder. The film traces the prosecutors as

they take on the uphill challenge of putting the military ringleaders on trial, relying on an energetic team of idealistic novices while facing intimidation and threats. "This story touched me deeply and gave me the desire to make a film about justice... based on facts that really happened," said Mitre.

The film, in which moments of droll humor interrupt its more serious subject matter, is at its most moving when witnesses take the stand, one by one, to testify to the horrors they suffered in secret torture centers across Argentina. Among the most atrocious, one woman testifies how she was forced to give birth handcuffed and blindfolded in the car of her torturers, her baby tumbling to the car's floor after delivery.

Some 400 babies were born in captivity and illegally handed over to others, according to the rights organization Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo. Since the resumption of the dictatorship's trials in the mid-2000s—after more than a decade of amnesty laws and other controversial measures—some 1,060 people have been convicted of crimes against humanity. Most recently in July, the Argentine judiciary sentenced 10 former military and police officers to life imprisonment for homicide, kidnapping, torture and rape. —AFP



(From left) Argentine actress Alejandra Flechner, Argentine actor Ricardo Darin, Argentine director Santiago Mitre and Argentine actor Peter Lanzani pose on September 3, 2022 during a photocall for the film 'Argentina, 1985'.

Sports

'Chase anything': Sri Lanka down Afghanistan in Asia Cup Super 4

Mendis, Rajapaksa help Sri Lanka seal tense Asia Cup win

SHARJAH: Kusal Mendis' fiery start and a key lower-order knock by Bhanuka Rajapaksa powered Sri Lanka to a four-wicket win over Afghanistan in their Asia Cup Super Four contest on Saturday. Set 176 for victory, Sri Lanka leaned on an attacking 62-run opening stand between Pathum Nissanka (35) and Mendis (36) to achieve their target with five balls to spare at Sharjah.

Afghanistan's bowlers got regular wickets to dent Sri Lanka's middle-order but Rajapaksa's 31 off 14 balls and a quickfire 16 not out from Wanindu Hasaranga helped them achieve the highest chase at the desert venue. "It's the belief of the dressing room, we believe we can chase anything in these kinds of wickets," Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka said.

"We can always analyse the wicket better when chasing. There was a plan coming into this game, we know they have good batters, but the boys executed the plans really well." Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed 84 to guide Afghanistan to 175-6, a total that could have been bigger had Sri Lankan bowlers not hurt the Afghans with late strikes. Gurbaz's effort came in vain after he put on a key second-wicket stand of 93 with Ibrahim Zadran, who made 40, after Afghanistan were made to bat first.

Afghanistan, who had crushed Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to move into the Super Four stage, managed just 37 runs in the last five overs and lost five wickets. "We were about 20-25 runs short, and also we didn't field well or

bowl in the right areas," said Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi. "It's a better pitch today than the one we played on against Bangladesh, which is why I said we were a few runs short." Sri Lanka's Dilshan Madushanka, a left-arm quick, took two wickets while fellow fast bowler Asitha Fernando and spinner Maheesh Theekshana claimed one each.

In reply, Sri Lankan openers Nissanka and Mendis started strongly in the powerplay. Nissanka attacked the bowlers with a few boundaries and then Mendis took over, smashing leg-spinner Rashid Khan for two sixes to bring up his team's fifty. Fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq broke through to remove Mendis after his 19-ball blitz. Nissanka attempted to keep up the charge but fell to spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with Gurbaz, who was named man of the match, taking a sharp catch.

Danushka Gunathilaka made 33 to keep the chase on track despite the loss of Charith Asalanka and Shanaka at the other end. He found company in the form of Rajapaksa, who smashed Naveen for two fours and one six in an 18-run 16th over to bring down the asking rate. Rashid bowled Gunathilaka but new man Hasaranga hit three boundaries to take Sri Lanka near their target. Rajapaksa was out in the 19th over before Chamika Karunaratne hit the winning boundary.

Mendis lifts Sri Lanka

In another development, Kusal Mendis' fiery start and a key lower-order knock by

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SHARJAH: Afghanistan's wicketkeeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz fields the ball during the Asia Cup Twenty20 international cricket match between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on September 3, 2022. —AFP

sixes to bring up his team's fifty. Fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq broke through to remove Mendis after the batsman's 19-ball blitz. Nissanka attempted to keep up the charge but fell to spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with Gurbaz taking a sharp catch.

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Nishimoto, Yamaguchi take honours at Japan Open badminton

OSAKA: Home favorites Kenta Nishimoto and Akane Yamaguchi thrilled the crowd at badminton's Japan Open in Osaka on Sunday, winning the men's and women's singles titles for the host country. World number 21 Nishimoto stunned Taiwan's number four seed Chou Tien-chen 21-19, 21-23, 21-17 to finally claim his first international title, having lost in his previous six final appearances. Nishimoto's win gave the home crowd something to cheer after Japan's number two seed Kento Momota lost in the first round earlier in the week. The 28-year-old Nishimoto said he was "really happy and also a bit relieved" after landing his first title.

"I was very worried going into the third game," said Nishimoto. "He's a veteran player with a lot of skill who knows how to play cleverly, so I had to be careful right until the end." Chou, who reached the

semi-finals of last week's world championships in Tokyo, is known as badminton's comeback king but he could not find a way past Nishimoto in the third game. "I just tried to keep pushing," said Chou. "It worked in the second set but in the third set I made some mistakes and it was difficult to move closer."

Yamaguchi gave Japan another gold medal to celebrate when she beat South Korea's An Se-young 21-9, 21-15 in the women's final. Yamaguchi retained her world title last week in Tokyo and she still had enough left in the tank to win her third tournament of the year. "Me and my opponent were both really tired so I wanted to take control of the game right from the start," said the 25-year-old world number one. "I had to take it to the limit, and when I hit that limit, I had the crowd to push me forward."

In women's doubles, South Korea's Jeong Na-eun and Kim Hye-jeong beat their compatriots Baek Hana and Lee Yu-lim 23-21, 28-26 to win the title. Chinese pair Liang Weikeng and Wang Chan took the honors in men's doubles, beating Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen 21-18, 13-21, 21-17. In mixed doubles, Thailand's Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai beat Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino 16-21, 23-21, 21-18. —AFP



OSAKA: Gold medalist Kenta Nishimoto of Japan poses on the podium after his victory against Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan during the men's singles final on day six of the Japan Open badminton tournament in Osaka on September 4, 2022. —AFP

La Rochelle win clash of the champions as Top 14 returns

PARIS: La Rochelle walked away with the honors in the headline fixture on the opening day of the Top 14 season on Saturday with the European champions downing Top 14 titleholders Montpellier 26-22. South African Dillyn Leyds scored one of La Rochelle's two tries, the penalty second two minutes from time securing the intense encounter for Ronan O'Gara's team, with Antoine Hastoy contributing a conversion and four penalties.

Before the late penalty try Montpellier had the lead with only three minutes left on the clock thanks to Clement Doumenc's first try for his new club he joined this summer from Carcassonne, with the trusty boot of Louis Carbonel adding the remaining 17 points. The sin-binning of Bastien Chalureau and Mohamed Haouas did not help Montpellier's cause. Earlier, Morgan Parra made his debut for Stade Francais with a 24-18 win over former club Clermont.

After nearly 300 games for Clermont, former France scrum-half Parra begins a fresh chapter with Stade who finished just 11th last season. But it was a discreet start for the 33-year-old scrum-half with the 71-times capped France player having an injury scare on 50 minutes after he came down clutching his right knee. Australian international winger Sefanaia Naivalu touched down for the hosts after 28 minutes with new signing Giovanni Habel Kuffner adding a second shortly after the interval.

Stade, the 14-time French champions, showed signs of rustiness despite a successful build-up to the season. Baptiste Pesenti's yellow card after 54 minutes allowed Clermont back in the game with two tries from Samuel Ezeala and hooker Yohan Beheregaray. But Stade fly-half Joris Segonds made the difference with 14 points, including two



LA ROCHELLE: La Rochelle's French wing Pierre Boudehent runs with the ball during the French Top14 rugby union match between Stade Rochelais (La Rochelle) and Montpellier Herault Rugby on September 3, 2022. —AFP

late penalties in 72nd and 77th minute. Stade next meet promoted Bayonne who lost 40-25 despite a gutsy performance at three-time European champions Toulon.

Racing 92 beat last season's runners-up Castres 25-19 with three tries, two conversions and two penalties. But coach Laurent Travers was far from happy. "We need to appreciate the victory in itself because the manner of our performance needs to be better," he said. Racing however played without their injured France international Gael Fickou. Bayonne marked their return to the Top 14 with a try after just three minutes from Teiva Jacquelin,

but Toulon pulled away in the second half in a five-try display.

Pau grabbed a late 16-14 win in a relentless struggle with visitors Perpignan. "That is good news," said Pau coach Sebastien Piqueronies, with his side expected to be fighting to avoid relegation. "But the bad news is we scraped a win in a small match and only just." European Challenge Cup winners Lyon got life under their new coach Xavier Garbajosa off to a positive start with a 31-27 win at Brive. On Sunday, Toulouse and World Rugby player of the year Antoine Dupont traveled to Bordeaux-Begles. —AFP

First Kuwait Martial Arts Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: World Boxing Council Representative in Kuwait Meshal Al-Fajji said the first Kuwait Martial Arts Championship for amateurs and professionals will be held on September 23 and 24, at Kuwait Boxing Federation hall. Kuwait's first Martial Arts Championship will have 13 varied matches. 10 will

be in Muay Thai; four of which are for amateurs and the rest will be for professionals.

Meanwhile, all three boxing matches will be for professionals only in cooperation with WBC and Kuwait Muay Thai committee, which will participate as supervising partners. Al-Fajji said that Kuwait's first Martial Arts Championship is the first of its kind in the Gulf region, and hope to introduce Kuwait champions to the world. There will be surprises and prizes for martial arts fans. Al-Fajji commended the support of member of Kuwait Olympic Committee and Chairman of Sports Committee Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Meshal Al-Fajji

Perfect Nadal, battling Swiatek cruise into US Open fourth round

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal defeated close friend Richard Gasquet for the 18th time to reach the US Open fourth round on Saturday as world number one Iga Swiatek made the last 16 for a second successive year. Four-time champion Nadal took his record over Gasquet to a perfect 18-0 with a 6-0, 6-1, 7-5 victory to stay on course for a 23rd Grand Slam title. Nadal has now won 34 straight sets against Frenchman Gasquet who he first played as a junior. On Saturday, he was barely troubled, winning the first nine games of the contest before Gasquet got on the board.

Next up for the Australian and French Open champion is 22nd seed Frances Tiafoe for a place in the quarter-finals. "He's a great player, very charismatic, very fast," said Nadal of the American. Tiafoe made the last 16 for a third successive year by seeing off Argentina's Diego Schwartzman 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4. The 36-year-old Nadal showed no ill effects of the bloodied nose he suffered when he accidentally bounced his racquet into his face in the second round. "It's a little bit bigger than usual but it's okay," he joked.

Alcaraz breaks shoe

Carlos Alcaraz, widely-regarded as Nadal's Grand Slam heir apparent, claimed a season-leading 47th win despite breaking one of his shoes. The 19-year-old third seed defeated Jenson Brooksby of the United States 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 on the back of 46 winners. Alcaraz, a quarter-finalist in 2021, managed to break one of his tennis shoes as he slid to reach a ball mid-match. "It's the third time that I have done this. As you can see, I do a lot of sliding," he said.

Alcaraz next faces 2014 champion Marin Cilic who fired 26 aces and 74 winners in total past Britain's Dan Evans in a 7-6 (13/11), 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 7-5 win. British seventh seed Cameron Norrie made the fourth round for the first time with a comfortable 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 win over Danish teenager Holger Rune. He next faces Russian ninth seed Andrey Rublev who needed five match points to see off Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 2-6, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 7-6 (10/7). World number one Swiatek downed unseeded Lauren Davis 6-3, 6-4.

Swiatek came back from 1-4 down in the second set to reel off five successive games against the American who called a medical time out in the first set to have her blood pressure taken. The 21-year-old Pole will face Wimbledon quarter-finalist Jule Niemeier of Germany for a place in the last eight. Swiatek has now won three matches in a row for the first time since capturing her second French Open in June. "It's not like I lost confidence or something. I still know anything can happen on these tournaments," she said.

Petra Kvitova defeated ninth-seeded Garbine Muguruza after saving two match points. Kvitova came through 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (12/10) and will take on Jessica Pegula of the United States for a quarter-final place. Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova said she had drawn inspiration from Serena Williams when the American legend saved five match points before eventually being eliminated on Friday. "I watched Serena and it was amazing how she was saving match points, so I tried to do the same today," said Kvitova.

Muguruza's defeat, her sixth in seven meetings against the Czech, left only four of the top 10 women's seeds in the tournament. Sixth seed Aryna Sabalenka, who made the semi-finals in 2021, brushed aside French qualifier Clara Burel, 6-0, 6-2 in just 68 minutes. She will face Danielle Collins. Pegula, the eighth seed, ended the run of Chinese qualifier Yuan Yue, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-0. Victoria Azarenka eased past Petra Martic 6-3, 6-0 to set up a last-16 clash with 2016 finalist Karolina Pliskova who downed Olympic champion Belinda Bencic 5-7, 6-4, 6-3. —AFP

Sports

Champions League to expose widening gulf between elite and the other clubs

Real to face RB Leipzig, Celtic, Shakhtar Donetsk in Group F

PARIS: Thirty years after the dawn of the modern Champions League, the group stage of this season's competition kicks off this week in the penultimate year in its current format, as Real Madrid begin their defense of the trophy. Marseille were the champions in that inaugural 1992/93 season, but no French club has won the trophy since, and England, Spain, Italy and Germany have provided every winner since Jose Mourinho's Porto triumphed in 2004. Indeed, since Inter triumphed in 2010, only five clubs have lifted the trophy—Barcelona, Chelsea and Bayern Munich have been champions twice each, and Liverpool once.

Meanwhile, Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in Paris in May to be crowned European champions for the fifth time in nine years, confirming the enduring brilliance of veteran stars like Luka Modric and Karim Benzema. They will set out with the aim of winning a 15th European Cup in Istanbul next June, with the group stage unlikely to overly trouble Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Real will face RB Leipzig, Celtic and Shakhtar Donetsk in Group F, fully aware that even a home defeat to Sheriff Tiraspol last year ultimately proved inconsequential. "Last year the easiest game was supposedly against Sheriff at the Bernabeu and we lost it, so we need to respect these teams," Ancelotti told Spanish media. He was also quick to point out another factor which could come into play this season. Usually the group stage finishes in December, but the World Cup has forced UEFA to fit all six Champions League matchdays into a period of nine weeks starting earlier than usual.

'Different demands'

"We will have to be ready not just for the quality of the opposition but also for the different demands and rhythms," said Liverpool manager Jurgen

Klopp, whose team begin at Napoli on Wednesday as they look to put their defeat against Real in the final last May behind them. It could be that the real impact of that is only felt when the knockout rounds start in February, when many players at Europe's biggest clubs will have had to come through the draining experience of a mid-season World Cup. Nevertheless, the idea that someone from outside a narrow band of elite clubs might win the Champions League is fanciful. Real will not start as favorites up against Manchester City and a reinforced Paris Saint-Germain in particular.

"The Champions League brings the best out of players, fans and teams. It would be very reductive to say that PSG are favorites," insisted PSG coach Christophe Galtier. Liverpool and Bayern are also contenders, but the jury is out on Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur or Barcelona. From 2024 the group stage will be expanded to feature 36 clubs, up from 32, with all teams together in one pool and playing eight matches, instead of eight groups of four teams.

Making up the numbers

That will shake up a first phase that has become too predictable. This time, most fascination lies in Group C, where Bayern, Barcelona and Inter Milan—with 14 European Cups between them—are together alongside Czech champions Viktoria Plzen. It is quite possible that Barcelona, after a close season spent selling off assets to be able to strengthen their squad despite enormous debts, could be knocked out in the group stage for a second straight year. "We got a very difficult group. Possibly the hardest of the last 20 years," warned Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez. While Barcelona have strengthened, even most clubs in the Champions League these days cannot keep their best players.



ISTANBUL: A screen displays the fixtures for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League football cup after the draw for the 2022/2023 UEFA Champions League football tournament in Istanbul. —AFP

Not so long ago a group containing both Borussia Dortmund and Sevilla would be full of jeopardy for Manchester City. Yet City themselves stripped Dortmund of Erling Haaland, while Sevilla lost their centre-back pairing from last season of Jules Kounde and Diego Carlos, and are weakened as a result. That is just part of a pattern. Ajax, in Group A with Liverpool, Napoli and Rangers, lost coach Erik ten Hag, Lisandro Martinez and Antony to Manchester United, and sold top scorer Sebastian Haller to Dortmund, amongst other departures.

Benfica face PSG, Juventus and Maccabi Haifa in Group H having sold leading marksman Darwin Nunez to Liverpool. Their Lisbon rivals Sporting saw key midfielders Matheus Nunes and Joao Palhinha head to England, to Wolverhampton Wanderers and Fulham respectively. Club Brugge, Salzburg and FC Copenhagen have all lost their top scorers from last season. So have Viktoria Plzen, whose French striker Jean-David Beauguel went to Saudi Arabia. These clubs are all minnows in the Champions League pond, and most will be making up the numbers. —AFP

WCup fans will only get drinks outside stadiums

DOHA: Drinks will not be sold inside stadiums during World Cup matches in Qatar, where alcohol is severely restricted, but FIFA said Saturday that drinking will be allowed in the stadium zone before and after games. The global body gave first details of sales after months of sensitive talks with authorities in the conservative Muslim Gulf state.

The issue is important for FIFA as drink-maker has been a major sponsor for three decades while foreign fans have also questioned what to expect at the November 20-December 18 tournament. Qatar has predicted more than one million visitors for the World Cup. A source with knowledge of the plans said drink stands would open in zones around stadiums when gates open for a match and close 30 minutes before each game starts.

The source said stands would reopen for a short time after the game. FIFA did not confirm times but a spokesperson said it had focused on "catering for those who wish to enjoy a drink while being respectful towards the local culture". In a statement to AFP, the spokesperson said "ticket-holders" would get access to drinks "within the stadium perimeter prior to kick-off and after the final whistle."

Inside stadiums, only zero-alcohol beer and soft-drinks would be available, the spokesperson added. Coca-Cola, another huge sponsor, has the sole right to sell non-alcoholic drinks at the eight stadiums to be used for the first World Cup in a Muslim nation. Alcohol is a sensitive topic at stadiums around the world. In England, most Premier League clubs allow drink sales inside stadiums but fans cannot drink in sight of the pitch. —AFP

Leao fires warning shot; Napoli beat Lazio 2-1

MILAN: Rafael Leao fired a warning shot to the rest of Serie A on Saturday with his brace in AC Milan's 3-2 derby triumph over Inter Milan which put his team level with league leaders Napoli, 2-1 winners at Lazio thanks to rising star Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. Portugal winger Leao struck twice in each half in a pulsating clash at the San Siro, the first since Milan's takeover by US investment fund RedBird was completed in the week, which put the champions a point ahead of Atalanta and Roma at the summit.

Fans bounced in the stands after a thrilling match full of goalmouth incident which was decided by Leao and Olivier Giroud, who after Marcel Brozovic's 21st minute opener for Inter put Milan two goals to the good on the hour mark. "If you want to improve you need talent and intelligence and Leao has both of those," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli. "Every time we put him in one-on-one situations he's a huge weapon for us."

However they also had the magnificent Mike Maignan to thank for the three points after the France goalkeeper pulled off four superb stops from Lautaro Martinez, Edin Dzeko — also a scorer — and Hakan Calhanoglu. Leao's second came after a mesmerising piece of dribbling and close control, and with the transfer window now shut and Chelsea rumours died down he will be key to Milan's Champions League campaign which begins at Salzburg on Tuesday. A second defeat in five matches leaves an Inter team without the injured Romelu Lukaku sixth and with Bayern Munich coming to town on Wednesday night.

Napoli lead Milan on goal difference after new boy

Mbappe stars in PSG win; Marseille triumph

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe scored a goal in each half as Paris Saint-Germain beat 10-man Nantes 3-0 on Saturday to stay on top of the Ligue 1 table from Marseille, who beat Auxerre 2-0 with Alexis Sanchez on target. Marseille had briefly gone to the summit with that win, but PSG responded in style later and are leaders thanks to their far superior goal difference, having scored 24 goals in just six league outings this season.

Mbappe joined Neymar at the top of the scorers' charts on seven for the campaign thanks to his brace at the Stade de la Beaujoire, with his opener coming in the 18th minute. The France star curled a superb strike over goalkeeper Alban Lafont and into the net at the end of a breakaway after being set up by Lionel Messi.

Nantes had beaten PSG at home in this fixture last season but their hopes of taking anything from the reigning champions this time were seriously hampered when they had Brazilian full-back Fabio sent off midway through the first half. The former Manchester United defender was shown a straight red card for a high challenge in midfield on Vitorino that forced the Portuguese player to come off hurt. PSG scored again shortly after half-time as Messi set up Mbappe to finish at the near post, with the goal initially being disallowed for offside only to be awarded following a VAR check.

Rested at kick-off, Neymar came off the bench after that and played a part in the third goal in the



MILAN: AC Milan's Portuguese forward Rafael Leao (#17) kicks the ball and scores during the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and Inter Milan at the San Siro on September 3, 2022. —AFP

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia continued his sensational start to life in Italy with the winner at Lazio, seventh after their first defeat of the campaign. The 21-year-old, who also struck the post and missed another great chance before scoring, has captured fans' imaginations with a series of decisive displays and will be one of Napoli's key weapons when they host Liverpool in their Champions League opener on Wednesday.

"Going into Wednesday's match with a win is a positive, we know we're facing a brilliant team and we'll have these three days to prepare... We'll look to put in a great performance on Wednesday as well," said captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo to DAZN.

Luciano Spalletti's side are unbeaten on 11 points thanks to a hard-fought win in Rome in which they

fought back from going behind after just three minutes following Mattia Zaccagni's drilled opener for the hosts. The away side drew level seven minutes before the break through Kim Min-Jae, whose thumping header from Piotr Zielinski's corner just crossed the line despite the best efforts of Lazio stopper Ivan Provedel.

And Georgia international Kvaratskhelia netted dominant Napoli's winner and his fourth of the season in the 61st minute when he met Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa's low pull back with a thumping effort against which Provedel could do nothing. Napoli's win was marred by losing Hirving Lozano in the first half to a nasty looking head injury, with later reports indicating a possible face fracture. —AFP

Bayern and Leipzig stumble as Freiburg go top of Bundesliga

BERLIN: Bayern Munich coach Julian Nagelsmann said Saturday his team lacked their usual energy after they were held to a draw for the second week in a row at Union Berlin and knocked off top spot in the Bundesliga. Union battled to a well-earned 1-1 draw at home to Bayern, allowing fellow high-flyers Freiburg to leapfrog their way into first after they beat Bayer Leverkusen in a five-goal thriller.

"In the end it was a fair result. The energy which I've praised so often in the last few weeks wasn't really there today," said Nagelsmann, adding that his side would need to perk up in their Champions League opener against Inter next Wednesday. "Union showed today what makes them so strong. In the end, it was a top of the table clash in which both sides deserved to draw," added Bayern striker Thomas Mueller. After their impressive start to the season, Union had begun the day hot on Bayern's heels with only goal difference separating the two teams.

They showed why early in the first half, taking the lead through Seraldo Becker with a brilliantly worked free-kick to stun the champions and send the home crowd into ecstasy. Their celebrations were cut short a few minutes later as Bayern immediately turned the screws and Kimmich leveled the scores with a fizzing, first-time finish from the edge of the area. —AFP



NANTES: Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (left) fights for the ball with Nantes' Brazilian midfielder Andrei Giron (right) during the French L1 football match between FC Nantes and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) on September 3, 2022. —AFP

68th minute as his shot came back off the upright and Nuno Mendes followed up to finish. PSG now turn their attentions to the Champions League and their opening group game at home to Juventus on Tuesday, when the in-form Neymar is sure to return to the starting line-up. "There is always the risk that you can break a player's dynamic if they are in good form but don't accept being left out of the team," admitted PSG coach Christophe Galtier of his decision to bench the Brazilian.

"But I had a long discussion with him yesterday. I made my decision and he accepted it." Galtier, who said Vitorino had taken a heavy knock to his kneecap, insisted his team would still have to raise their game in the Champions League. "We are on a good run. We are scoring goals and playing well. The players are playing for each other, but the Champions League is another level. I watched Juve this afternoon and this will be a different match. We cannot expect an easy game." —AFP

Sports

Lewandowski lifts Barcelona as Real Madrid remain perfect

Barca thrash Sevilla 3-0; Atletico draw 1-1 at Real Sociedad

MADRID: Robert Lewandowski scored again as Barcelona defeated Sevilla 3-0 in La Liga on Saturday, while Real Madrid made it four wins from four with victory over Real Betis. Barcelona rode their lucky early on at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan as Marc-Andre ter Stegen denied Ivan Rakitic and Youssef En-Nesyri before the visitors struck against the run of play. Raphinha headed in the rebound after Lewandowski's dinked effort was cleared off the line, but the Poland star didn't need long to get on the scoresheet himself. Lewandowski controlled a flighted pass from Jules Kounde on his chest and volleyed past Bono for his fifth league goal in four appearances.

Eric Garcia tapped in Barcelona's third five minutes after half-time after Raphinha's cross was nodded across goal by Kounde, who was sold by Sevilla for 50 million euros (\$49.8 million) this summer. "It was a very good match overall, we dominated and even had chances to score more," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez told Movistar. "We're going through a good period. Winning 3-0 at Sevilla is a good sign." Barcelona, who host Viktoria Plzen on Wednesday in the opening round of Champions League group games, are two points behind Madrid, but Sevilla have just one point so far.

"The situation we find ourselves in is a bit difficult," said Sevilla midfielder Rakitic. "I ask forgiveness for the results, but also for confidence and patience. We have full confidence in our coach (Julen Lopetegui)." Vinicius Junior struck for the third game running as Madrid took an early lead at the Santiago Bernabeu, but Sergio Canales soon equalised with a goal against his former club. Rodrygo secured a 2-1 win for Carlo Ancelotti's side just past the hour with his first goal of the campaign, ending Betis' perfect start.

"He's a special forward because he can play in any position. He's very quick and very intelligent without the ball," Ancelotti said of Rodrygo, now in his fourth season with Real. "The apprenticeship is over and now he's a

Real Madrid player in every way." Next up for the European champions is a trip to Celtic in the Champions League. "The most important game of the first part of the season is coming up on Tuesday. We're going to be taking on a team that's on a fantastic run and it's going to be very difficult," said Ancelotti.

Return to Bernabeu

Playing at home for the first time this season as renovation work continues on their iconic ground, Madrid had a lucky early escape when Nabil Fekir appeared to be fouled in the area. The incident went unpunished and was not reviewed, but Fekir injured his hamstring and had to be replaced.

Madrid promptly inflicted a sucker punch as Vinicius raced onto David Alaba's ball over the top, lobbing Betis goalkeeper Rui Silva for the opening goal. Betis, who began the season with wins over Elche, Mallorca and Osasuna, hit back when Borja Iglesias laid off a throw-in for Canales to drive through the legs of Thibaut Courtois. Vinicius should have immediately restored Madrid's lead, blazing over a cross from Rodrygo. Silva then made a miraculous stop to claw out Aurelien Tchouameni's header.

Karim Benzema skewed over and then failed to convert from point-blank range moments after half-time, the Frenchman ultimately denied by a crucial touch from Silva. The Betis keeper again got his fingers to a powerful effort from Luka Modric, but Rodrygo had the final say when he slid home Fede Valverde's pass on 65 minutes. Atletico Madrid drew 1-1 at Real Sociedad as Nigeria striker Umar Sadiq scored on his debut for the hosts. Alvaro Morata swept in at a corner in the fifth minute, but Sadiq headed home a second-half equalizer following his arrival from Almeria.

The 25-year-old joined Sociedad on transfer deadline day as a replacement for Sweden forward Alexander



SEVILLE: Barcelona's French defender Jules Kounde heads the ball during the Spanish league football match between Sevilla FC and FC Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville. —AFP

Isak, signed by Newcastle last week for a reported £58 million (\$68 million). More concerningly for Atletico, goalkeeper Jan Oblak was forced off with a leg injury late on. "Hopefully it will be minor and the doctors will

tell us in the next few days," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone, whose side are at home to Porto next week in the Champions League. Mallorca and Girona drew 1-1 in the early game. —AFP

Norwich back on top of English Championship

LONDON: Norwich went to the top of English football's second-tier Championship with a 3-0 win at home to Coventry on Saturday. The Canaries, relegated from the Premier League last season, were bottom of the table after three games. But they have now posted five successive Championship wins after goals from Teemu Pukki, Josh Sargent and Kieran Dowell saw off Coventry at Carrow Road.

Norwich will lose top spot if Sheffield United win at Hull on Sunday, but delighted Canaries manager Dean Smith said: "It's never easy to win five games on the trot in any league, let alone this one, so obviously I am very pleased with the result. "It keeps the momentum going, which is important, ahead of another tough game at Burnley next week. "I was delighted with the performance, especially in the first half when some of our movement was excellent and we scored two well-worked goals."

Nahki Wells scored twice as Bristol City recorded back-to-back wins by climbing to third in the table with a 3-2 win over Blackburn Rovers. Tommy Conway scored for the Robins just

before half-time and Wells doubled the lead just after the break. Tyrhys Dolan pulled one back for Rovers but Wells quickly restored City's two-goal lead minutes later. Blackburn's Ben Brereton Diaz scored in stoppage time but the Robins held out to secure all three points.

Watford dropped to fifth following a 1-1 draw with Rotherham, falling behind to Richard Wood just two minutes into the game before Vakoun Bayo equalized for the Hornets. Millwall ended a run of three straight defeats with a 2-0 win against Cardiff, thanks to second-half goals from Charlie Cresswell and Benik Afobe. Thelo Aasgaard struck late for Wigan to come from behind

and beat Luton 2-1 at Kenilworth Road. Carlton Morris headed Luton into the lead just before the break but Wigan equalized 10 minutes from time through Callum Lang.

But Aasgaard curled a superb shot in from 20 yards with two minutes to secure victory for the visitors. Preston's run of seven Championship clean sheets was broken after they were beaten 1-0 by Birmingham, with Maxime Colin heading in the lone goal early in the first half. Swansea won for the second time this season, defeating Queens Park Rangers 1-0, with Joel Piroe scoring soon after his 15th-minute penalty kick was saved by goalkeeper Seny Dieng. —AFP

Abada double fires Celtic to Old Firm romp

GLASGOW: Striker Liel Abada scored twice as Celtic thrashed bitter Glasgow rivals Rangers 4-0 on Saturday to maintain their perfect start to the Scottish Premiership campaign. Abada's double plus a superb strike by Jota put the champions, fresh from a 9-0 rout of Dundee United, 3-0 up at half-time in the opening Old Firm fixture of the campaign. And a dreadful error by Rangers goalkeeper Jon McLaughlin gifted the hosts a fourth goal through David Turnbull 12 minutes from time.

Celtic's sixth victory in six league games this season - they have scored 25 goals and conceded just one - put them five points clear of Rangers and extended their unbeaten record in the Premiership to 38 matches. "The boys were outstanding from start to finish," Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou told the BBC. "We know what this game means to our supporters. We've given them another memorable day and the players deserve all the credit for that," he added.

'Exposed'

Rangers counterpart Giovanni van Bronckhorst was disappointed by his side's inability to cope with Celtic's pace of play. "We knew what they were going to do (restart quickly) and still we weren't prepared enough," he said. "Everyone needs to reflect on what they did well and what they did wrong, same for me."

Abada may have taken the scoring honors - bringing his tally to five in the last two games - but it was Matt O'Riley who was the creative master in setting up two of the goals. Celtic had the game wrapped up by half-time with a three goal blitz. Abada, 20, doubled his tally five minutes from half-time but it was Jota's 32nd minute effort that took the eye. He received the ball from O'Riley and then dinked it over McLaughlin. Celtic did not let up in the second-half, with McLaughlin totally at fault when passing the ball straight to Turnbull.

Celtic's dominance was all the more impressive as they had lost Japanese star Kyogo Furuhashi after just five minutes with what looked like a shoulder injury. Both sides now have to focus on their opening Champions League group matches - the first time both have been involved at this stage since 2007. The win sets Celtic up nicely for their daunting match against holders Real Madrid on Tuesday. However, Dutch manager van Bronckhorst has some serious rebuilding of morale to do before Rangers face Ajax in Amsterdam on Wednesday. —AFP

West Ham's manager Moyes 'embarrassed'

LONDON: West Ham manager David Moyes said he felt "embarrassed" for VAR official Jarrod Gillett following a controversial finish to his team's 2-1 defeat by Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday. Moyes was involved in a furious confrontation with referee Andy Madley at the end of the match after the Hammers were denied a late equalizer when Maxwell Cornet had a goal disallowed by VAR. Madley gave the goal, having no issues regarding Jarrod Bowen's contact with Edouard Mendy after the Chelsea 'keeper spilled the ball.

VAR, however, instructed Madley to review the incident on the pitchside monitors and the goal was chalked off. An angry Moyes gave vent to his feelings during a post-match news conference following a London derby where Michail Antonio's opener just after the hour mark was cancelled out by Chelsea substitute Ben Chilwell's equalizer before Kai Havertz won the game for the Blues two minutes from time. The Scottish boss insisted he had "lost faith" in "weak" Premier League refereeing standards.

'No excuse'

Reflecting on Cornet's disallowed goal, Moyes said: "The goalkeeper comes to take it, and actually fumbles it out of his hands five or six yards, so he could never recover it. "Then he acted as if he had a shoulder injury. I'm amazed that VAR sent the referee for him to see it...it was a ridiculously bad decision.

"I'd question VAR today as much as the referee. But the referee should have stuck to his own guns today. "There's no excuse for VAR today, there is no excuse for that to be a goal, none whatsoever. The sad thing is this is the level of the weak refereeing at the moment." He added: "Look, ultimately, I make loads of mistakes, referees can make loads of mistakes. But I



West Ham United's Scottish manager David Moyes

would hope if the referee made a mistake that's why it's corrected by VAR.

"But if you're saying today that the referee's mistake was corrected by VAR, I'm saying I do not see that in a million years. "And I'm actually more embarrassed for the guy who did the VAR than I am even for the referee." Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel, unsurprisingly, took a different view. "It (VAR) obviously went in our favor today, and there's a reason I think it went in our favour: it's my opinion, and I don't know if everyone shares the opinion, that it's very clear it's a foul," said the Blues boss.

The second-half action was a far cry from a dull opening 45 minutes in west London, where Chelsea defender Wesley Fofana starting just three days after his reported £70 million (\$81.3 million) move from Leicester. But the match eventually sparked into life

after the hour mark, Antonio scoring from close range shortly after Mendy failed to punch clear from a West Ham corner. But with Chelsea facing the prospect of a third defeat in six matches, Chilwell - sent on by Tuchel with 18 minutes left to play - turned the game in the hosts' favor.

Thiago Silva's pass split the West Ham defense but left Chilwell with plenty to do. But the substitute still headed the ball on to himself and then spun clear before shooting through the legs of Hammers goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. Cornet should have put West Ham back in front with his first touch off the bench, but he headed against the post with Mendy beaten. Chelsea immediately made the Hammers pay for that miss, sprinting up to the other end where Chilwell's low cross found Havertz, who tapped home to make it 2-1. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

Ravinderjit Singh currently holder of Indian Passport No. S9734510 issued in Kuwait on 17/09/2018 and expiry on

16/09/2028, I want to change my name to JOHAL (as a Surname) Ravinderjit Singh. (C# 2402) - 05-09-2022

I, MOHAMMAD holder of Indian Passport No. T8766760

change my new name MARRIPATI RAJENDRA REDDY and my Wife name ASHA MOHMMED change new name MARRIPATI RAJESWARI. (C# 2401) — 02-09-2022.

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Man Utd end Arsenal's perfect start; Antony scores on debut

Brighton extend superb start; Leicester in turmoil



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's English striker Marcus Rashford (right) shoots past Arsenal's English defender Ben White (center) and Arsenal's English goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale to score their second goal during the English Premier League football match on September 4, 2022. — AFP

LONDON: Antony scored on his dream debut for Manchester United as the Brazilian's clinical strike and Marcus Rashford's double inspired a 3-1 win that ended Arsenal's perfect start to the Premier League season on Sunday. Antony was making his first appearance after signing from United manager Erik ten Hag's former club Ajax in an £82 million (\$94 million) deal on Thursday.

Full of flicks, tricks and purposeful movement, the 22-year-old forward took just 35 minutes to get on the scoresheet in a dazzling introduction to his new fans at Old Trafford. Arsenal hit back to equalize through Bukayo Saka, but Rashford blew the leaders away with two goals in the space of nine second-half minutes after Antony was replaced by Cristiano Ronaldo.

Thanks to Antony and Rashford, United were able to celebrate a fourth successive victory that lifted them to fifth place. Opening his reign with consecutive losses against Brighton and Brentford was a humbling experience for Ten Hag. But since then, the Dutch coach has started to put his imprint

on a United side that look far more organized than the shambolic unit that finished sixth in the Premier League last season.

Arsenal's first defeat this term after five successive wins was cruel on Mikel Arteta's men, who contributed plenty to an engrossing encounter but paid the price for some naive defending. Arsenal thought they had snatched the lead in the 12th minute as Gabriel Martinelli raced away from Diogo Dalot to clip a fine finish over David de Gea. But VAR intervened to ask Paul Tierney to check for a foul in the build-up and the referee ruled Martin Odegaard pushed Christian Eriksen to steal possession.

Antony put United ahead in the 35th minute when Rashford's deft pass reached the forward, who took advantage of Arsenal's sloppy marking to sweep a composed finish into the far corner from eight yards. Antony kissed his badge and posed for the television cameras in a flamboyant celebration that sent Old Trafford into raptures, earning a ticking off from Tierney for sticking the ball up his shirt

in front of the Arsenal fans.

Audacious Antony

Confidence clearly was not a problem for Antony and he even tried an audacious lob that kept Arsenal keeper Aaron Ramsdale on his toes. Antony departed to a standing ovation after 58 minutes to be replaced by Ronaldo. Saka silenced Old Trafford two minutes later as Arsenal grabbed a deserved equalizer.

Odegaard's pass unhinged the United defence and when Dalot's tackle on Gabriel Jesus diverted the ball to Saka, the England winger slotted home with ease. But United caught Arsenal with a brilliant counter in the 66th minute. Playing through the Arsenal press, Eriksen found Bruno Fernandes and his superb pass sent Rashford galloping clear to fire past Ramsdale. United wrapped up the points with a replica of their second goal as Arsenal once again left themselves open at the back and this time Eriksen fed Rashford to slot home.

In Sunday's early game, Brighton extended their

superb start to the season with a 5-2 victory that left bottom of the table Leicester in turmoil. Graham Potter's fourth-placed side made it four wins from their first six games thanks to a second-half surge at the Amex Stadium. Kelechi Iheanacho put Leicester ahead in the first minute, but a Luke Thomas own goal and Moises Caicedo's strike gave Brighton the advantage.

Patson Daka equalized for Leicester, but the struggling visitors collapsed after half-time as Leandro Trossard put Brighton in front before Alexis Mac Allister's double sealed the rout. Leicester have taken just one point from their first six games, losing five in a row to leave boss Brendan Rodgers under severe pressure. "The simplicity goes out of your game if you lack confidence," Rodgers said. "I don't listen to the outside noise. You put the hard yards in and work, not shirk responsibility. "The results are down to me. I'm the manager. We need to go away and work even harder to get that first win." — AFP

Bagnaia heaps pressure on Quartararo

MISANO ADRIATICO: Italy's Francesco Bagnaia closed the gap on MotoGP leader Fabio Quartararo on Sunday after winning the San Marino Grand Prix to claim his fourth straight premier class triumph. Ducati rider Bagnaia pipped Enea Bastianini by just 0.034 seconds in a thrilling victory at Misano Adriatico which moved him to within 30 points of reigning world champion Quartararo, who finished fifth. The Italian moved into second spot in the championship standings ahead of Aleix Espargaro after the Spaniard finished a place behind Yamaha rider Quartararo.

Aprilia rider Espargaro is 33 points behind Quartararo after being overtaken by the Frenchman who had started on the grid in eighth. Bagnaia's victory was all the more impressive for him being forced to start from fifth after a three-place grid penalty imposed during practice on Friday. "I struggled at the start because it was not so dry so I was struggling to find some grip, but then I started to feel that the fear was going down a bit and my feeling was better lap by lap," said Bagnaia.

"In the last laps I was trying to push the gap but Enea was too fast. I'm very happy to win today, it wasn't the best start from P5 but I did it." After taking the lead on lap three Bagnaia held off first Maverick Vinales and then Bastianini to claim his sixth win from the 14 GPs completed in the 20-race season. Bastianini will be Bagnaia's teammate on the factory Ducati bike next season and he showed why he is moving up from the satellite Gresini team.

The 24-year-old, who had started second on the grid, pushed past Vinales and behind Bagnaia on lap 20 and then piled the pressure on his compatriot.

The pair were practically wheel-to-wheel for the final few laps and after trying to overtake with only a few turns remaining crossed the line almost alongside Bagnaia. "The last lap I tried with everything I could to overtake Pecco but he was too good," Bastianini told Sky Sport Italia. "It was a fantastic race I think it would have been difficult to do any better."

Bagnaia's teammate Jack Miller had started on pole for the second time in his MotoGP career but was one of five riders to crash in a chaotic opening to the race. Johann Zarco, Michele Pirro and Pol Espargaro all crashed out on the very first corner, while Miller and Marco Bezzeci went down a lap later. Andrea Dovizioso finished his final MotoGP race in 12th place.

Alonso Lopez became the first non-Kalex rider to win a Moto2 race since 2019 with his first ever GP triumph. The Boscoscuro rider, who started the day 12th in the championship, finished ahead of Spaniards Aron Canet and Augusto Fernandez who snatched the overall lead from Japan's Ai Ogura by four points. — AFP



MISANO ADRIATICO: Ducati Lenovo's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia competes ahead of Aprilia Racing's Spanish rider Maverick Vinales during the San Marino MotoGP race on September 4, 2022. — AFP

Verstappen claims a dramatic home win

ZANDVOORT: World champion and runaway series leader Max Verstappen made the most of his unerring speed and reliability, and the chaotic teamwork of his rivals, to claim a dramatic victory for Red Bull in his home Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday. The 24-year-old Dutchman took full advantage of his team's cool decision-making, as Mercedes and Ferrari appeared to make flustered choices in the heat of the moment, to come home 4.071 seconds ahead of George Russell of Mercedes and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

For several laps in the closing stages, it appeared that seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton might win until a late Safety Car resulted in him being left out on worn tyres by Mercedes, as Verstappen and Russell took softs. Exposed and unable to defend his position Hamilton was furious, but the sea of 105,000 ebullient fans packed into the Zandvoort circuit reveled in their hero's good fortune as he passed Hamilton and pulled clear to claim a second successive Dutch triumph, a fourth consecutive win and his 10th of the season.

"It wasn't straightforward, but we pushed and we made the right calls," said Verstappen. "It's worked out really well and it's always special to win at home." As the forbidden flares and fireworks were lit and smoke spilled across the track, Hamilton came home fourth ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull and Alpine's Fernando Alonso.

In a race punctuated by interruptions and influenced heavily by strategic decisions related to tyre-wear, it was Red Bull's exploitation of their opportunity that gave Verstappen his 30th career win while, for Hamilton, it seemed defeat had been clutched from the jaws of victory. Verstappen now has 309 points ahead of Leclerc and Perez on 201 in the championship, making it possible for him to take his



ZANDVOORT: Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen leads at the start of the Dutch Formula One Grand Prix at the Zandvoort circuit on September 4, 2022. — AFP

second drivers' crown in Singapore on October 2.

Hamilton anguish

Verstappen who cut across from his 17th pole position to lead into the first corner followed by Leclerc and Sainz, who resisted a bruising charge from Hamilton. On the tight track, with such a short lap, the action was intense. Leclerc pushed to stay in touch with the flying Dutchman, but by lap 12 was 1.7 seconds adrift with Sainz a further eight seconds down, ahead of Hamilton. Sainz came in after 15 laps, taking mediums, along with Perez. "Oh my God," said Sainz as his crew searched for an errant left-rear tyre. His stop cost 12 seconds and left Hamilton third ahead of Russell. Sainz re-joined 11th.

Leclerc's stop was a much smoother affair for Ferrari and he was followed by Verstappen. Hamilton took the lead ahead of Russell, the 'silver arrows' making the most of their choice of medium tyres. Verstappen showed pace in pursuit of the Mercedes' pair, running one and two for the first time this year, as the Alpines also impressed. To the delight of the 'orange army', Verstappen swept round Russell at Turn One on lap 27 to chase old foe Hamilton, who pitted at the end of lap 29 for 'hards', re-joining fifth. — AFP